

ACT Science

You will be tested on four fields of science.

The science portion of the ACT contains **40 multiple-choice questions** measuring your ability to analyze and interpret scientific data. You are given **35 minutes** to complete this portion.

In the ACT's science section, questions target information presented in one of three formats:

- data representation (graphs and diagrams)
- research summaries (descriptions of experiments, including hypotheses, procedures and conclusions)
- conflicting viewpoints (overview of at least two hypotheses or viewpoints that differ with regard to data or conclusions)

These scenarios are structured into **7 passages**. Each **passage is followed by 5-7 questions** that gauge your skill in recognizing concepts and determining relationships between hypotheses and data. You will also be asked to draw conclusions and make generalizations or predictions based on data.

The scenarios are drawn from four general science categories: biology, chemistry, physics and earth/space sciences.

What Is (and Isn't) Tested

The ACT science section assesses your reasoning and analytic skills.

It doesn't test memorization of scientific facts, math formulas or reading comprehension. Rather, it tests how well you analyze and interpret information. Emphasis is placed on recognizing relationships and understanding what they mean.

How the Science Section Is Scored

The science test is scored similarly to the exam as a whole. The questions you answered correctly in the science section are added to determine a raw score. This raw score is then converted to a scale score between 1 and 36, with 1 being poor and 36 being excellent.

The national average score is 20.9.

You don't have to be a science whiz to know the good preparation will help you increase your score on the science section of the ACT

Science Reasoning

Use the three-stage method (previewing, reading, reviewing) to get the most out of each science reasoning passage. In data representation passages, focus on what is being measured, relationships among variables, and trends in data. Don't be confused by irrelevant information or technical terminology—most science reasoning passages have them, and they can almost always be ignored.

- Read the passage carefully.
- Refer to the scientific information in the passage when answering the question.
- Read and consider **all** of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Note conflicting viewpoints in some passages.