

# ACT Intensive Course Outline

Ivy Global's ACT Intensive Course prepares all grade 9-12 students intending to take the ACT exam with a comprehensive blueprint of the English, Reading, Math, and Science content on the ACT, an in-depth guide to the optional Essay, thorough coverage of the most effective strategies for each section, and regular opportunities for practice and discussion. Those enrolled will take three full-length diagnostic tests proctored under exam-taking conditions, and will have the opportunity to thoroughly review their content afterward. By the end of the course, students will have had ample opportunities not only to master effective test-taking strategies, but also to thoroughly practice using the materials covered during class.

- Total class time: 60 hours
- Class schedule:
  - Fifteen 4-hour classes, Monday-Friday for three weeks during the summer
- Approximate homework time: 1-2 hours per day (with optional extra homework)

## Course Format

Ivy Global's ACT courses are designed to provide a balance of guided instruction, collaborative discussion and group work, and realistic practice opportunities. Students work both collaboratively and individually as they apply new strategies, with the instructor serving as an approachable mentor.

Each class includes:

- Engaging lecture, to introduce strategy, new content, and test structure
- Collaborative problem-solving, to develop flexible thinking and practice relevant skills
- Realistic mock test-taking, to ensure that students are well prepared for true test conditions

Students receive the following evaluations and feedback:

- Three 4-hour diagnostic tests: full-length tests taken under realistic conditions
- Frequent vocabulary testing, in the form of written quizzes and/or team-based competition
- Daily homework review, to explain challenging questions and reinforce the acquisition of new content
- Regular review and practice of math, reading, grammar, and science content, as needed
- Helpful analysis and grading of a minimum of 3 essays
- Individual final reports to summarize progress and help students plan their future studying

## Course Syllabus

Ivy Global's Intensive Course provides a thorough review of the concepts necessary for succeeding in the English, Reading, Math, Science, and Writing sections of the ACT. It also covers strategies for each section that help students to answer the most questions correctly in the least possible amount of time, as well as tips and tricks for approaching test day with equanimity and confidence.

### Week 1/Days 1-5

- **Initial diagnostic exam**
- Overview of the ACT's structure and content
- Assessment of each student's strengths, weaknesses, goals, and learning styles
- Introduction to general multiple-choice and test-preparation strategies
- Introduction to the Reading test: general format, strategies, passage types, and exercises
- Introduction to the Math test: general strategies, pre-algebra, and elementary algebra
- Introduction to the English test: format, strategies, and grammar review

### Week 2/Days 6-10

- Introduction to the Writing test: overview of prompt format, grading rubric, and essay guidelines; timed breakdown of steps
- In-class essay practice and peer review
- Introduction to the Science test: format, passage types, strategies (in general and for each passage type), practice, and review of science concepts and data analysis as needed
- English: sentence structure and punctuation lessons, introduction to writing strategy and organization question types
- Math: coordinate geometry and plane geometry
- A **mid-term diagnostic exam**, for students to apply strategies learned during the course so far

### Week 3/Days 11-15

- Group and individual exercises to hone skills in all five test sections
- Discussion of all Reading passage question types
- Math: trigonometry and any other remaining topics (depending on class needs)
- English: coverage of more advanced topics, such as modifier errors, commonly confused words and idioms, and advanced punctuation rules
- Team-based competition and games to review and prepare for the final diagnostic exam
- Future study planning: recommended strategies and building a personalized schedule
- **Final diagnostic exam** (including full-length essay) and full score report

## Course Materials

Each student receives a copy of the Ivy Global *ACT Guide*, which not only explains tested concepts in each scored section, but also details strategies, reference materials, study plans, practice drill questions for each section, 13 practice essay prompts, 6 sample essays (with a range of scores), and 3 full-length practice tests.

Each student also receives a copy of *The Official ACT Prep Guide (2016-2017)*, by the makers of the ACT, which includes 3 practice tests.