

Extended ACT Battle Plan for the June 13th ACT Exam

Hi all,

We wanted to give everyone who has been preparing for the ACT a “battle plan” with recommendations for how to maintain momentum, push further, etc. for the June 13 ACT test.

By the end of the class, you’ll have built your foundation with all of the grammar rules, math formulas, calculator techniques, timing techniques, reading and science strategies, etc. After that, it’s vital to nail down those new strategies/formulas/rules via timed practice tests that you then grade/review.

First step:

1) Sign up for the June and July ACTs ASAP at www.actstudent.org, if not already done (we recommended this in class). The ACT has already committed to adding test dates, as well as increasing the number of students at each site the next few test dates, but locking in seats now is very wise.

After you’ve built your foundation via the class, the recommended structure for improvement is a weekly process of:

1) Reviewing the black spiral book: Review the formulas, grammar rules, reading and science timing strategies, and other content in the ACT spiral at least once a week or more times to re-cement the material, avoid careless errors, and help improve your timing. Doing this review right before you take each full-length test is wise.

2) Do a full ACT test (strictly timed, straight through like the real thing, ideally in the morning or at least early afternoon).

3) Grade/review wrong answers from that test.

4) Repeat.

The above are actually the same recommendations we use for students who’ve done the class and are then taking the test a second time to push higher, superscore, etc.

April 14th Battle Plan:

Do at least one full test using the steps above each of the following weeks:

4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31, and 6/7

The full list of prior homework is also at the usual site: www.edisonprep.com/homework/

Practice tests:

There are almost 70 full-length real tests downloadable at [this link](#). If you have lopsided

scores and/or have existing ACT scores and will be utilizing superscoring, it's okay to tailor your overall practice in a lopsided way to address your weaker sections; just don't go cold turkey on any section's practice.

Blog post from page 26 of the Bulb: Read our important ACT Blog post that was mentioned in class, especially if you're shooting for a score of 26+:

Part 1: <http://edisonprep.com/pages/blog.html#071414>.

Part 2: <http://edisonprep.com/pages/blog.html#110814>

Parents:

Please check in with your student once a week to make sure that they are keeping up with the homework. The entire foundation of strategy and content knowledge has been built by the time the class is over, at which point the main task pivots to review of the black spiral and lots of timed/graded/reviewed ACT practice tests as detailed above. Every class over the past decade has seen the highest-improving student go up 6-7+ points more than the lowest-improving one, and parents partnering with us ensure practice volume is the entire difference, since students all receive the same tools in class!

It's also useful to reinforce with your son/daughter (as we have twice in class already) that this particular situation's timing, while stressful, is far better than if this had occurred in the Summer/Fall, in that there's still the June, July, Sept, and any test dates they add before all Early Action/Early Decision deadlines, and then the Oct. and Dec. ACT as well before Regular Decision deadlines.

Other thoughts:

We normally have an email blurb that says the following: "The quantity of raw timed tests / homework volume completed after the class determines 100%+ of the variation between those who go up the most and those who go up the least!" That is still true, but unlike during normal times, more manageable for everyone to be on the higher end of volume. If a student uses this time to complete deliberate, more consistent practice/review, there's no reason why a student who might have gotten to a score of X after two tests (e.g. by superscoring the April test and then doing a sprint of practice right after finals before the second test) can't do just that—or more—on the June test.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

-Brian and Silvia
Edison Prep