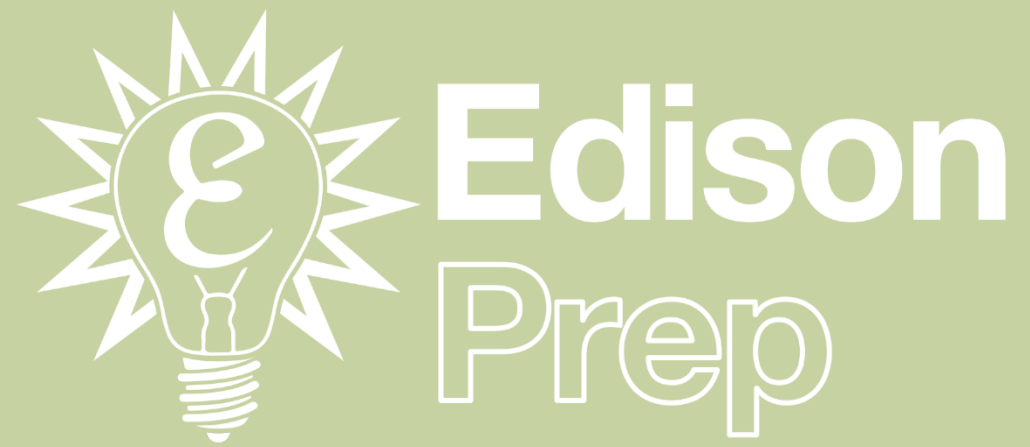




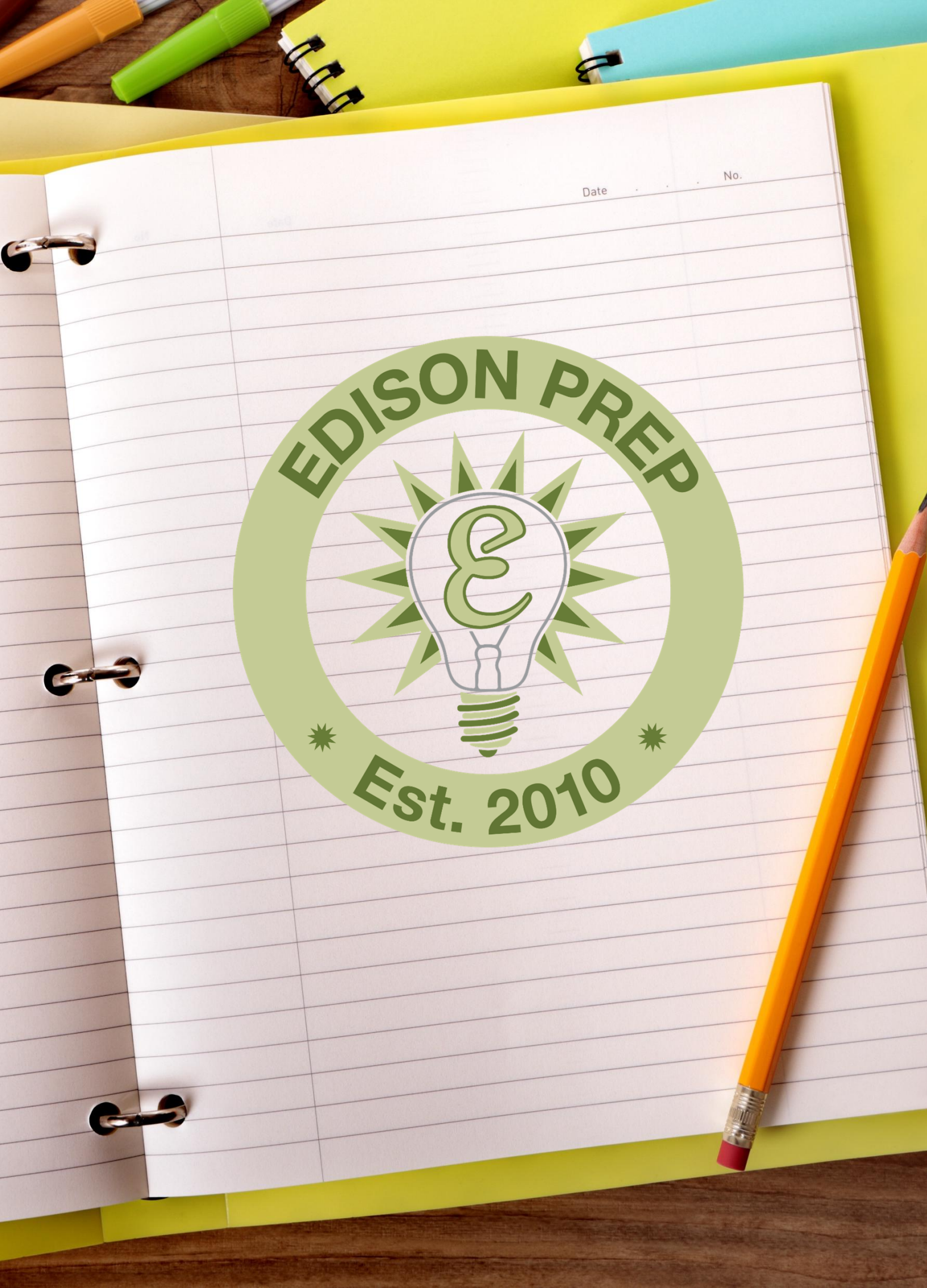
Enhanced ACT Survey from the Inaugural 9/6/25 Enhanced ACT

Brian and Silvia Eufinger

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Enhanced ACT Survey Results

1. 105 students of 250+ replied to our survey,
2. 80% were juniors and 20% were seniors
3. About 1/3 had taken the prior format Legacy ACT; 2/3 this was their first real test
4. Students were surveyed for each of the four sections on:
 - Timing
 - Difficulty
 - Freeform comments
5. The following slides contain the data and summaries!



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Our Background

- 15 years, 25,000+ students
- Our small team: **170,000+ hours** of experience

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Key Takeaways

- Consistent feedback that **English, Reading, and Science** were relatively reasonable or even easier than expected due to timing
- Everyone thought **math** was incredibly harder than expected (a common complaint even on the old test, but much more so for Sept. 6). This tracks, since the new format went from 60 to 45 questions largely by deleting the easy ones that used to be at the front, but allowing more time per question on the remaining questions. The math curve should be quite generous as a result.
- The above math complaints were despite the fact that the vast majority of respondents were scoring in the top 25% on math.
- Edison Prep's team has spent 20+ hours harvesting feedback from this survey, Reddit, and other places and is already incorporating this new knowledge (mostly math) into our curriculum for our October ACT testers and beyond. We do this for each test month!

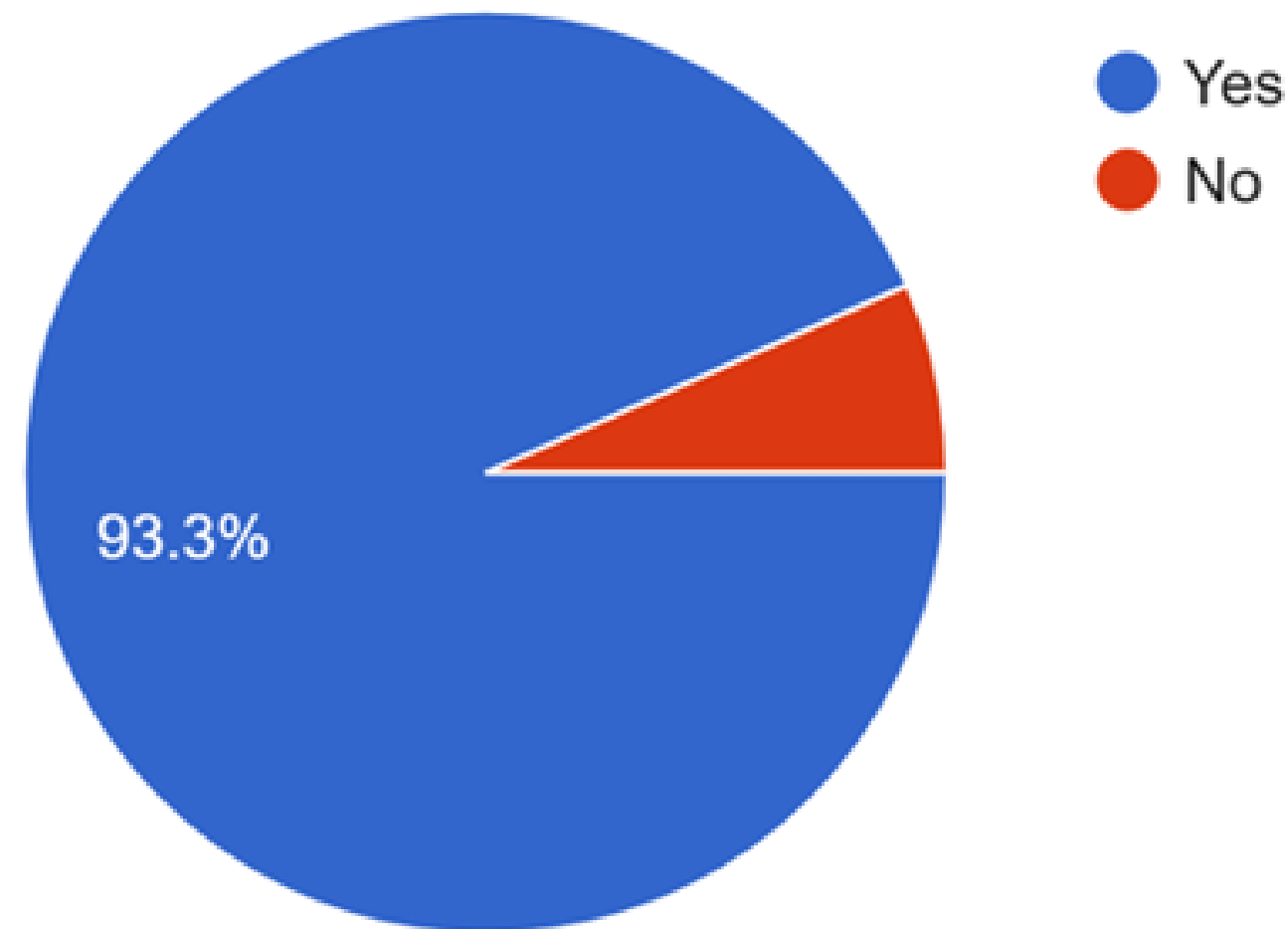
Key Takeaways

- Don't be rattled if your student feels like they didn't have the same test that other students/parents online are discussing: there were at least 8 test forms given nationally numbered J01-J08.
- About 1/3 of respondents had taken the prior format Legacy ACT. For 2/3 this was their first real test.
- 80%+ of students are supposed to get scores back 9/23 – 9/26.

Science? (Y/N) and Timing

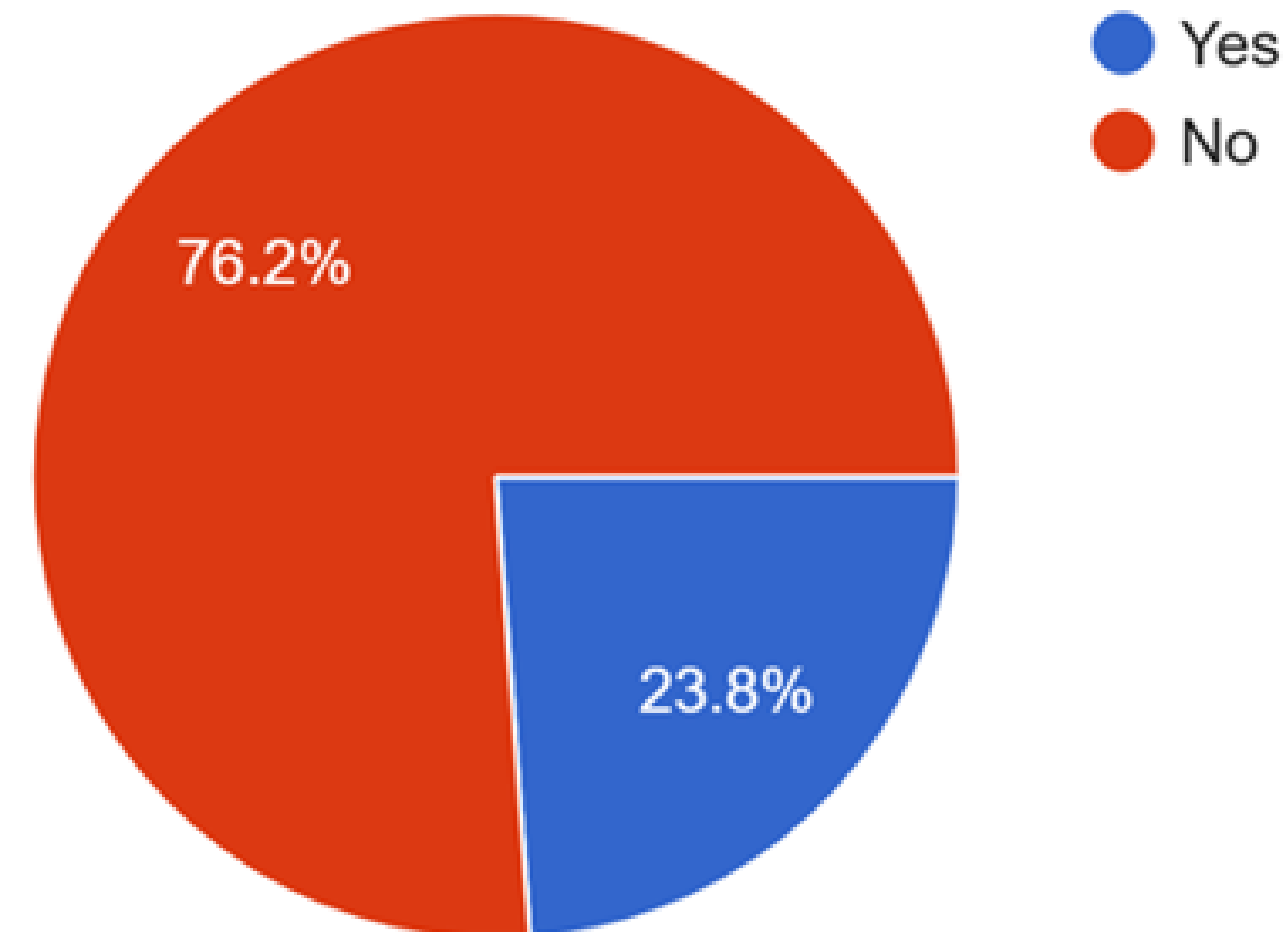
Did you take the ACT Science section?

105 responses



Do you have extended time accommodations?

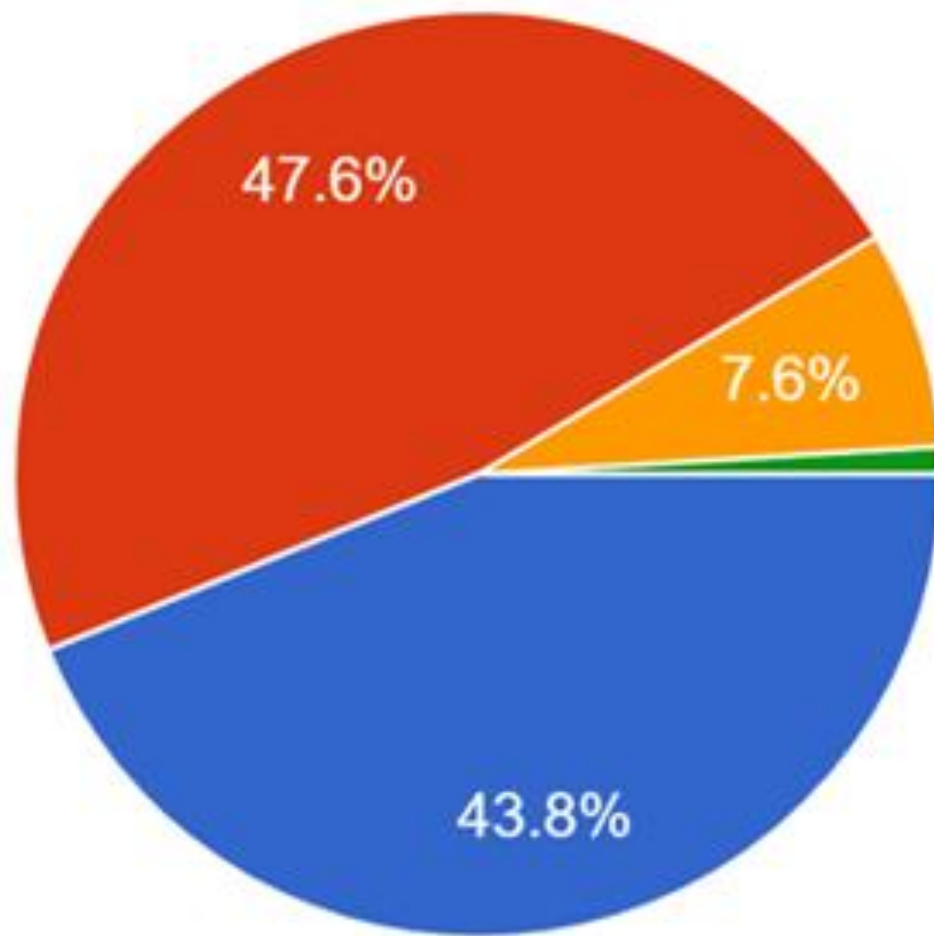
105 responses



English and Math Timing

English Timing: What did you think?

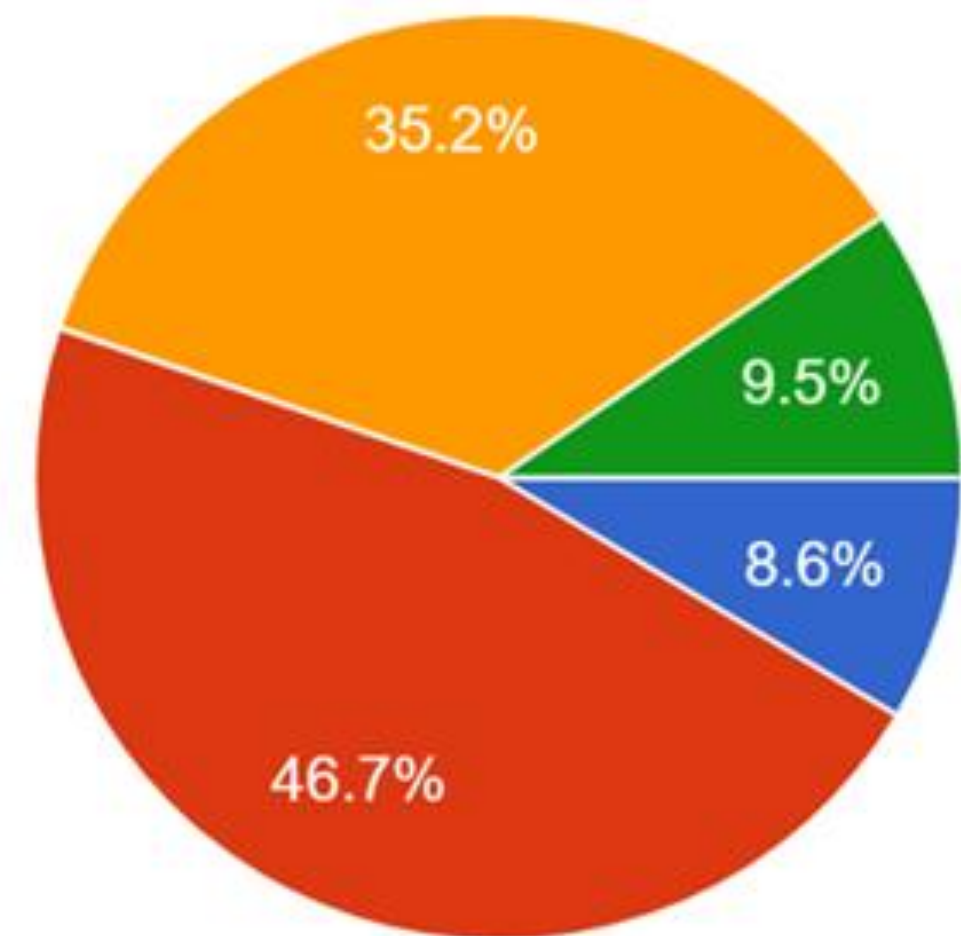
105 responses



- Finished with time to spare
- Finished right on time
- Didn't quite finish
- Didn't finish a good number of questions

Math Timing: What did you think?

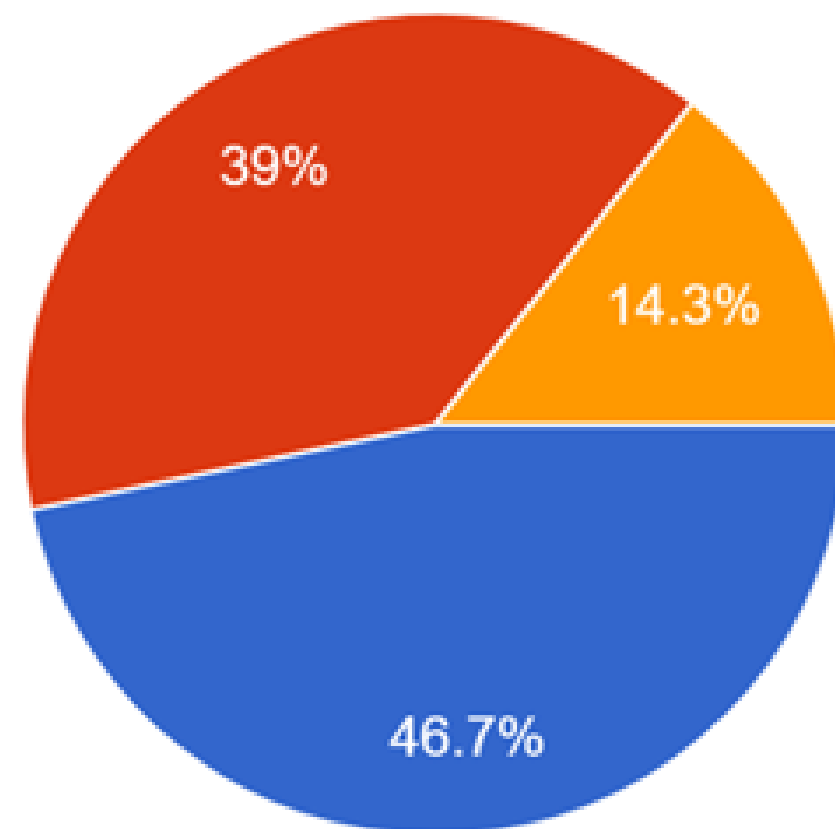
105 responses



Reading and Science Timing

Reading Timing: What did you think?

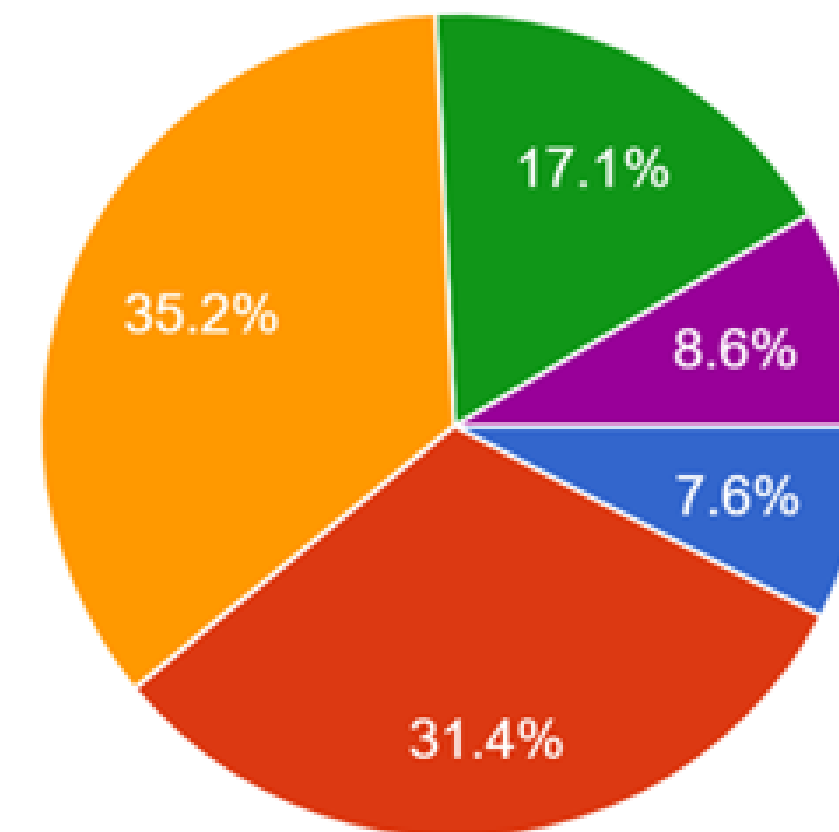
105 responses



- Finished with time to spare
- Finished right on time
- Didn't quite finish
- Didn't finish a good number of questions

Science Timing: What did you think?

105 responses

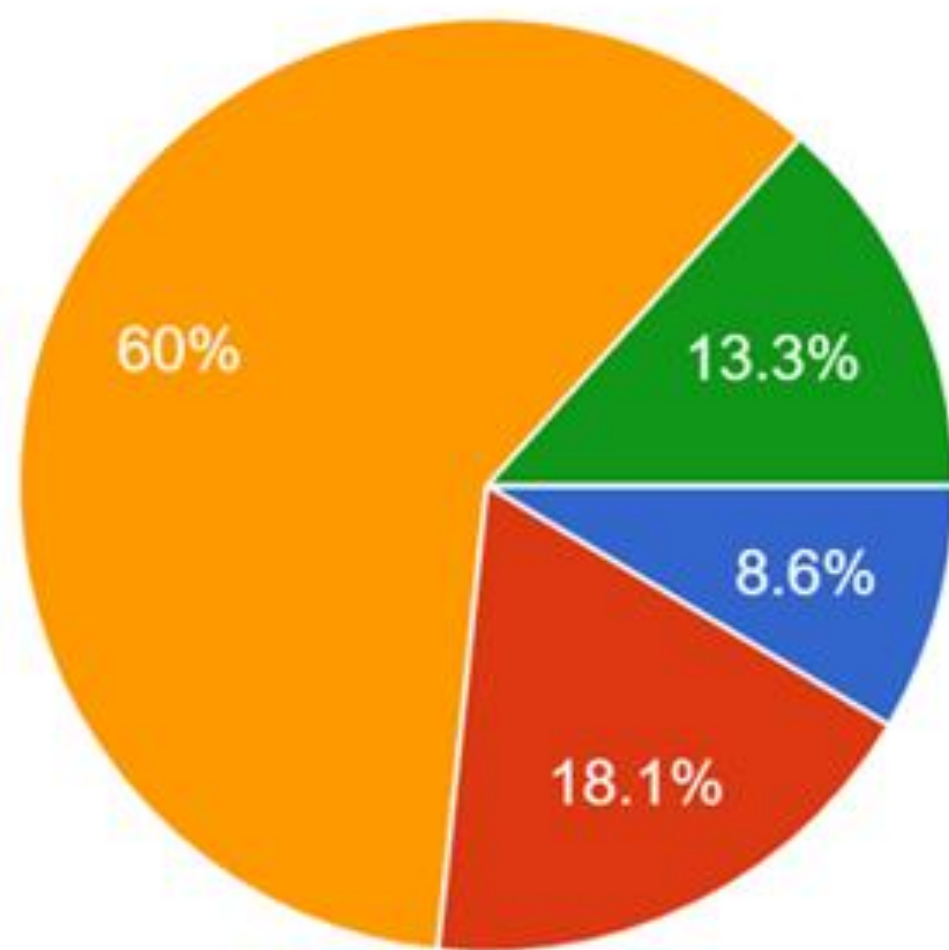


- N/A - I didn't take Science
- Finished with time to spare
- Finished right on time
- Didn't quite finish
- Didn't finish a good number of questions

English and Math Difficulty

English Difficulty: What did you think?

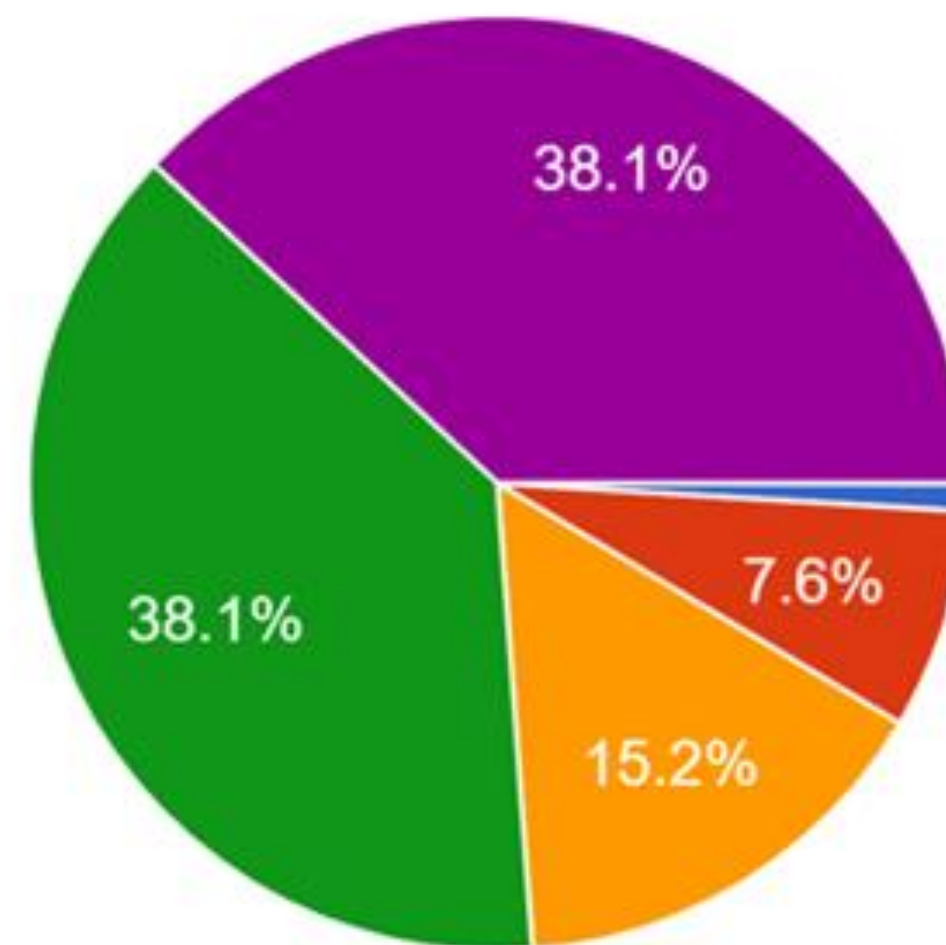
105 responses



- Far easier than anticipated
- Easier than anticipated
- Similar to what I had practiced
- Harder than anticipated
- Far harder than anticipated

Math Difficulty: What did you think?

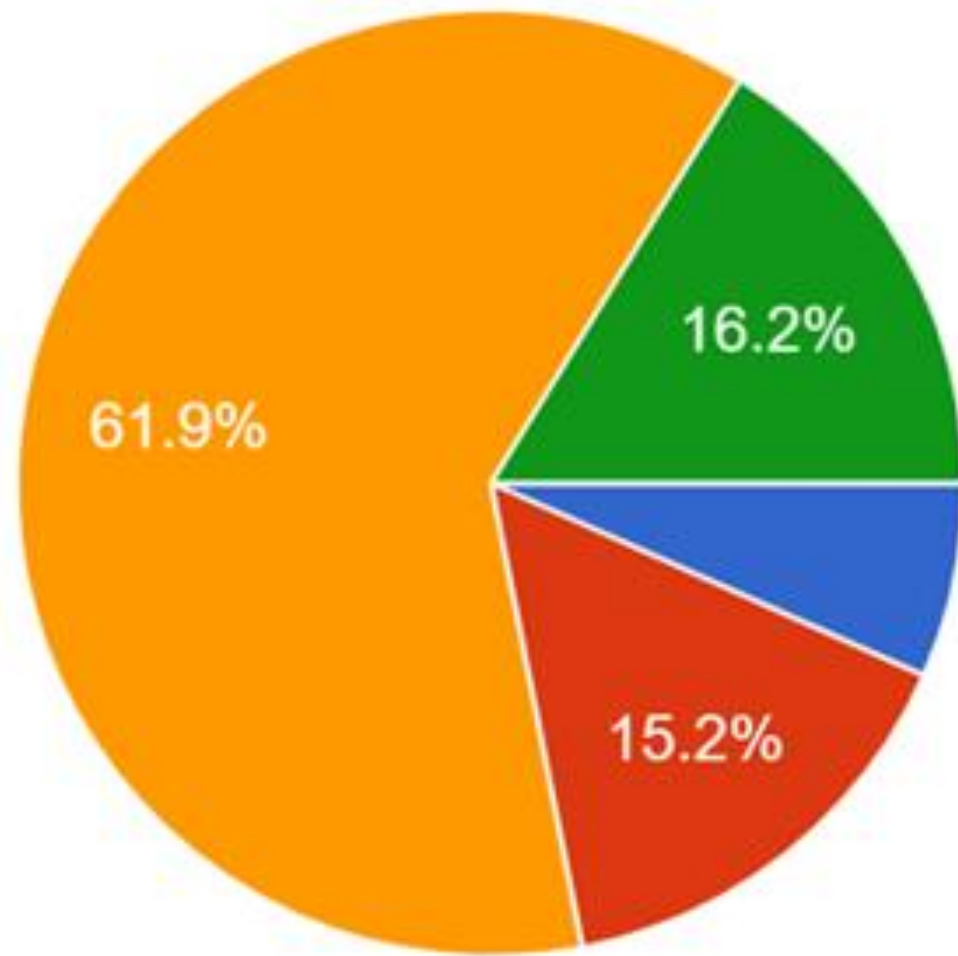
105 responses



Reading and Science Difficulty

Reading Difficulty: What did you think?

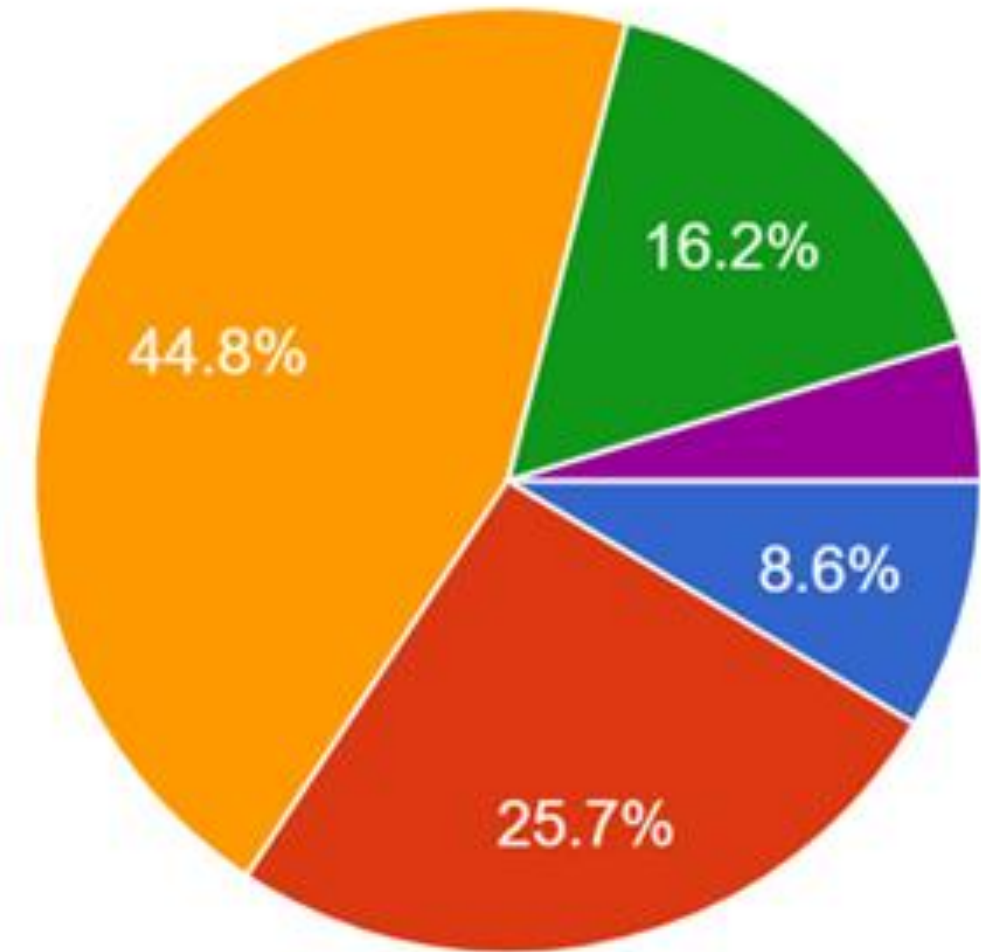
105 responses



- Far easier than anticipated
- Easier than anticipated
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- Far harder than anticipated

Science Difficulty: What did you think?

105 responses



English Comments

- **Similar to practice:** Many respondents found the English content similar to what they had practiced in mock ACTs and class, with some noting familiarity due to repeated passages.
- **Different in question focus:** Several felt the questions were more specific and less focused on simple grammar or word choice. There was an increase in questions about passage content, adding/deleting phrases, sentence composition, and the impact of changes.
- **Difficulty level varied:** While some found it easier than expected or practiced, others described it as harder, wordier, or with more complicated vocabulary and faster timing.
- **Less grammar/punctuation:** A recurring theme was a reduced emphasis on traditional grammar and punctuation questions (like commas) and more on "big picture" editing and possessive forms of verbs.

Math Comments

- **Increased Difficulty and Unfamiliar Content:** Many respondents found the math section significantly harder than practice tests, with a substantial amount of unfamiliar content and question types, leading to feelings of being unprepared and overwhelmed.
- **Prevalence of Probability and Statistics:** A recurring theme was the unexpected high number of probability and statistics problems, including combinations, bell curves, and advanced inequality questions, which many felt were not adequately covered in their preparation.
- **More Geometry and Word Problems:** Several students noted an increase in geometry questions (shapes, angles, ellipses) and word problems, often more complex and time-consuming than anticipated.

Math Comments (continued)

- **New Concepts and Advanced Topics:** Students were surprised by questions involving repeating decimals with added information, vector magnitude and direction, logarithmic graphs, sum of geometric sequences, radians, and precalculus-level content, with some even mentioning "funky things that aren't in any normal categories of math."
- **Timing and Difficulty Distribution:** Many struggled with time management due to the increased difficulty and complexity of problems. Some observed that the difficulty was not consistently increasing, with harder questions appearing earlier than expected, or a mix of very easy and very hard questions throughout the test.

Reading Comments

- **Similar to practice:** Many respondents found the reading content similar to what they had practiced, with some noting it was even easier or faster-paced.
- **Difficulty and Wordiness:** Some found the passages more difficult, wordy, or confusing, with themes requiring more interpretation rather than direct recall.
- **Passage Content:** Specific mentions included a science-y passage about organelles and microbiomes, passages about dance and art, and one passage that included a bar graph/data analysis, which was unexpected by some.
- **Question Types:** Respondents noted more questions on the overall ideas of the passages and chronological order, with fewer questions asking for specific paragraph or line numbers.
- **Impact of Extra Time:** The increased time felt helpful to some, allowing them to finish with time to spare or even take a nap, while others still felt a time crunch.

Science Comments

- **Similar to practice:** Many students found the science content similar to what they had practiced, with some noting easier sections due to practice or clear charts.
- **Harder than expected:** Several respondents felt the science section was harder, citing difficult graphs, wordy questions, more outside science knowledge required, and a faster pace leading to timing issues.
- **Easier than expected:** A significant number of students found the science section easier, some even finishing with time to spare.
- **Timing challenges:** Even for those who found the content similar or easier, timing was a recurring issue, with some running out of time on certain passages.
- **Specific difficulties:** Some found certain passages impossible, encountered random questions unrelated to the passage, or noted a higher number of questions requiring actual science concepts rather than just passage analysis.

General Comments

- **Delays in starting:** Many respondents experienced delays in test start times, ranging from 10 minutes to an hour or even two hours, often due to proctor unfamiliarity with procedures, waiting for all students to arrive, or missing students.
- **Proctor performance and issues:** Several students reported issues with proctors, including a proctor who was unprepared, didn't write start/end times, talked during the test, deleted calculator memory, offered candy, or called time early.
- **Test difficulty and stress:** Multiple respondents found the new Enhanced ACT to be much faster, more stressful, and harder, especially the math section, compared to old practice tests.
- **Logistical issues at testing centers:** Problems reported included a broken clock, a freezing room, construction noise, a calculator charging port issue, confusion about drink policies, squeaky chairs, and long lines at check-in.
- **Positive experiences:** Some students had smooth test days and positive experiences with proctors and staff, mentioning Wesleyan, South Cobb High School, and Riverwood as good locations.

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