WorkKeys

Why is it important?

WorkKeys

- **The National Career Readiness Certificate** assesses critical skills for employability:
  - Graphic Literacy
  - Applied Mathematics
  - Workplace Documents

WorkKeys

- The NCRC serves as a reliable predictor for workplace success of any applicant.
- Thousands of private and public employers now ask for or require NCRC scores as part of the application process.

WorkKeys

- **NCRC is awarded at four levels:**
  - **Platinum**
  - **Gold**
  - **Silver**
  - **Bronze.**
- Level allows employers to know an applicant has met or exceeded the necessary skills for a percentage of the 16,000 occupations.
- For example, a Gold certificate verifies that an individual has the necessary skills for 93% of occupations.

WorkKeys Prep

- Students will have access to online prep materials
- Face to Face targeted instruction will be provided

NACO National Association of Counties
County News
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'Work Keys' unlock job opportunities

By Charles Taylor
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

WEB* CONTENT

Counties across the country are riding the wave of a growing trend of certifying their communities as "Work Ready."

Nationwide, there are several state-based work-ready initiatives — to demonstrate that their counties' workforce has the skills needed by employers (See "Kentucky Counties Work Ready," County News, Dec. 15, 2014). These top-down efforts are initiated and supported by governors and state economic development officials.

But counties don't have to wait for their states to award work-ready credentials, according to ACT, a nonprofit trust, best known its college admissions exam.

Counties such as Gregg County, Texas and Sweetwater County, Wyo. have taken it upon themselves to get their communities recognized under ACT's Certified Work Ready Communities initiative.

When the program began in 2011, it was only open to states, which then got their counties involved. Now, since 2013, individual counties are able to apply on their own.

"We've got counties and regions that felt such a need to get this initiative up and running, that they didn't want to wait for their state," said Debra Lyons, ACT's vice president for community and economic development.

States or ACT can designate counties as work-ready based on the number of individuals in the local workforce who have earned ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) — and the extent to which businesses recognize, prefer or recommend the certification as a factor in hiring decisions.

Using its Work Keys testing — which includes applied math, reading for information and locating information — ACT evaluates individuals' career readiness for jobs that rely on those skills, which Lyons said ACT research has shown are required for most "middle-skilled" jobs. In the aggregate, at the workforce level, economic developers can use credential attainment numbers as a selling point.

"It's a credential that companies consider in their location and

See **WORK KEY** *page 4*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

America's public lands counties face challenges born of beautiful vistas, constricted tax bases and dwindling federal support. See inside to read County News' special Hot Topics report on the unique issues they face. ▸ Page 7

WorkKeys

List of Employers in Pitt and surrounding counties

WorkKeys

Reference

Practice Test

ACT

American College Testing

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

The ACT measures
what a student has learned in high school.

Colleges and Universities make admission decisions and measure college readiness based on your ACT scores.

Students have to be competitive!

ACT Admissions for NC Colleges and Universities

School	ACT Range	SAT Range		School	ACT Range	SAT Range
Appalachian State	23 - 28	1060 - 1240		UNC Greensboro	20 - 25	940 - 1110
East Carolina	21 - 24	980 - 1130		UNC Pembroke	18 - 22	830 - 990
Elizabeth City State	17 - 19	760 - 920		UNC Wilmington	23 - 27	1120 - 1260
Fayetteville State	17 - 20	790 - 930		Western Carolina	20 - 24	940 - 1130
NC A&T State	17 - 21	830 - 990		Winston-Salem State	17 - 19	810 - 930
NC Central	17 - 20	810 - 940		Barton	18 - 22	910 - 1090
NC State	26 - 31	1160 - 1330		Campbell	17 - 29	900 - 1350
UNC Asheville	23 - 28	1060 - 1250		Chowan	14 - 16	790 - 950
UNC Chapel Hill	28 - 33	1220 - 1430		High Point	22 - 27	1012 - 1196
UNC Charlotte	22 - 25	1010 - 1180		Shaw	13 - 16	740 - 900

Average ACT Score for Competitive Scholarships

School	Scholarship	ACT
Appalachian State	Diversity Scholars	27
East Carolina	ECU Honors College	27
NC A&T State	Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy	29
NC State	Park Scholars	29
UNC Chapel Hill	Morehead Cain Scholarship	28
UNC Charlotte	Levine Scholars Program	29
UNC Greensboro	UNC-G Merit	27
Barton	Honors Trustee Scholarship	24
Shaw	Presidential Scholarship	26

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

Sometimes students don’t perform as well as they could just because they do not know what to expect.

It is important to be prepared for the test!!!

What is on the ACT?

How many sections are on the ACT?

There are 5 main parts of the ACT.

English Test - 75 Questions - 45 Minutes
Mathematics Test - 60 Questions - 60 Minutes
Reading Test - 40 Questions - 35 Minutes
Science Test - 40 Questions - 35 Minutes
Writing Test - 40 Minutes

Each test covers very specific material.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

When students know what to expect,
they can set attainable goals.

Knowing how the test is scored helps
students set those goals.

How is the ACT score calculated?

- A raw score is given on each test.
- Raw Score = The number of questions correct out of the number possible.
- The raw score is converted to a scale score.

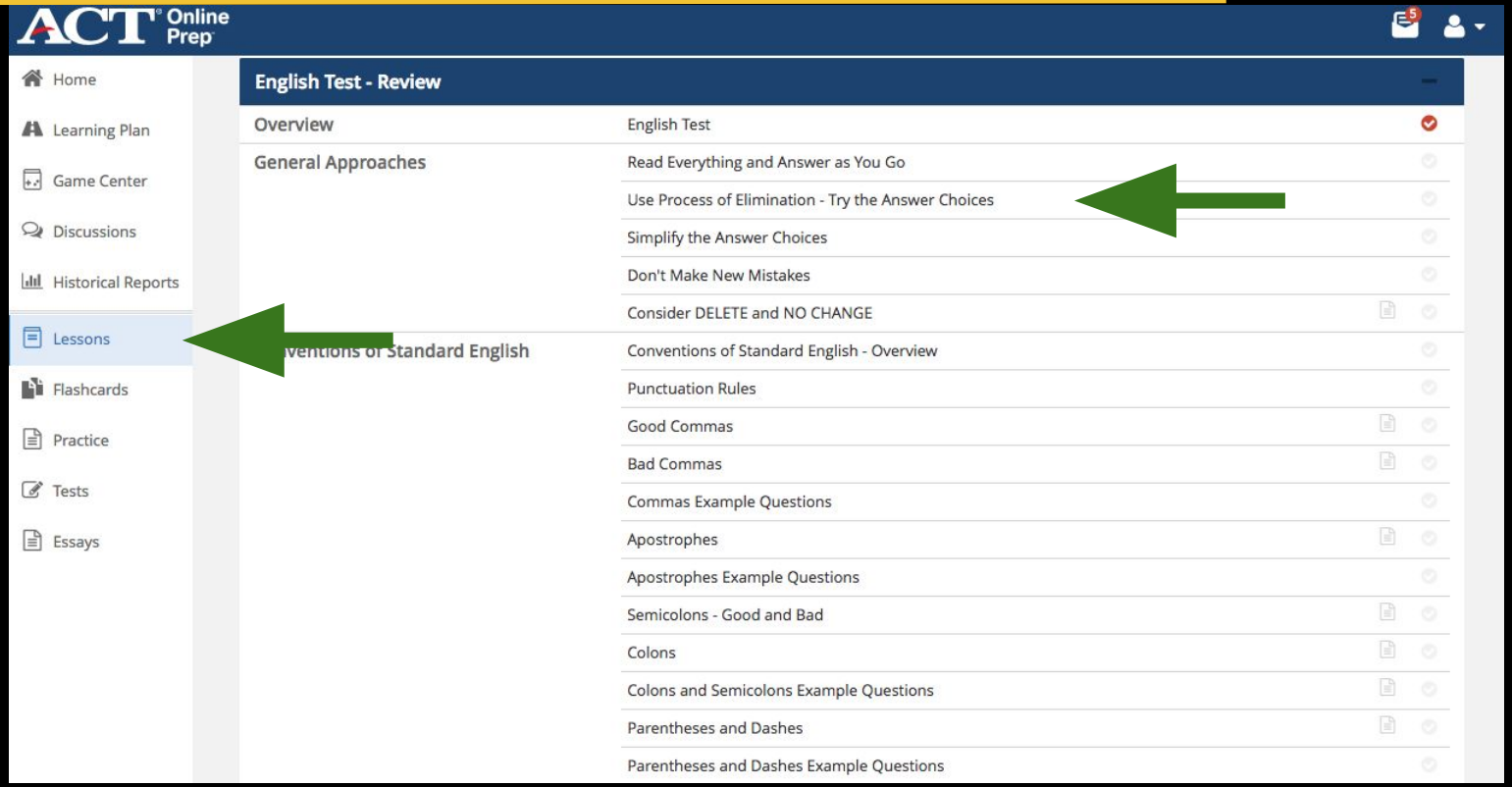
What is important to know about scoring?

- Math, English, Science, and Reading are counted equally.
- Your converted scores are added and divided by 4 to get your composite score.
- If you reach the college readiness benchmark on all sections, your ACT score would be a 21.

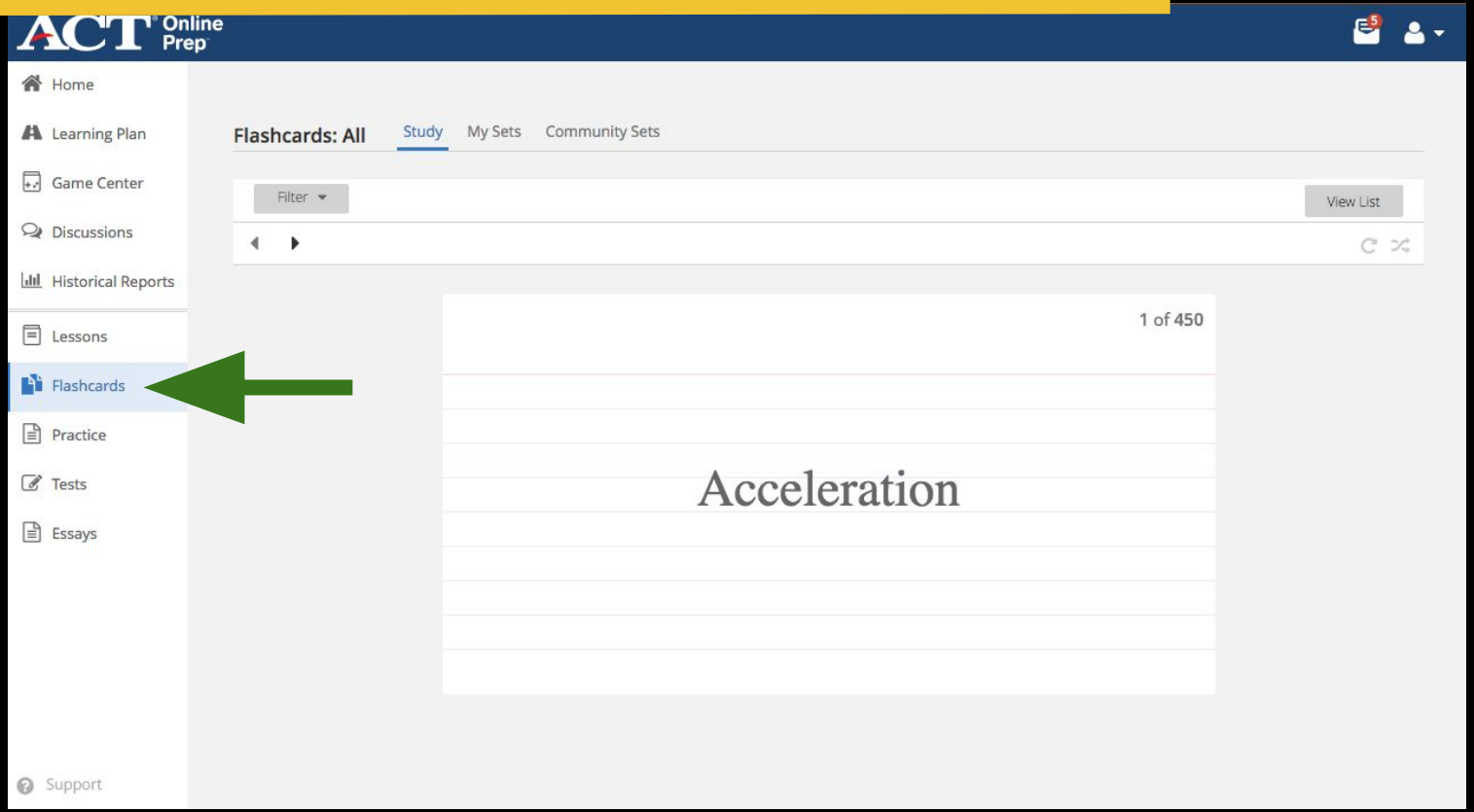
Access to Online ACT Prep

A world of information.

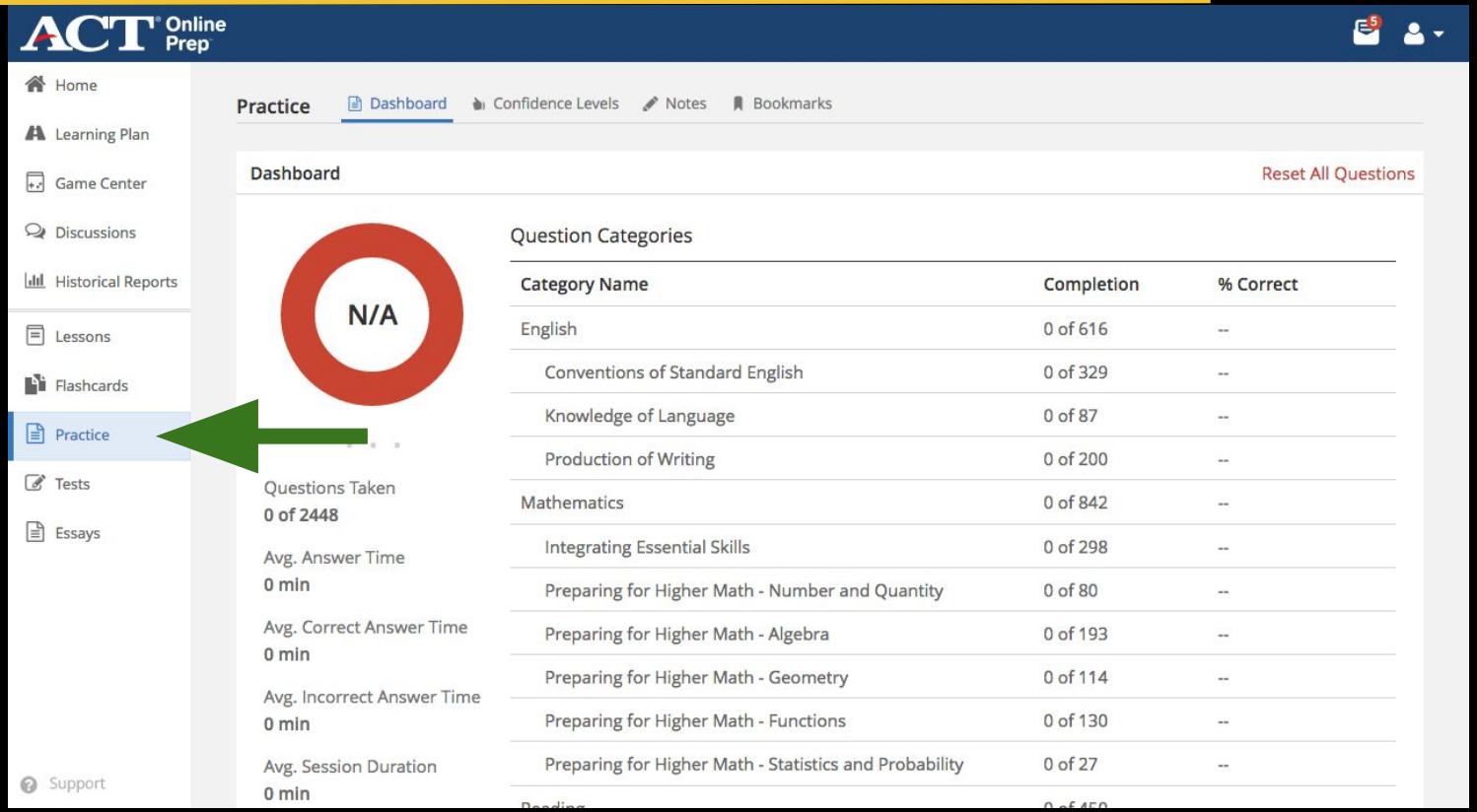
Lessons that give instruction in EVERY type of question



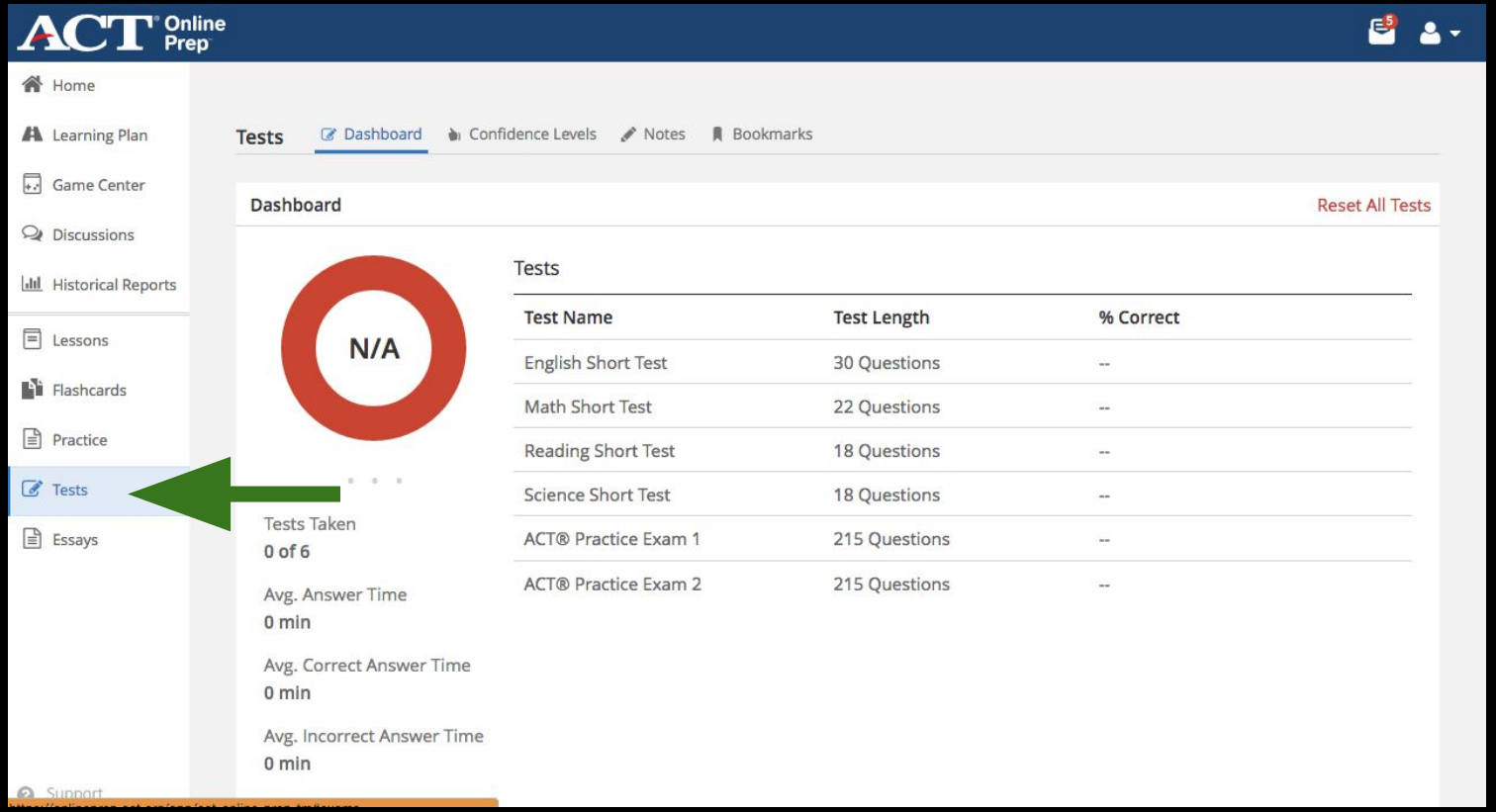
Flashcards that cover content specific vocabulary



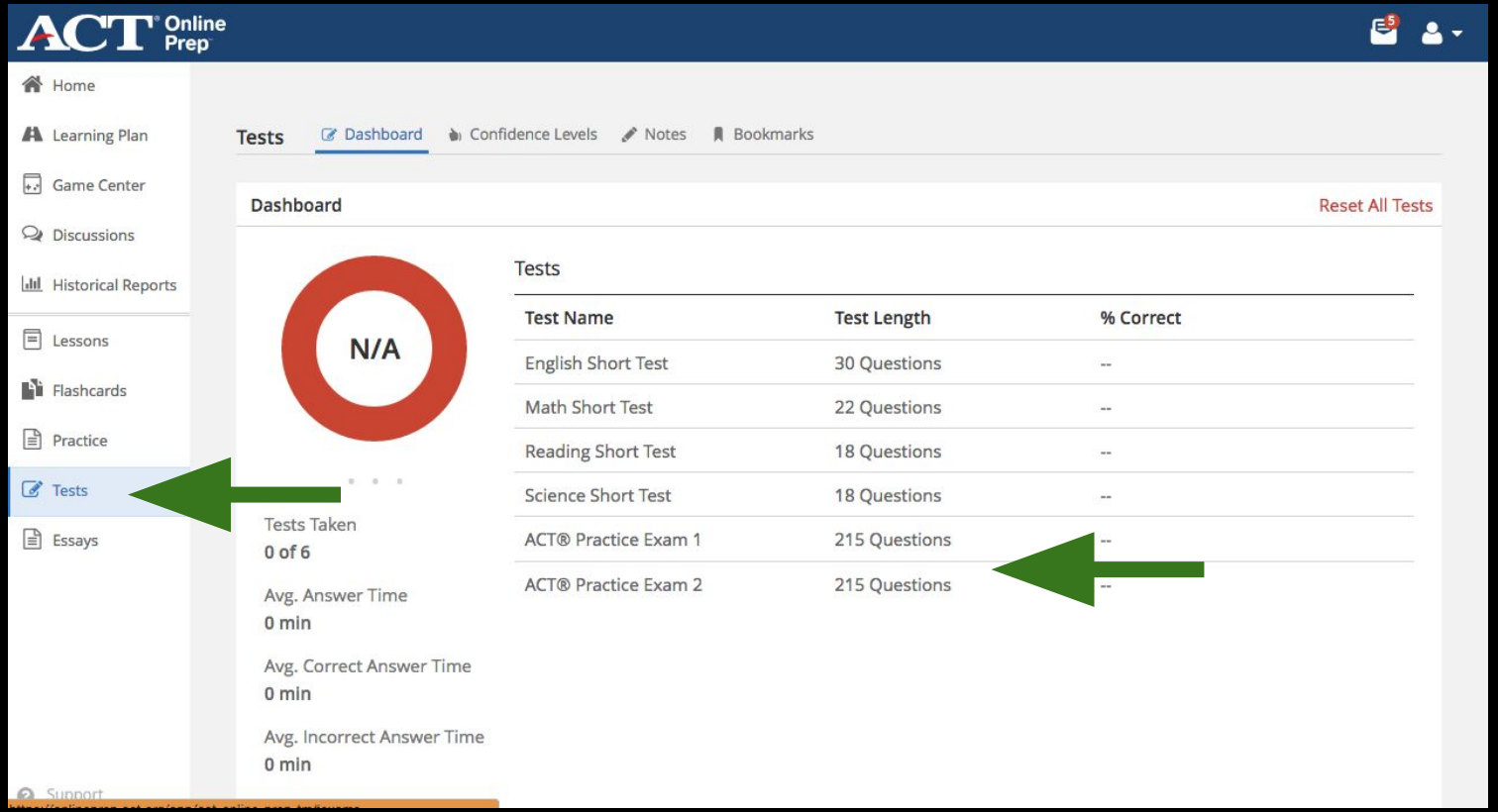
Practice Items for each item type on the test



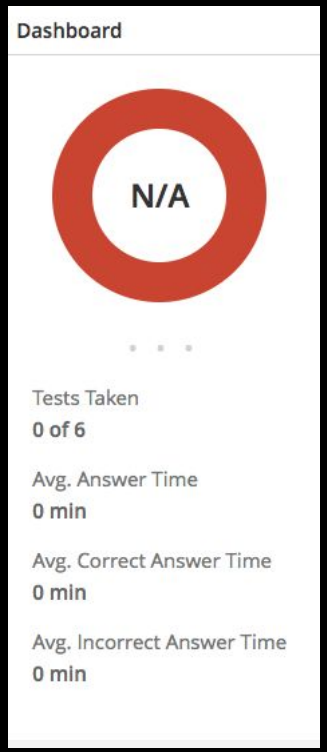
Short Practice Tests on Each Section



Two Full Length Tests



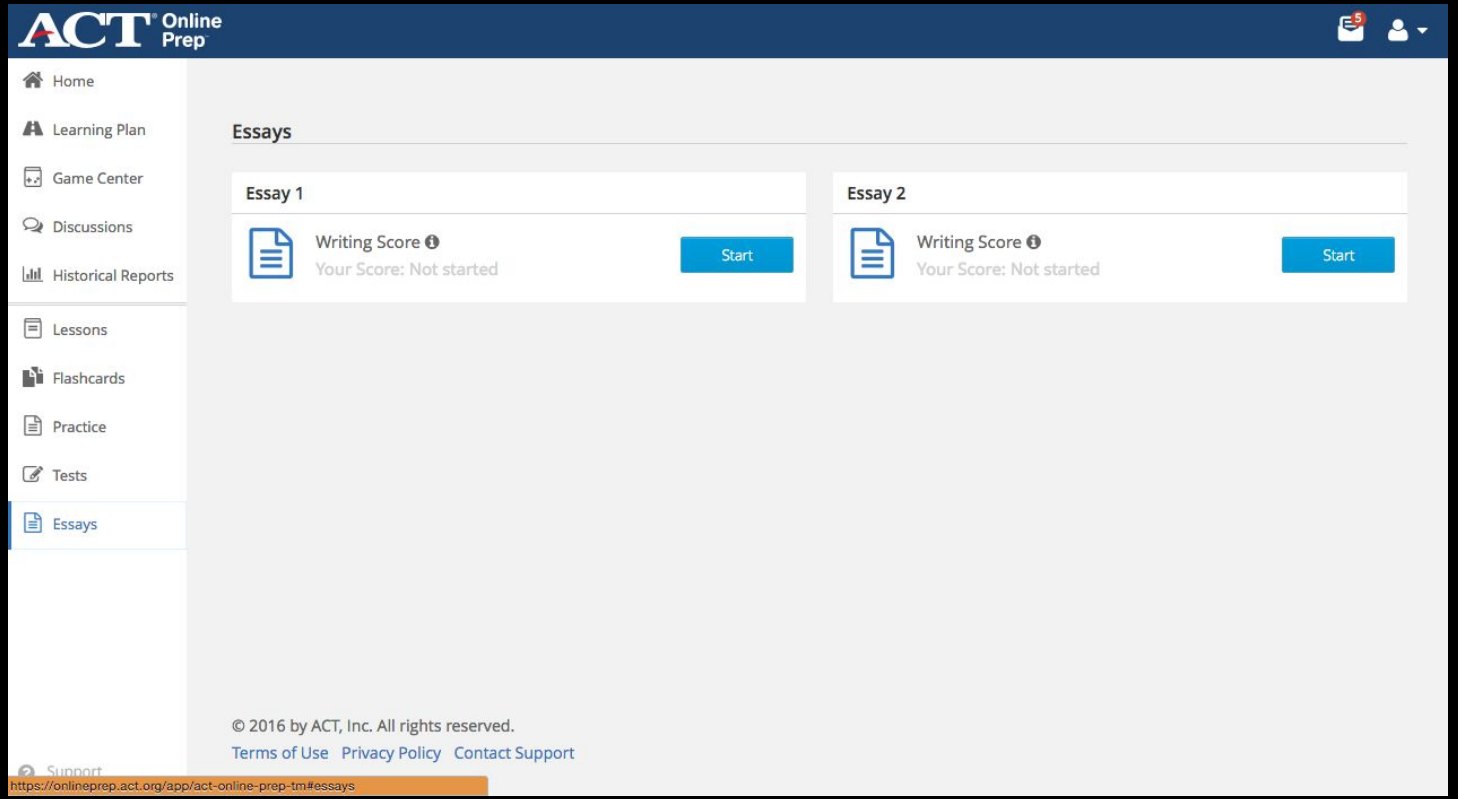
Test results



Feedback includes ...

- Average amount of time you spend on each question.
- How much time you spend on each question you get correct.
- How much time you spend on each question you get incorrect.

Two Practice Writing Prompts



Writing Practice Prompts are scored within 24 hours

Essay 1

Overview and Instructions

Writing Test
Directions: This is a test of your writing skills.

On the real ACT exam you will have forty (40) minutes to read the prompt, plan your response, and write an essay in English.

In this Essay module, you will be presented with a prompt and a textbox where you can type your essay. This module is **self-timed**. A timer counting up will begin as soon as you click "Start Writing" to help you manage your time. As you're working, use the "Save" button to preserve your progress without submitting the essay. If you need to take a break, press the "Pause" button - your work will be saved automatically.

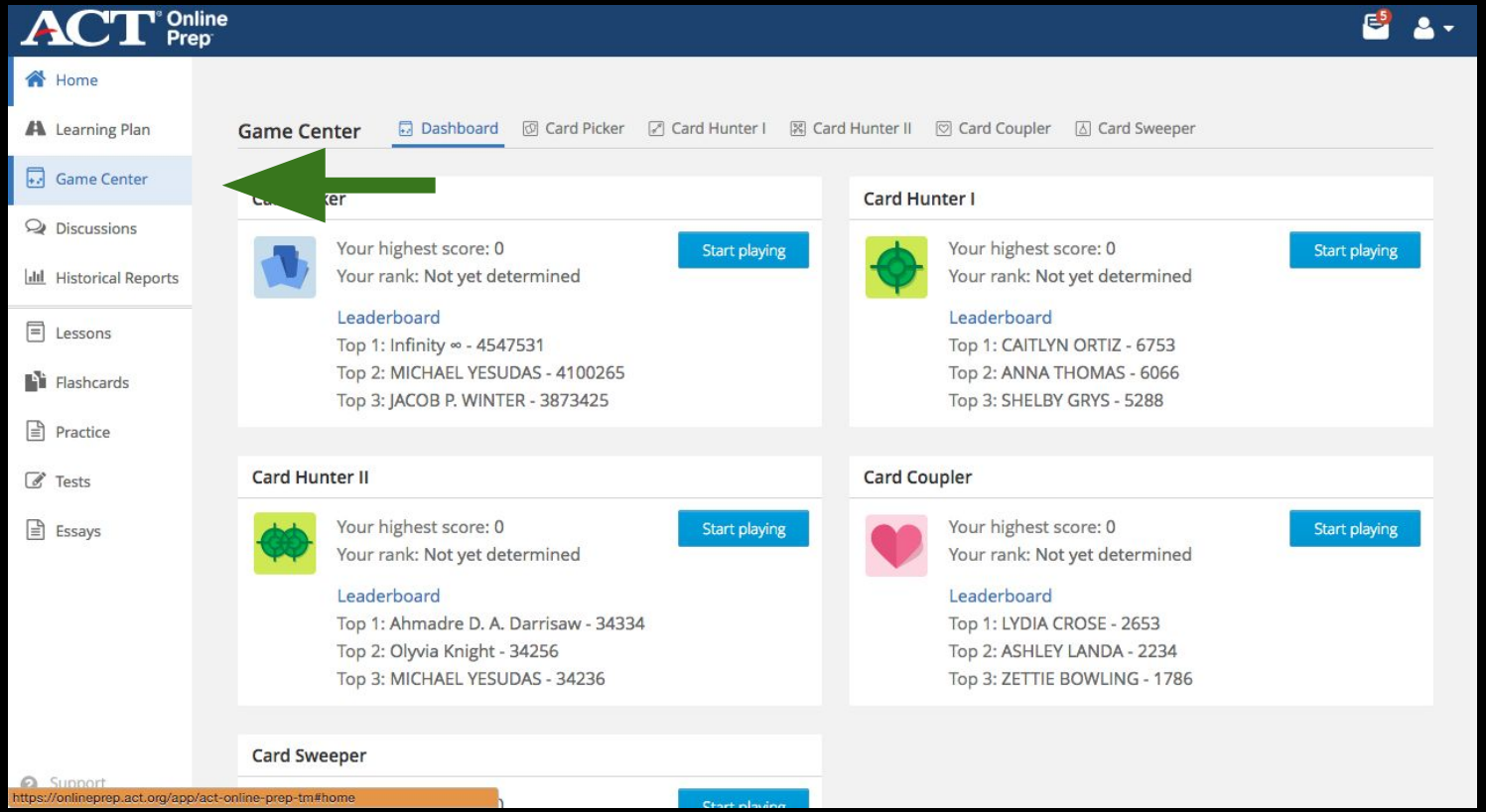
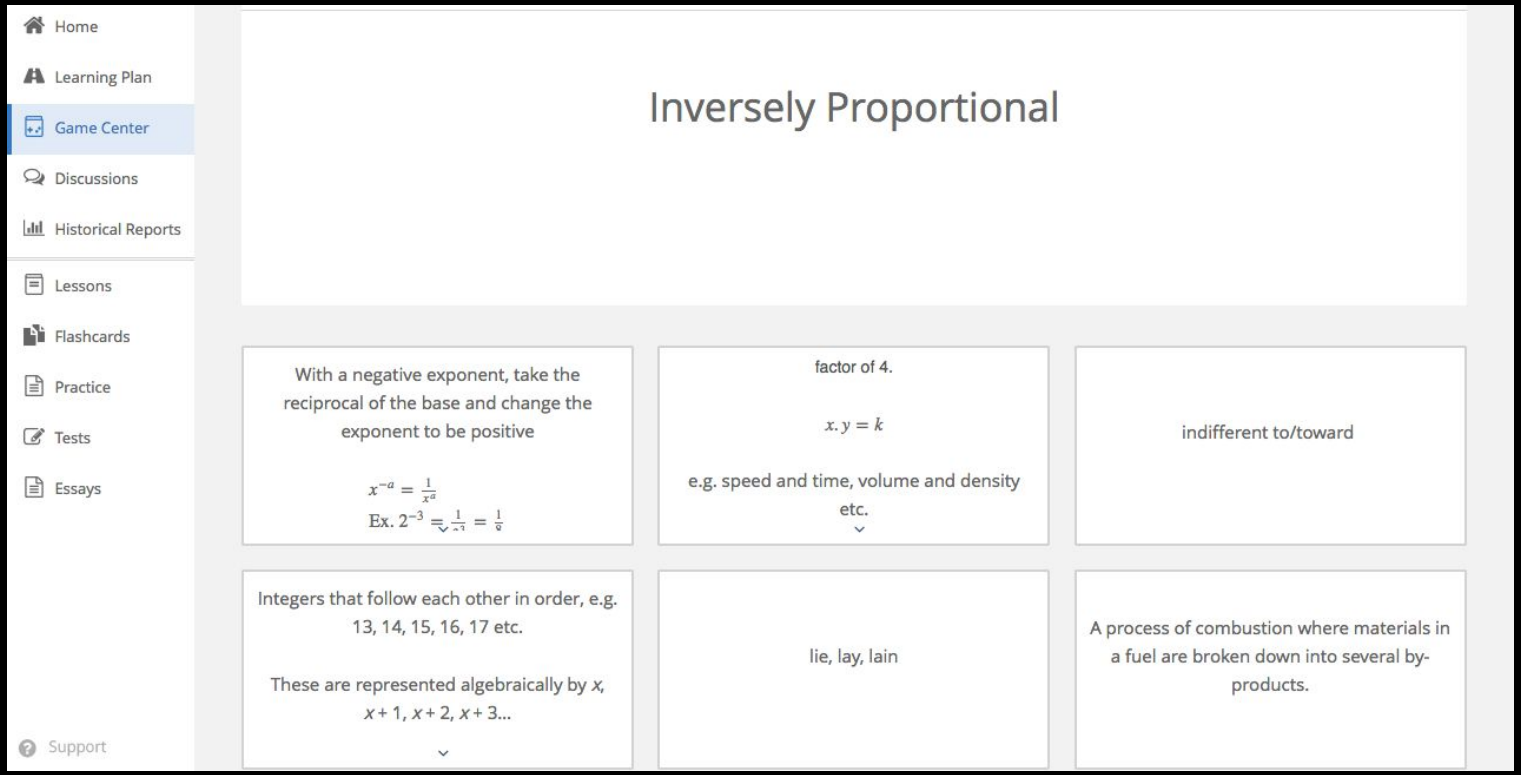
After you submit your essay, scoring experts will evaluate and grade it based on the Scoring Rubric. You should receive your score within 24 hours.

Please note: Each Essay prompt can only be attempted one time. You cannot reset them like you can with the Tests or Practice Questions. Make sure you are committed before you start.

Good luck!

Back to Dashboard | Start Writing

Game Center has different ways to review for the test



The games require you to apply what you learn in lessons