

ACT: Reading

1. Be Fascinated

- ◆ For at least the next 10 minutes be absolutely enthralled with the material you are reading. Be sure to read actively, annotate, and be engaged with the author.

2. Choose a Plan of Attack (35 minutes, 4 passages, 10 questions each)

- ◆ Order your reading passages based on preference; save your weakest one for last.
 - ① **PROSE FICTION**: pay attention to the mood/tone, dialogue, character development
 - ② **SOCIAL SCIENCE**: understand relationships (cause/effect, comparisons), notice the sequence of events, match names with concepts
 - ③ **HUMANITIES**: may be similar to fiction even though it is a non-fiction passage, infer relationships between events/people/ideas, note the point of view from which written
 - ④ **NATURAL SCIENCE**: similar to Social Science passage yet presents a science topic

3. Experiment with Reading Strategies

- ◆ Practice to determine which is your favorite strategy:
 - ① Read passage in detail then answer questions (default "school" method)
 - ② Skim passage then read questions (most recommended to boost score)
 - ③ Read questions then mark passage (only for the most experienced test-taker)

4. Don't Waver Between Answer Choices

- ◆ **Answer each question BEFORE you look at the answer choices provided.** ACT purposely provides answers which sound good; a choice may even be true or accurate but it does not necessarily mean it is the right answer to the question being asked.
- ◆ Instead of searching for the **RIGHT** answer, aim to **eliminate the WRONG answers**.
- ◆ Be wary of answer choices: which contain superlatives, are too specific, are too broad, demonstrate a reversed relationship from which the text indicated, or include a concept unrelated to the question at hand.
- ◆ Remember this is an "open-book" test; do not hesitate to refer back to the passage.
- ◆ Rephrase the question if it seems too complicated. Boil it down by reasoning "What is this question *really* asking?"

5. Recognize the Type of Question Being Asked

- ◆ **DETAIL** ◆ **MAIN IDEA** ◆ **VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT**
- ◆ **RELATIONSHIPS** (comparative, cause/effect, sequence of events)
- ◆ **INFERENCES/GENERALIZATIONS** (hypothetical scenarios)
- ◆ **AUTHOR'S VOICE** ◆ **AUTHOR'S METHOD/PURPOSE**