



3 Hours, 30 minutes...

September 20, 2018

Students Will Be Able To

- 1. Explain the value of a high index score*
 - 2. Explain how to access ACT preparation resources*
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Materials

The following websites, and a projector.

[Utah State costs & scholarships webpage](#); [Idaho State index score](#) page; [BYUI index score](#) page (scroll down to find table).

[ACT registration](#) webpage.

[Lili.org](#) webpage (for free test preparation).

Introduction

Go Point 1 – Show me the *money!*

How do universities decide which students should receive academic scholarship money? They use 2 factors to decide this, and they call this an “index score.” The 2 factors are 1) your “grade point average”, and 2) your *highest* ACT or SAT score.

You can Google an institution’s index score to learn how much of an academic scholarship you could plan on based on your own index score.

Here are 3 examples of index scores from nearby universities.

- 1) Here’s the [Utah State costs & scholarships](#) webpage.
[Utah resident tuition is \$7,424 for a year; non-resident tuition is \$21,505.]





- a) As you scroll down the page, find and click on the “non-resident scholarships” button.
 - b) You’ll notice the SAT & ACT scores running vertically on the left side, and GPA numbers running horizontally to the right.
 - c) Can students identify the different award levels for academic scholarships?
- 2) For comparison purposes, here’s the [Idaho State award index](#) webpage. [Idaho resident tuition is \$7,420 for a year; non-resident tuition is \$22,940.] Please scroll down to see which academic scholarships get awarded at ISU.
 - 3) And finally, for still more comparison, here’s a [private university’s award index](#) webpage. [BYU-I LDS students’ tuition is \$4,118 a year; non-LDS tuition is \$8,236.] Please scroll down to see which academic scholarships get awarded at BYU-I.

As you can see, strong grades *and* a strong ACT or SAT score can save you money if you’re heading off to a university.

Go Point 2 – How do I sign up?!?

The **last day** for many seniors to **take the ACT this fall** before meeting college application deadlines and applying for academic scholarships is **October 27th**. This means that students should **register** for this test date by **September 28th**.

Students should go to ACT.org to register. (If students can’t afford the registration fee, they can ask their counselor about a fee waiver.) It takes about 40 minutes to complete the registration process. [Our school code is 130-515.]

Go Point 3 – How do I bring my A game to the ACT test day?!?

It takes time, energy, and money to take the ACT. (It takes time and energy to take the SAT the spring of your Junior year. The State of Idaho covers the test bill for that day.)

A standardized test doesn’t ask what you know. It asks what you know within a tight time frame. In the case of the ACT, students take **4 subject tests over 3 hours and 30 minutes**. Why not take a few trial runs to get used to the pacing of this test? A common issue is that students just run out of time before they’re done answering all problems. Give yourself a chance to show what you know... or show off your reasoning abilities.

Practice these time management strategies:





- 1) **POOD (Personal Order of Difficulty).** Move quickly and steadily through the test. Some questions you can answer **now**. For those that **will take more time**, mark them and come back to them later. These questions are in either a **later** or a **never** category. Now work on those questions that you stand a good chance of answering. These are your **“later”** questions. (There are suggested pacing guides on the internet for each test which will tell you how much time you can invest in each question.) For those questions that you’ll probably **never** figure out within the time constraints of the test, save the last 5 minutes of the test to answer these with the next strategy.
- 2) **LOTD (Letter of the Day).** [Nope...not LOTR (Lord of the Rings).] When it comes to guessing, statistically speaking, you’ll do better if you guess consistently. Heading into the test site, decide which will be *your* letter of the day. A/J? B/K? When you get down to the last 5 minutes of the test (this will be announced), use the “letter of the day” strategy to answer those “never” questions. **You will not be penalized for guessing. NEVER leave a question unanswered.**
- 3) **POE (Process of Elimination).** ...We’re talking about standardized tests here. You have a 1 in 4 chance of coming up with the right answer(!). If you can eliminate a couple of responses, the right answer sometimes makes itself apparent.
- 4) There are oodles of subject-specific test tips on the internet. G’wan--check ‘em out!

Go Point 4 – Champions are made, not born

In other words, free ACT and SAT preparation resources can help you sharpen your test-taking abilities. Don’t go in cold to a standardized test; come in ready to do your best work.

Here’s a **free collection** of **practice tests**. Go to lili.org, and after you select the **“Grades 9-12”** link, scroll down the page to find the **“Learning Express Library: College Preparation Center.”** Voila!

As you approach your test date, be sure to carve out a 4-hour chunk of uninterrupted time in which to take a **complete practice test**. Simulate test conditions as much as possible [this means no snacks or music except during breaks; no cell phone use]--and then score your results. How’d you do?

One final note: rather than cram the night before, set out needed items and then get some solid sleep. Eat a sane breakfast, and pack some sane snacks. Your brain will thank you.

