

ACT: Science Reasoning

1. Relive 3rd Grade Science Class

- ◆ Approach this test like a reading comprehension and data analysis exercise using logic.
- ◆ Don't try to understand every single scientific detail. Stick to the main point and aim to gain a 30,000 foot level of understanding while noting trends and generalities.
- ◆ There are some commonly used terms you will want to be familiar with: independent and dependent variable(s), constant, direct and indirect relationship. Typically there are 2-3 questions you need some prior scientific knowledge to answer. The following website is an excellent source to refresh your memory of upper level science concepts: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-only-actual-science-you-have-to-know-for-act-science>

2. Use your Pencil

- ◆ Don't be afraid to annotate any way which is helpful for you: underline, circle, draw connecting arrows, enumerate, use symbols, write a 2-3 word summary for each section.

3. Taylor your Approach According to Type of Passage/Question

- ◆ **FIGURES** (uses tables, charts, graphs to describe a study)
-Types of ?s: read the graph, note relationships/trends, draw conclusions/extrapolations
- ◆ **EXPERIMENTS**
-Types of ?s: about the experimental design (hypothesis, control, variables), hypothetical experiment changes, interpreting the results (e.g. "Based on the data, is this given statement supported? Why or why not?")

****LEARN THE "ANATOMY OF A GRAPH/TABLE/CHART" AS ALMOST HALF OF ALL THE SCIENCE REASONING ?S DEAL WITH A GRAPHIC. PRACTICE WITH A VARIETY OF TYPES.****

- ◆ **DEBATING SCIENTISTS**
-Types of ?s: understanding viewpoints, comparing viewpoints (similarities/differences)

4. Trust the Question

- ◆ When the question directs you to "Table 1", "Experiment 1", or "According to Figure 1 and Figure 2" trust that is where you need to reference to answer the question.

5. Practice Pacing

- ◆ You will have 35 minutes to read 6-7 passages and answer 40 questions. It goes quickly!
- ◆ The "Debating Scientists" passage typically takes the longest...some students prefer to save that one for last.