



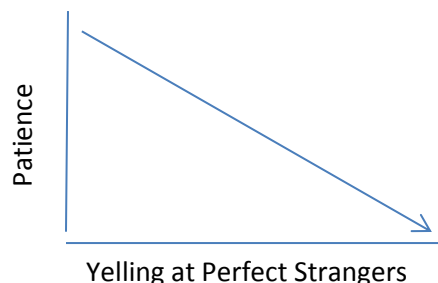


Science Test Review

This is a good news, bad news situation. That bad news is that for the most part, you will not be tested on things you learned in science class. The good news is that you don't have to understand the passages to get the right answers (although understanding does help)! If you can identify key words, such as *largest*, *increases*, and *decreases*, and you can match key words in the questions and passages, then you can conquer the science section!

- What's on the science test?
 - Charts and Graphs: 3 passages, 5 questions each
 - Experiments: 3 passages, 6 questions each
 - Fighting Scientists: 1 passage, 7 questions
- Rule 1 on this section (and every other section): If you don't understand, skip it and come back! This can mean skipping an entire passage or skipping a harder question or two within a passage you are trying. TIP: Be careful when you are skipping around that the question you are answering matches the number you are bubbling in. Also, since the types of questions don't change, if charts and graphs are your best passages, do them first. Put the science test in order in a way that works best for you and so that you are spending most of your time doing the questions that come more easily to you.
- Science Strategy:
 - Step 1: Look at the topic of the passage. Do not read the whole passage!
 - Step 2: Go directly to the questions. Identify the key words.
 - Step 3: Refer to the passage.
 - Step 4: Put the answer in your own words if possible.
 - Step 5: Eliminate the "NOs" and compare the "MAYBES", specifically looking at how the "MAYBES" differ.
 - Step 6: Pick the best answer choice.
- Charts
 - Label the charts columns with a  if the numbers increase as the chart goes down and a  if the numbers decrease as the chart goes down. Then you will be able to easily identify patterns in the chart, i.e. as my patience  the rate at which I yell at perfect strangers .
 - See page 327 of the *Princeton Review 2014* for an example
 - As a group, do the practice passage provided.
- Graphs
 - Look for trends in the data!
 - Check the labels on the graphs!!!! ACT might try to switch these around on you, so make sure you check what is being measured on both the X and Y axis.
 - Go to Page 310 in the *Princeton Review 2014* and look at all the examples of graphs until page 322.
 - Using those graph pictures, as a group, think of an example of an experiment that each graph would represent. For example:



- Experiments
 - Ask yourself, “What are they testing?”
 - Then ask yourself, “What are the controls? The Variables?”
 - Finally, “What are the results? Does the data back up the hypothesis?”
 - As a group, do the practice passage provided.

- Fighting Scientist
 - Find disagreements and agreements between the arguments (what each scientist believes)
 - Within each argument, locate the evidence and support for each thesis (what each scientist believes)
 - Can you spot any assumptions (unstated logic)? This is a great way to find weak spots in the argument.
 - This is the one passage on the science section that you should read, and then work very quickly through the questions. Unless this is your best kind of passage, you should leave this kind of passage until last in order to maximize your time.
 - Remember to skip questions and come back if they are too difficult.
 - As a group, do the practice passage provided.

- The Blah, Blah, Blah Point Method
 - This method invented by Ms. Bell is to help you on those wordy questions, the ones you lose interest in halfway through. Blah, Blah, Blah refers to ignoring everything in the question but the key words, and the point means pointing to the table or graph to locate said key word. For example:

According to Figure 1, over the 12-month period, the monthly precipitation at the urban site was maximum in February and minimum in July. According to Figures 2 and 3, the wet deposition of which ion was also maximum in February and minimum in July?

You would read that question like this:

Blah Blah **Figure 1 (Point to figure 1)** blah blah blah blah blah blah **maximum in February minimum in July.** Blah Blah **Figures 2 and 3 (point to figures 2 and 3)** **wet deposition (see which part of the figure is labeled wet deposition)** blah blah **maximum in February minimum in July.**

Then you would look to where you are pointing to see which figure is highest in February and lowest in July. You do not have to understand the science in the science questions to find the correct answer. Use words you know like smallest, biggest, minimum, maximum, correlates, average, difference, similar, closest, most, least, high, or low, and match them with the science terms in the question. Then find the table/figure/graph where that science term is located, using the words you know to answer the question.