



# SAT and ACT


## General Strategies To Improve Your Score



# *GET COMFORTABLE WITH THE TEST FLOW*

*The ACT and the SAT are tests of knowledge AND endurance. Taking at least three complete timed practice tests is a must!*

# GENERAL TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

- Be mindful of time – write time in the test booklet.
- Know the directions – they are always the same!
- Answer easiest questions first.
-  Don't spend time obsessing on questions you don't know the answer to – maximize the time you have to work on questions that you have a good chance of answering correctly. Come back to those you skipped as time allows.
- When using POE put a check next to possible corrects answers and cross out incorrect answers.
- Do NOT leave any question blank!!



# POE (Process of Elimination)

- Finding the right answer by eliminating the wrong answers
- You need to learn to do this test taking skills quickly
- Always a good step if you do not instantly know the right answer

# TAKE THE TEST LIKE A



- Read each question CAREFULLY. Underline what is being asked (especially in math section)
- For each question ask yourself:
  - What is the question asking?
  - What do I know?
  - Where do I find the information I need to correctly answer the question? (Reading & Science) or,
  - What rules do I need to apply to arrive at the correct answer? (Writing & Language/English and Math)



**Make sure your answer  
choice answers the  
question!!**

# EXAMPLE

**Factorial:** The mathematical expression of the number of ways (combinations) a finite number of objects (things) can be rearranged.

***Examples:***

***3 objects can be arranged 6 different ways – represented as  $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$***

***5 objects can be arranged 120 different ways – represented as  $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 = 120$***

# MATH PROBLEM

There are six combinations of the letters b, c, and d. How many more combinations are there of the letters b, c, d, and e?

- A) 8      B) 12      C) 18      D) 24

Answer is C . But many students answer D because they don't read the question carefully.

**KNOW WHAT THE QUESTION IS ASKING FOR!**





# CONFIRM YOUR REAL KNOWLEDGE

When taking practice tests, after you're done, go back and identify each question as a #1, #2 or a #3. A #1 question was one you were sure of. A #2 question was one where you eliminated two answers but had to guess. A #3 question is one where you had no clue. Use this to identify content areas to work on.

**Don't rely on just counting correct answers. You might have just guessed correctly!**

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