

AVATAR Training Module 05  
*College Ready Assessments*  
Supplementary Materials and Resources

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## ACCUPLACER

### An accurate student placement test delivered over the Internet

At times, education professionals need additional information about students' academic skills to determine if developmental classes would be beneficial before the students take college-level work. **How do you accurately assess students' academic skills in order to effectively recruit, advise, and place them?**

ACCUPLACER is a suite of computer-adaptive placement tests that quickly, accurately, and efficiently assess reading, writing, and math skills.

ACCUPLACER:

- Can reduce your assessment costs.
- Allows you to assess using direct writing with scores available immediately.
- Helps save your technical support dollars.
- Allows you to deliver the right tests to the right student (individual customization).
- Enables you to test in remote locations.
- Allows you to facilitate institutional research through customized reports.
- Can help you increase retention through correct course placement.

### Internet delivery

ACCUPLACER Online is the first and only computer-adaptive placement testing program delivered over the Internet. Internet delivery means that an institution can administer quality assessments to many students simultaneously at an affordable price, but without the attendant difficulties of installing and upgrading software (especially in networked environments). This suite of computer-adaptive placement tests is used extensively by community colleges, four-year colleges, technical schools, and high schools.

**Scoring is virtually immediate**, providing the best kind of feedback for the test-taker. Individual student score reports are available immediately after testing. These score reports contain student test scores, custom messages from the institution, and information about course placement based on institutional placement scores.

Internet delivery means that any facility with Internet access and a proctor can be a test center. That means you can make ACCUPLACER available anywhere on or off campus—the library, the learning lab, the placement office; or local high schools, satellite campuses, and so forth. You won't need to install software or deal with software compatibility issues. Just connect to the Internet and you're good to go.

### What you can do with ACCUPLACER

- Conduct off-site orientation programs for new students in several locations
- Work with your feeder high schools to assess the academic readiness of the students coming to you
- Establish benchmarks for students enrolling in your Distance Learning program
- Measure the academic skills of displaced/outsourced workers as the first step of your job-training contract

### ACCUPLACER tests

- Placement assessments:
  - Reading Comprehension

- Sentence Skills
- Arithmetic
- Elementary Algebra
- College-Level Mathematics
- Diagnostic Assessments:
  - Reading Comprehension
  - Sentence Skills
  - Arithmetic
  - Elementary Algebra
- Essay assessments:
  - WritePlacer
  - WritePlacer ESL
- ESL assessments:
  - ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills
  - ACCUPLACER ESL Sentence Meaning
  - ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use
  - ACCUPLACER ESL Listening
  - WritePlacer ESL
- Alternative format assessments:
  - COMPANION paper and pencil
  - COMPANION CD-ROM
  - COMPANION special formats (Braille, CD and large print)

### **ACCUPLACER features**

- Internet delivery
- Immediate, accurate student placement information
- Secure, reliable, bias-free assessments
- Computer-adaptive multiple-choice tests
- Computer-scored essay (WritePlacer or WritePlacer ESL)
- All components fully integrated into the system
- All scores available immediately and exportable into existing campus information systems
- Local tests delivered and scored as a component of the system

**To learn more about ACCUPLACER** please call (866) 607-5223 or email [info@accuplacer.org](mailto:info@accuplacer.org).



## Introduction for Students

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The purpose of ACCUPLACER tests is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisors and counselors to determine your course selection.

You can not "pass" or "fail" the placement tests, but it is very important that you do your very best on these tests so that you will have an accurate measure of your academic skills.

- [How ACCUPLACER Works](#)
- [The ACCUPLACER Tests](#)
- [Sample Questions](#)

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## How It Works

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### **Computer Adaptive Testing**

ACCUPLACER is an adaptive test. This means that the questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. This technique selects just the right questions for your ability level. Because the test works this way, you must answer every question when it is first given. Each test is untimed so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish. You can change your answer to a particular question before moving on to the next question, but you cannot leave a question out or come back to it later to change your answer.

If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices. Then pick from the remaining choices.

### **Testing Time**

The multiple choice tests are untimed. The essay test may be timed or untimed.

### **What to Take with You to the Tests**

On the day of the test, you should be sure to take photo identification and any other special materials your college may ask you to bring.

### **Testing Regulations**

Check with your school to see about specific site regulations regarding calculators, textbooks, protractors, notebooks, dictionaries or other papers of any kind. Additionally, anyone who gives or receives help during the test, or uses notes, books, or calculators of any kind may not be allowed to continue the test. Your college will disregard a test score if there is reason to question its validity.

### **At the End of the Test**

Once you have completed a test, a score report will be created. Your college will provide you the report.

### **Making an Appointment for Testing**

To schedule your ACCUPLACER appointment, please contact or stop by your Advising and Counseling Office.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you require test accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact the testing center for information concerning your needs.



## ACCUPLACER Tests

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The placement tests may consist of:

- Answering questions covering reading, mathematics, writing and language use skills
- Writing an essay on a familiar topic
- All questions are multiple choice, except the essay

[ACCUPLACER Sample Questions](#)

### Sentence Skills

There are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

- The first type is **sentence correction** questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence.
- The second type is **construction shift** questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination.

### Reading Comprehension

There are 20 questions of two primary types on the Reading Comprehension test.

- The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

### Arithmetic Test

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are 17 questions on the Arithmetic tests divided into three types.

- Operations with whole numbers and fractions: topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- Operations with decimals and percents: topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.
- Applications and problem solving: topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems, simple geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

### Elementary Algebra

A total of 12 questions are administered in this test.

- The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- A second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- The third type of question involves the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems. solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

### College Level Math Test

There are 20 questions on the College-Level Mathematics.

The College-Level Mathematics test assesses from intermediate algebra through precalculus.

- Algebraic operations includes simplifying rational algebraic expressions, factoring, expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
- Solutions of equations and inequalities includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, equation systems and other algebraic equations.
- Coordinate geometry includes plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.
- Applications and other algebra topics ask about complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, fractions, and word problems.
- The last category, functions and trigonometry, presents questions about polynomials, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions.

### Written Essay

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success.

Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **Focus**—The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- **Organization**—The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- **Development and Support**—The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
- **Sentence Structure**—The effectiveness of your sentence structure
- **Mechanical Conventions**—The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics



## ACCUPLACER ESL

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The ACCUPLACER ESL assesses your English skills if you have learned English as an additional language to your native or first language. The ACCUPLACER ESL is divided into five sections. You may be asked to take more than one of these exams.

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills**

The Reading Skills test evaluates comprehension of short passages. There are 20 questions to this test. The content of passage is varied and deals with a variety of subjects including the arts, human relationships, physical science, history, social sciences, and practical situations.

- Half of the Reading Skills test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrasing, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference).
- The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact vs. opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation)

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use**

The Language Use test measures grammar and usage. There are 20 questions to this test. It contains questions in two formats: completing a sentence by filling in a blank with the word or phrase from the choices given, and choosing a sentence that best combines two given discrete sentences.

- Subject-verb agreement
- Verb tenses
- Irregular verbs
- Noun forms and pronouns
- Modifiers and comparatives
- Prepositions, connectives, and parallelism
- Sentence fragments or run-on sentences

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Sentence Meaning**

Sentence Meaning assesses the understanding of word meanings in one or two-sentence contexts. There are 20 questions to this test. The sentences draw from the content areas of natural science, arts/humanities, human relationships, history, social sciences, and practical situations.

- Subject-verb agreement
- Verb tenses
- Irregular verbs
- Noun forms and pronouns
- Modifiers and comparatives
- Prepositions of direction and place
- Comparatives, connectives, and commands

### **ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL**

This is to accurately assess your fundamental writing skills. This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. Your college will select the topic to be written, and the essay will be either timed or untimed.



Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **Organization**—The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- **Focus**—The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- **Vocabulary**—The effectiveness of your use of vocabulary
- **Sentence Structure**—The effectiveness of your sentence structure
- **Mechanical Conventions**—The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Listening**

ESL Listening is a true listening assessment-allowing you to listen to all parts of the test, including the answers. You will be assessed on your ability to listen and understand one or more people speaking English - not on your ability to read English.

The conversations take place in a variety of settings, for example a computer lab, the library, shopping, in a restaurant, reading the newspaper, and performing tasks at work.

First, the student will listen to the conversation and the question that follows, while looking at pictures of the speakers. Below this are four answers from which to choose, written on the screen or with a drawing next to each choice. You will be asked to choose the best answer to the question that was asked.



## Preparation & Sample Questions

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To ensure that test scores accurately represent your skill levels, you may wish to review basic concepts in reading, grammar, arithmetic, trigonometry, and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER, especially if you have been away from school for more than a year. Many students find that SAT Preparation or SAT review books are helpful in refreshing their basic skills. These are available at local bookstores, public libraries, and online at the [SAT Preparation Center™](#).

➤ [ACCUPLACER Sample Questions for Students \(Revised December 2007\) \(.pdf/241k\)](#)  
*Requires [Adobe Reader](#) (latest version recommended).*

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## ACCUPLACER®

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## Tips for Taking ACCUPLACER

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1. Relax! ACCUPLACER was designed to help you succeed in college. Your score helps you and your advisor determine which courses are most appropriate for your current level of knowledge and skills. Once you identify your academic strengths and needs, you can get the help you need to improve underdeveloped skills before they can interfere with your learning.
2. You will be able to concentrate better on the test if you get plenty of rest and eat properly prior to the test. You should also arrive a few minutes early so you can find the testing area, bathrooms, etc., and gather your thoughts before the test begins.
3. Pay careful attention to directions, and be sure you understand the directions before you begin each test.
4. You should understand that this is an adaptive test. Questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. Because the test works this way, you must answer every question; you may change the answer on a particular question before you have moved ahead to another question.
5. If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices.
6. Remember to bring a picture I.D.



ACCUPLACER

# ACCUPLACER<sup>®</sup>

## Sample Questions for Students

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## Sentence Skills

In an ACCUPLACER® placement test, there are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

- The first type is sentence correction questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase for the underlined portion of the sentence.
- The second type is construction shift questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination.

## Sentence Skills Sample Questions

### Directions for questions 1–5

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

1. Stamp collecting being a hobby that is sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.
  - A. being a hobby that is
  - B. is a hobby because it is
  - C. which is a hobby
  - D. is a hobby
2. Knocked sideways, the statue looked as if it would fall.
  - A. Knocked sideways, the statue looked
  - B. The statue was knocked sideways, looked
  - C. The statue looked knocked sideways
  - D. The statue, looking knocked sideways,

3. To walk, biking, and driving are Pat's favorite ways of getting around.
  - A. To walk, biking, and driving
  - B. Walking, biking, and driving
  - C. To walk, biking, and to drive
  - D. To walk, to bike, and also driving
4. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this is an example of jaywalking.
  - A. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this
  - B. You cross the street in the middle of the block, this
  - C. Crossing the street in the middle of the block
  - D. The fact that you cross the street in the middle of the block
5. Walking by the corner the other day, a child, I noticed, was watching for the light to change.
  - A. a child, I noticed, was watching
  - B. I noticed a child watching
  - C. a child was watching, I noticed,
  - D. there was, I noticed, a child watching

### Directions for questions 6–10

Rewrite the sentence in your head following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

6. It is easy to carry solid objects without spilling them, but the same cannot be said of liquids.

Rewrite, beginning with

Unlike liquids,

The next words will be

- A. it is easy to
  - B. we can easily
  - C. solid objects can easily be
  - D. solid objects are easy to be
7. Although the sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light, it will bravely resist any force that threatens its nest.

Rewrite, beginning with

The sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light,

The next words will be

- A. but it will bravely resist
- B. nevertheless bravely resisting
- C. and it will bravely resist
- D. even if bravely resisting

8. If he had enough strength, Todd would move the boulder.

Rewrite, beginning with

Todd cannot move the boulder

The next words will be

- A. when lacking
- B. because he
- C. although there
- D. without enough

9. The band began to play, and then the real party started.

Rewrite, beginning with

The real party started

The next words will be

- A. after the band began
- B. and the band began
- C. although the band began
- D. the band beginning

10. Chris heard no unusual noises when he listened in the park.

Rewrite, beginning with

Listening in the park,

The next words will be

- A. no unusual noises could be heard
- B. then Chris heard no unusual noises
- C. and hearing no unusual noises
- D. Chris heard no unusual noises

## Reading Comprehension

In an ACCUPLACER placement test, there are 20 questions of two primary types in Reading Comprehension.

- The first type of question consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required, including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

## Reading Comprehension Sample Questions

*Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.*

1. In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, "It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it." If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, "I'll listen carefully; I'll repeat each person's name to be sure I've got it, and I will remember." You'll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory

- A. always operates at peak efficiency.
- B. breaks down under great strain.
- C. improves if it is used often.
- D. becomes unreliable if it tires.

2. Unemployment was the overriding fact of life when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president of the United States on March 4, 1933. An anomaly of the time was that the government did not systematically collect statistics of joblessness; actually it did not start doing so until 1940. The Bureau of Labor Statistics later estimated that 12,830,000 persons were out of work in 1933, about one-fourth of a civilian labor force of more than 51 million.

Roosevelt signed the Federal Emergency Relief Act on May 12, 1933. The president selected Harry L. Hopkins, who headed the New York relief program, to run FERA. A gifted administrator, Hopkins quickly put the program into high gear. He gathered a small staff in Washington and brought the state relief organizations into the FERA system. While the agency tried to provide all the necessities, food came first. City dwellers usually got an allowance for fuel, and rent for one month was provided in case of eviction.

This passage is primarily about

- A. unemployment in the 1930s.
  - B. the effect of unemployment on United States families.
  - C. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.
  - D. President Roosevelt's FERA program.
3. It is said that a smile is universally understood. And nothing triggers a smile more universally than a taste of sugar. Nearly everyone loves sugar. Infant studies indicate that humans are born with an innate love of sweets. Based on statistics, a lot of people in Great Britain must be smiling because on average, every man, woman, and child in that country consumes 95 pounds of sugar each year.

From this passage it seems safe to conclude that the English

- A. do not know that too much sugar is unhealthy.
  - B. eat desserts at every meal.
  - C. are fonder of sweets than most people.
  - D. have more cavities than any other people.
4. With varying success, many women around the world today struggle for equal rights. Historically, women have achieved greater equality with men during periods of social adversity. The following factors initiated the greatest number of improvements for women: violent revolution, world war, and the rigors of pioneering in an undeveloped land. In all three cases, the essential element that improved the status of women was a shortage of men, which required women to perform many of society's vital tasks.

We can conclude from the information in this passage that

- A. women today are highly successful in winning equal rights.
- B. only pioneer women have been considered equal to men.
- C. historically, women have only achieved equality through force.
- D. historically, the principle of equality alone has not been enough to secure women equal rights.

5. In 1848, Charles Burton of New York City made the first baby carriage, but people strongly objected to the vehicles because they said the carriage operators hit too many pedestrians. Still convinced that he had a good idea, Burton opened a factory in England. He obtained orders for the baby carriages from Queen Isabella II of Spain, Queen Victoria of England, and the Pasha of Egypt. The United States had to wait another 10 years before it got a carriage factory, and only 75 carriages were sold in the first year.

Even after the success of baby carriages in England,

- A. Charles Burton was a poor man.
  - B. Americans were still reluctant to buy baby carriages.
  - C. Americans purchased thousands of baby carriages.
  - D. the United States bought more carriages than any other country.
6. All water molecules form six-sided structures as they freeze and become snow crystals. The shape of the crystal is determined by temperature, vapor, and wind conditions in the upper atmosphere. Snow crystals are always symmetrical because these conditions affect all six sides simultaneously.

The purpose of the passage is to present

- A. a personal observation.
- B. a solution to a problem.
- C. actual information.
- D. opposing scientific theories.

### Directions for questions 7–10

*For the questions that follow, two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement. Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.*

7. The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in 15 years.

Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It restates the idea found in the first.
  - B. It states an effect.
  - C. It gives an example.
  - D. It analyzes the statement made in the first.
8. Social studies classes focus on the complexity of our social environment.

The subject combines the study of history and the social sciences and promotes skills in citizenship.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It expands on the first sentence.
- B. It makes a contrast.
- C. It proposes a solution.
- D. It states an effect.

9. Knowledge of another language fosters greater awareness of cultural diversity among the peoples of the world.

Individuals who have foreign language skills can appreciate more readily other peoples' values and ways of life.

How are the two sentences related?

- A. They contradict each other.
  - B. They present problems and solutions.
  - C. They establish a contrast.
  - D. They repeat the same idea.
10. Serving on a jury is an important obligation of citizenship.

Many companies allow their employees paid leaves of absence to serve on juries.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It reinforces what is stated in the first.
- B. It explains what is stated in the first.
- C. It expands on the first.
- D. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first.

## WritePlacer®

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success.

Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **Focus**—The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- **Organization**—The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- **Development and Support**—The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
- **Sentence Structure**—The effectiveness of your sentence structure
- **Mechanical Conventions**—The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

## WritePlacer Sample Topic

*Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review, and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.*

Some schools require each student to participate in an organized school sport chosen by the student. People at these schools argue that athletics is an important part of the educational experience and that there should be a rule requiring participation. Others argue that students should be free to decide whether or not they wish to participate in organized school sports. Write an essay for a classroom instructor in which you take a position on whether participation in organized school athletics should be required. Be sure to defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples. Your essay must be 300–600 words in length.

## Arithmetic

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are 17 questions on the Arithmetic tests, divided into three types.

- **Operations with whole numbers and fractions:** Topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- **Operations with decimals and percents:** Topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.
- **Applications and problem solving:** Topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems; simple geometry problems; and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.



## Arithmetic Sample Questions

Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch paper.

- $2.75 + .003 + .158 =$ 
  - 4.36
  - 2.911
  - 0.436
  - 2.938
- $7.86 \times 4.6 =$ 
  - 36.156
  - 36.216
  - 351.56
  - 361.56
- $\frac{7}{20} =$ 
  - 0.035
  - 0.858
  - 0.35
  - 3.5
- Which of the following is the least?
  - 0.105
  - 0.501
  - 0.015
  - 0.15
- All of the following are ways to write 25 percent of N EXCEPT
  - 0.25 N
  - $\frac{25N}{100}$
  - $\frac{1}{4} N$
  - 25 N
- Which of the following is closest to  $27.8 \times 9.6$ ?
  - 280
  - 300
  - 2,800
  - 3,000
- A soccer team played 160 games and won 65 percent of them. How many games did it win?
  - 94
  - 104
  - 114
  - 124
- Three people who work full-time are to work together on a project, but their total time on the project is to be equivalent to that of only one person working full-time. If one of the people is budgeted for one-half of his time to the project and a second person for one-third of her time, what part of the third worker's time should be budgeted to this project?
  - $\frac{1}{3}$
  - $\frac{3}{5}$
  - $\frac{1}{6}$
  - $\frac{1}{8}$
- 32 is 40 percent of what number?
  - 12.8
  - 128
  - 80
  - 800
- $3\frac{1}{3} - 2\frac{2}{5} =$ 
  - $1\frac{1}{2}$
  - $\frac{1}{15}$
  - $\frac{14}{15}$
  - $1\frac{1}{15}$

## Elementary Algebra

A total of 12 questions of three types are administered in this test.

- The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- The second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- The third type of question involves translating written phrases into algebraic expressions and solving equations, inequalities, word problems, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations (by factoring), and verbal problems presented in an algebraic context.

# Elementary Algebra

## Sample Questions

Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch paper.

- If A represents the number of apples purchased at 15 cents each, and B represents the number of bananas purchased at 10 cents each, which of the following represents the total value of the purchases in cents?
  - A + B
  - 25(A + B)
  - 10A + 15B
  - 15A + 10B
- $\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{15} = ?$ 
  - 17
  - 30
  - $\sqrt{30}$
  - $\sqrt{17}$
- What is the value of the expression  $2x^2 + 3xy - 4y^2$  when  $x = 2$  and  $y = -4$ ?
  - 80
  - 80
  - 32
  - 32
- In the figure below, both circles have the same center, and the radius of the larger circle is  $R$ . If the radius of the smaller circle is 3 units less than  $R$ , which of the following represents the area of the shaded region?



- $\pi R^2$
- $\pi(R - 3)^2$
- $\pi R^2 - \pi \times 3^2$
- $\pi R^2 - \pi(R - 3)^2$

- $(3x - 2y)^2 =$ 
  - $9x^2 - 4y^2$
  - $9x^2 + 4y^2$
  - $9x^2 + 4y^2 - 6xy$
  - $9x^2 + 4y^2 - 12xy$

- If  $x > 2$ , then  $\frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x^2 - 4} =$ 
  - $\frac{x - 3}{2}$
  - $\frac{x - 3}{x - 2}$
  - $\frac{x - 3}{x + 2}$
  - $\frac{3}{2}$
- $\frac{4 - (-6)}{-5} =$ 
  - $\frac{2}{5}$
  - $-\frac{2}{5}$
  - 2
  - 2
- If  $2x - 3(x + 4) = -5$ , then  $x =$ 
  - 7
  - 7
  - 17
  - 17
- $-3(5 - 6) - 4(2 - 3) =$ 
  - 7
  - 7
  - 1
  - 1
- Which of the following expressions is equivalent to  $20 - \frac{4}{5}x \geq 16$ ?
  - $x \leq 5$
  - $x \geq 5$
  - $x \geq 32\frac{1}{2}$
  - $x \leq 32\frac{1}{2}$

# College-Level Mathematics Test

The College-Level Mathematics test measures your ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. There are six content areas measured on this test: (a) Algebraic Operations, (b) Solutions of Equations and Inequalities, (c) Coordinate Geometry, (d) Applications and other Algebra Topics, (e) Functions, and (f) Trigonometry. The Algebraic Operations content area includes the simplification of rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents. The Solutions of Equations and Inequalities content area includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, and other algebraic equations. The Coordinate Geometry content area presents questions involving plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions. The Functions content area includes questions involving polynomial, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions. The Trigonometry content area includes trigonometric functions. The Applications and other Algebra Topics content area contains complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, factorials, and word problems. A total of 20 questions are administered on this test.

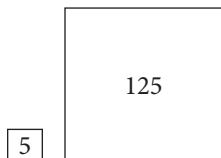
## Sample Questions

Solve the problem. Use the paper you were given for scratchwork.

1.  $2^{\frac{5}{2}} - 2^{\frac{3}{2}}$
- A.  $2^{\frac{1}{2}}$
  - B. 2
  - C.  $2^{\frac{3}{2}}$
  - D.  $2^{\frac{5}{3}}$
  - E.  $2^2$

2. If  $a \neq b$  and  $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{b}$ , then  $x =$
- A.  $\frac{1}{b} - \frac{1}{a}$
  - B.  $b - a$
  - C.  $\frac{1}{ab}$
  - D.  $\frac{a-b}{ab}$
  - E.  $\frac{ab}{a-b}$
3. If  $3x^2 - 2x + 7 = 0$ , then  $(x - \frac{1}{3})^2 =$
- A.  $\frac{20}{9}$
  - B.  $\frac{7}{9}$
  - C.  $-\frac{7}{9}$
  - D.  $-\frac{8}{9}$
  - E.  $-\frac{20}{9}$
4. The graph of which of the following equations is a straight line parallel to the graph of  $y = 2x$ ?
- A.  $4x - y = 4$
  - B.  $2x - 2y = 2$
  - C.  $2x - y = 4$
  - D.  $2x + y = 2$
  - E.  $x - 2y = 4$
5. An equation of the line that contains the origin and the point (1, 2) is
- A.  $y = 2x$
  - B.  $2y = x$
  - C.  $y = x - 1$
  - D.  $y = 2x + 1$
  - E.  $\frac{y}{2} = x - 1$
6. An apartment building contains 12 units consisting of one- and two-bedroom apartments that rent for \$360 and \$450 per month, respectively. When all units are rented, the total monthly rental is \$4,950. What is the number of two-bedroom apartments?
- A. 3
  - B. 4
  - C. 5
  - D. 6
  - E. 7

7. If the two square regions in the figures below have the respective areas indicated in square yards, how many yards of fencing are needed to enclose the two regions?



- A.  $4\sqrt{130}$   
 B.  $20\sqrt{10}$   
 C.  $24\sqrt{5}$   
 D. 100  
 E.  $104\sqrt{5}$
8. If  $\log_{10} x = 3$ , then  $x =$   
 A.  $3^{10}$   
 B. 1,000  
 C. 30  
 D.  $\frac{10}{3}$   
 E.  $\frac{3}{10}$
9. If  $f(x) = 2x + 1$  and  $g(x) = \frac{x-1}{2}$ , then  $f(g(x)) =$   
 A.  $x$   
 B.  $\frac{x-1}{4x+2}$   
 C.  $\frac{4x+2}{x-1}$   
 D.  $\frac{5x+1}{2}$   
 E.  $\frac{(2x+1)(x-1)}{2}$
10. If  $\theta$  is an acute angle and  $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{2}$ , then  $\cos \theta =$   
 A. -1  
 B. 0  
 C.  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 D.  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$   
 E. 2

## ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills Test

The ESL Reading Skills test measures your ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages. It contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact versus opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation).

### Sample Questions

1. Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs.

According to the passage, which of the following is true?

- A. Television is watched in nearly every country.  
 B. Not everybody who had a television set could watch the 1998 World Cup finals.  
 C. Watching television makes people dissatisfied with their own lives.  
 D. Television was invented in 1980.

2. Janet's parents bought her a new sports car as a birthday present. It was blue. Janet sold her 7-year-old blue pickup truck to a high school student. The truck could not go very fast, but the student was happy with it.

According to the passage, which of these statements is true?

- A. Janet bought a pickup truck and a sports car.  
 B. The pickup truck was faster than the sports car.  
 C. The high school student traded cars with Janet.  
 D. The pickup truck was older than the sports car.

3. Some of Edward Weston's black-and-white photographs of American nature scenes are considered superb examples of visual art. Indeed, some of his photographs have commanded top prices at art galleries.

Which of the following best characterizes Weston's photographs?

- A. They belong to famous collectors.
  - B. They have been sold in art galleries for large sums of money.
  - C. They introduced many Americans to visual art.
  - D. They contrast American cities with natural settings.
4. Speaking to a group of people can be a frightening experience. Some speakers cope by looking above the heads of the audience. Others try to imagine that they are talking to a friend. A few try picturing the audience in some non-threatening way, such as in their pajamas.

The author of the passage assumes that speakers should

- A. feel comfortable when addressing an audience.
  - B. scare the audience.
  - C. encourage people to talk during the speech.
  - D. speak only to familiar people.
5. People have different ways of learning. Some are better at making mental pictures of new ideas. Others are more comfortable with writing lists of things to memorize. Certain people can learn best when listening to music, while others need silence to concentrate.

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Mental pictures help many to learn.
  - B. Some people prefer lists to making mental pictures.
  - C. To learn well you need to be comfortable.
  - D. Different individuals have different ways of acquiring information.
6. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help you until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"
- "Asking for consent" means asking for
- A. permission to help the victim.
  - B. thanks from the victim.
  - C. help from onlookers.
  - D. information about the victim's injuries.
7. Jane and Paul are busy for 15 hours a day, 5 days a week going to college and working in a restaurant. They go to sleep at 11 p.m. every day, but on Sunday they take part in dance lessons.

According to the passage, Jane and Paul spend most of their time

- A. at home.
- B. going to college and working.
- C. taking part in dance lessons.
- D. sleeping.

8. If you hold a piece of copper wire over the flame of a match, heat will be conducted by the copper wire to your fingers, and you will be forced to drop the wire. You will, however, still be able to hold the match because the match is a poor conductor of heat. Anyone, child or adult, can try this simple experiment.

Which of the following is implied in the passage above?

- A. Copper is a good conductor of heat.
  - B. A match and copper conduct heat equally.
  - C. A match is an excellent conductor of heat.
  - D. Matches should be kept out of the reach of small children.
9. Many people own different pets. Dogs, cats, birds, and fish are common household pets. Others pets are considered to be exotic animals. These include snakes, lizards, and hedgehogs.

Snakes are

- A. uncommon pets.
  - B. likely to be found in a household with dogs.
  - C. found only in zoos.
  - D. not allowed in people's homes.
10. Cesar Chavez was an influential leader for farmworkers. He fought for their rights and better working conditions. Chavez led many strikes that angered farm owners. Eventually he succeeded in getting increased wages and improved living situations for farmworkers.

Chavez changed lives because he

- A. helped the farmers get more workers.
- B. worked for the farmers.
- C. helped work on the farms every day.
- D. changed the conditions for the farmworkers.

# ACCUPLACER ESL Sentence Meaning Test

The ESL Sentence Meaning test measures how well you understand the meaning of sentences in English. It assesses the understanding of word meanings in one- or two-sentence contexts. The sentences are drawn from the subject areas of natural science, history/social studies, arts/humanities, psychology/human relations, and practical situations. There are four content areas measured: (a) Particle, Phrasal Verbs, Prepositions of Direction; (b) Adverbs, Adjectives, Connectives Sequence; (c) Basic Nouns and Verbs; and (d) Basic and Important Idioms.

## Sample Questions

*The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes the sentence meaningful and correct.*

- Shikibu Murasaki, who wrote almost a thousand years ago, was one of the world's \_\_\_\_ novelists.
  - most early
  - too early
  - more early
  - earliest
- The Chang children \_\_\_\_ their parents by making sandwiches for the whole family.
  - helped out
  - helped with
  - helps for
  - helps to
- As demonstrated by his last album, which was released after his death, Ibrahim Ferrer \_\_\_\_ one of the most beautiful voices in Latin music.
  - had
  - have
  - have had
  - having
- After we saw the play, we had different opinions \_\_\_\_ Jane's performance.
  - about
  - at
  - for
  - towards

*Each problem contains one or two sentences followed by a question. Choose the correct answer to the question.*

- Elena found a tomato that was much bigger than all the others in the garden.

How did the tomato compare to the others in the garden?

  - It was the smallest.
  - It was not very large.
  - It was larger than some.
  - It was the largest.
- When the popular entertainer canceled her appearance, the Latin American festival was postponed indefinitely.

When will the festival likely take place?

  - Tonight
  - Tomorrow
  - Next week
  - Many weeks later
- Janet is never late to meet her friends, and sometimes arrives early.

Which best describes Janet?

  - Lonely
  - Punctual
  - Talkative
  - Tardy
- Bram Stoker is best known for his classic horror novel *Dracula*, which was published in 1897.

What did Bram Stoker do?

  - He was a doctor.
  - He was a merchant.
  - He was a writer.
  - He was an engineer.
- Exhausted from her transatlantic flight, Judy could not stay up past 9 p.m.

What did Judy do at 9 p.m.?

  - Leave work
  - Come home from the airport
  - Lose her enthusiasm
  - Go to bed
- This semester many students are enrolled in a new course, African Dance, which is being taught by a first-time instructor, Sheila Duncan.

How long has the university offered the African dance class?

  - For a short time
  - For many years
  - For an entire school year
  - On and off for a while

# ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use Test

The ESL Language Use test measures your proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas measured on this test: (a) Nouns, Pronouns, Pronoun Case Structure; (b) Subject–Verb Agreement; (c) Comparatives, Adverbs, Adjectives; (d) Verbs; and (e) Subordination/Coordination.

## Sample Questions

*The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes a grammatically correct sentence.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ washing her sweater, Mary hung it up to dry.
  - After
  - Before
  - By
  - Until
- Some day men and women \_\_\_\_\_ to Mars.
  - will travel
  - will travels
  - will traveling
  - will traveled
- Water \_\_\_\_\_ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.
  - having frozen
  - freezing
  - freeze
  - freezes
- \_\_\_\_\_ get a new haircut?
  - Have you
  - Does you
  - Are you
  - Did you
- Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and for \_\_\_\_\_ to marine science.
  - dedication
  - his dedication
  - being dedicated
  - his being dedicated
- Since my parents always insist that I get a good night's sleep, they were \_\_\_\_\_ when I stayed out last night past my curfew.
  - very happy
  - very relieved
  - very tired
  - very angry

*Read the two sentences below and choose the best way of combining them.*

- Her puppy ran out into the street chasing a cat. The owner quickly went to retrieve it.
  - The owner quickly went to retrieve it after a cat was chased into the street by her puppy.
  - The owner quickly retrieved it after her puppy chased a cat into the street.
  - When her puppy ran into the street after a cat, the owner quickly went to retrieve the puppy.
  - Quickly retrieving it, the owner went quickly after her puppy that ran out into the street after a cat.
- Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.
  - Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
  - Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
  - Lisa plays the piano and Kelly plays the piano.
  - Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.
- The road was slippery. We put chains on the tires.
  - Although the road was slippery, we put chains on the tires.
  - The road became slippery when we put chains on the tires.
  - We put chains on the tires because the road was slippery.
  - Putting chains on the tires, the road we were on was slippery.
- Kazuko took her dog for a walk. They went to the park.
  - Kazuko, going to the park, took her dog for a walk.
  - Kazuko took her dog for a walk in the park.
  - Kazuko took her dog for a walk because they went to the park.
  - Kazuko and her dog went to the park, where they walked.

# Answer Key

SENTENCE SKILLS	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	D
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	D

ARITHMETIC	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	C
5	D
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	C
10	C

READING COMPREHENSION	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	C
2	D
3	C
4	D
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	D
10	A

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	D
2	C
3	A
4	D
5	D
6	B
7	D
8	B
9	B
10	A



# Answer Key

CLM	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	C
2	E
3	E
4	C
5	A
6	E
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	D

ESL SENTENCE MEANING	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	D
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	D
6	D
7	B
8	C
9	D
10	A

ESL READING SKILLS	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	A
2	D
3	B
4	A
5	D
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	D

ESL LANGUAGE USE	
QUESTION NUMBER	CORRECT ANSWER
1	A
2	A
3	D
4	D
5	B
6	D
7	C
8	B
9	C
10	B

## Program Overview

Since 1989, the Texas Higher Education Assessment® (THEA®) has provided Texas students and institutions of higher education with a flexible, fair, and accurate testing and score-reporting system. Its purpose is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshman-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges or universities.

The THEA Test was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, under Senate Bill 286, Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062: Texas Success Initiative, for use by Texas institutions of higher education as an assessment instrument to evaluate incoming students. It provides the diagnostic data required by this legislation; its content is the same as that of the former TASP Test.

The THEA Test is the only assessment developed specifically to evaluate the readiness of students for college-level coursework in Texas. It was developed by the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson through a rigorous review and approval process supported by skilled and experienced Texas educators. All THEA Test questions have been reviewed by committees of Texas educators to ensure content accuracy and to prevent potential bias.

The THEA Test is offered in the following testing formats:

The **THEA paper-and-pencil test** will have its final administration on October 15, 2011. This registration bulletin provides complete information about how to register to test, prepare for the test, and obtain your score report.

The **THEA Quick Test** is the same as the THEA paper-and-pencil test and is offered by many colleges, universities, and high schools on a schedule determined by the institution. Consult with your advisor to determine whether the THEA Quick Test is an option for you. For a list of available test sites and their contact information, select "[About THEA Quick Test](#)" on the THEA Web site. An official score report for all sections will be mailed to you within one week after your answer document is received. Once you have taken the THEA Quick Test, you must wait 30 days before retaking it. See "[About THEA Quick Test](#)" for more information.

The **THEA Internet-based test (IBT)** assesses the same reading, mathematics, and writing skills as the standard THEA Test, but it is taken on computer instead of on paper. It is offered at several designated institutions. If you are a student at one of these institutions, you may be eligible to take the THEA IBT. Clarify your eligibility prior to registering for the IBT. See "[About THEA IBT](#)" on the THEA Web site for more information.

## Test Description

The THEA Test consists of three sections: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Refer to the table below for descriptions of these sections. Each section of the THEA Test is designed to measure a student's academic skill against an established standard of competence. A student's score on each section of the test is based on his or her performance in relation to the skills being tested. Scores are not related to how well other students have performed on the same section.

Section	Description
Reading	<b>Consists of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions matched to about seven reading selections of 300 to 750 words each.</b> The reading selections represent a variety of subject areas and are similar to reading materials (e.g., textbooks, manuals) that students are likely to encounter during their first year of college. Students will be asked to answer several multiple-

Section	Description
	choice questions about each reading selection.
Mathematics	<p><b>Consists of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions covering four general areas: fundamental mathematics, algebra, geometry, and problem solving.</b></p> <p>The test questions focus on a student's ability to perform mathematical operations and solve problems. Appropriate formulas will be provided to help students perform some of the calculations required by the test questions. Note that you may use a four-function (+, −, ×, ÷) nonprogrammable calculator (with square root [<math>\sqrt{\quad}</math>] and percent [%] keys).</p>
Writing	<p><b>Contains two subsections: a writing sample subsection requiring students to demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively in writing on a given topic and a multiple-choice subsection including approximately 40 questions assessing students' ability to recognize various elements of effective writing.</b></p> <p>Students are asked to prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on an assigned topic. Students' writing samples are scored on the basis of how effectively they communicate a whole message to a specified audience for a stated purpose. Students will be assessed on their ability to express, organize, and support opinions and ideas, rather than on the position they express.</p>

# THEA Test Skill Descriptions

The purpose of the test is to assess the reading, mathematics, and writing skills that entering freshman-level students should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate certificate or degree programs in Texas public colleges or universities. The skills listed below are eligible to be assessed by the THEA Test. Each skill is accompanied by a brief description of how the skill may be measured on the test.

## THEA Reading Section

### General Description

The Reading Section of the THEA Test consists of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions matched to about seven reading selections of 300 to 750 words each. The selections represent a variety of subject areas and are similar to reading materials (e.g., textbooks, manuals) that students are likely to encounter during their first year of college. Students will be asked to answer several multiple-choice questions about each reading selection.

### Skill Descriptions

The Reading Section of the THEA Test is based on the skills listed below. Each skill is accompanied by a description of the content that may be included on the test.

**Skill: Determine the meaning of words and phrases.**

Includes using the context of a passage to determine the meaning of words with multiple meanings, unfamiliar and uncommon words and phrases, and figurative expressions.

**Skill: Understand the main idea and supporting details in written material.**

Includes identifying explicit and implicit main ideas and recognizing ideas that support, illustrate, or elaborate the main idea of a passage.

**Skill: Identify a writer's purpose, point of view, and intended meaning.**

Includes recognizing a writer's expressed or implied purpose for writing; evaluating the appropriateness of written material for a specific purpose or audience; recognizing the likely effect on an audience of a writer's choice of words; and using the content, word choice, and phrasing of a passage to determine a writer's opinion or point of view.

**Skill: Analyze the relationship among ideas in written material.**

Includes identifying sequence of events or steps, identifying cause-effect relationships, analyzing relationships between ideas in opposition, identifying solutions to problems, and drawing conclusions inductively and deductively from information stated or implied in a passage.

**Skill: Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.**

Includes evaluating the stated or implied assumptions on which the validity of a writer's argument depends; judging the relevance or importance of facts, examples, or graphic data to a writer's argument; evaluating the logic of a writer's argument; evaluating the validity of analogies; distinguishing between fact and opinion; and assessing the credibility or objectivity of a writer or

source of written material.

**Skill: Apply study skills to reading assignments.**

Includes organizing and summarizing information for study purposes; following written instructions or directions; and interpreting information presented in charts, graphs, or tables.

## THEA Mathematics Section

### General Description

The Mathematics Section of the THEA Test consists of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions covering four general areas: fundamental mathematics, algebra, geometry, and problem solving. The test questions focus on a student's ability to perform mathematical operations and solve problems. Appropriate formulas will be provided to help students perform some of the calculations required by the test questions.

You will have access to an on-screen calculator during the Mathematics Section of the THEA IBT. See "[The Test Session](#)" for more information.

### Skill Descriptions

The Mathematics Section of the THEA Test is based on the skills listed below. Each skill is accompanied by a description of the content that may be included on the test.

#### FUNDAMENTAL MATHEMATICS

**Skill: Solve word problems involving integers, fractions, decimals, and units of measurement.**

Includes solving word problems involving integers, fractions, decimals (including percents), ratios and proportions, and units of measurement and conversions (including scientific notation).

**Skill: Solve problems involving data interpretation and analysis.**

Includes interpreting information from line graphs, bar graphs, pictographs, and pie charts; interpreting data from tables; recognizing appropriate graphic representations of various data; analyzing and interpreting data using measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode); and analyzing and interpreting data using the concept of variability.

#### ALGEBRA

**Skill: Graph numbers or number relationships.**

Includes identifying the graph of a given equation or a given inequality, finding the slope and/or intercepts of a given line, finding the equation of a line, and recognizing and interpreting information from the graph of a function (including direct and inverse variation).

**Skill: Solve one- and two-variable equations.**

Includes finding the value of the unknown in a given one-variable equation, expressing one variable in terms of a second variable in two-variable equations, and solving systems of two equations in two variables (including graphical solutions).

**Skill: Solve word problems involving one and two variables.**

Includes identifying the algebraic equivalent of a stated relationship and solving word problems involving one and two unknowns.

**Skill: Understand operations with algebraic expressions and functional notation.**

Includes factoring quadratics and polynomials; performing operations on and simplifying polynomial expressions, rational expressions, and radical expressions; and applying principles of functions and functional notation.

**Skill: Solve problems involving quadratic equations.**

Includes graphing quadratic functions and quadratic inequalities; solving quadratic equations using factoring, completing the square, or the quadratic formula; and solving problems involving quadratic models.

## **GEOMETRY**

**Skill: Solve problems involving geometric figures.**

Includes solving problems involving two-dimensional geometric figures (e.g., perimeter and area problems) and three-dimensional geometric figures (e.g., volume and surface area problems) and solving problems using the Pythagorean theorem.

**Skill: Solve problems involving geometric concepts.**

Includes solving problems using principles of similarity, congruence, parallelism, and perpendicularity.

## **PROBLEM SOLVING**

**Skill: Apply reasoning skills.**

Includes drawing conclusions using inductive and deductive reasoning.

**Skill: Solve applied problems involving a combination of mathematical skills.**

Includes applying combinations of mathematical skills to solve problems and to solve a series of related problems.

## **THEA Writing Section**

### **General Description**

The Writing Section of the THEA Test consists of two subsections: a writing sample subsection and a multiple-choice subsection. The writing sample subsection requires students to demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively in writing on a given topic. The multiple-choice subsection includes approximately 40 questions assessing students' ability to recognize various elements of effective writing. You are scored first on the writing sample subsection. If your score on the writing sample subsection is neither a clear pass nor a clear fail, the multiple-choice subsection contributes to your passing status. See "[How to Read Your Score Report](#)" for a description of how the writing sample subsection is scored.

## **Description: Writing Sample Subsection**

The writing sample subsection of the THEA Test consists of one writing assignment. Students are asked to prepare a MULTIPLE-PARAGRAPH writing sample of about 300–600 words on an assigned topic. Students' writing samples are scored on the basis of how effectively they communicate a whole message to a specified audience for a stated purpose. Students will be assessed on their ability to express, organize, and support opinions and ideas, rather than on the position they express. The following characteristics may be considered in scoring the writing samples:

APPROPRIATENESS—the extent to which the student addresses the topic and uses language and style appropriate to the given audience, purpose, and occasion.

UNITY AND FOCUS—the clarity with which the student states and maintains a main idea or point of view.

DEVELOPMENT—the amount, depth, and specificity of supporting detail the student provides.

ORGANIZATION—the clarity of the student's writing and the logical sequence of the student's ideas.

SENTENCE STRUCTURE—the effectiveness of the student's sentence structure and the extent to which the student's writing is free of errors in sentence structure.

USAGE—the extent to which the student's writing is free of errors in usage and shows care and precision in word choice.

MECHANICAL CONVENTIONS—the student's ability to spell common words and to use the conventions of capitalization and punctuation.

Your written response should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work.

## **Skill Descriptions: Multiple-Choice Subsection**

The multiple-choice subsection of the Writing Section of the test is based on the skills listed below. Each skill is accompanied by a description of the content that may be included on the test.

Please note that the term *standard* as it appears below refers to language use that conforms to the conventions of edited American English.

### **ELEMENTS OF COMPOSITION**

#### **Skill: Recognize purpose and audience.**

Includes recognizing writing that is appropriate for a given purpose and recognizing writing that is appropriate for a given audience and occasion.

#### **Skill: Recognize unity, focus, and development in writing.**

Includes recognizing unnecessary shifts in point of view or distracting details that impair the development of the main idea in a piece of writing, recognizing revisions that improve the unity and focus of a piece of writing, and recognizing examples of well-developed writing.

#### **Skill: Recognize effective organization in writing.**

Includes recognizing methods of paragraph organization and the appropriate use of transitional words or phrases to convey text structure and reorganizing sentences to improve cohesion and the effective sequence of ideas.

## **SENTENCE STRUCTURE, USAGE, AND MECHANICS**

### **Skill: Recognize effective sentences.**

Includes recognizing ineffective repetition and inefficiency in sentence construction; identifying sentence fragments and run-on sentences; identifying standard subject-verb agreement; identifying standard placement of modifiers, parallel structure, and use of negatives in sentence formation; and recognizing imprecise and inappropriate word choice.

### **Skill: Recognize edited American English usage.**

Includes recognizing the standard use of verb forms and pronouns; recognizing the standard formation and use of adverbs, adjectives, comparatives, superlatives, and plural and possessive forms of nouns; and recognizing standard punctuation.



# **When to Take the THEA Test**

## **Students Entering a Texas Public College or University**

Students entering a Texas public college or university may need to take the THEA Test before enrolling in any college-level coursework. For information about whether you are exempt from testing, contact either the testing office or the advising office at the Texas college or university you currently attend or plan to attend.

## **Dual Credit/Concurrent Enrollment Students**

Texas high school students planning to enroll in college courses that count for both high school and college credit under their school's dual credit or concurrent enrollment program are required to meet the program's eligibility requirements. These requirements may include passing the THEA Test. Consult with your high school academic advisor to determine whether you need to take the THEA Test as part of the requirements for entry into a dual credit or concurrent enrollment program.

## **Students Seeking Admission to an Educator Preparation Program**

All students seeking admission to a state-approved Texas educator preparation program or alternative certification program are required to demonstrate college-level skills in reading, oral and written communication, critical thinking, and mathematics.

All educator preparation students should contact their educator preparation programs directly to determine admission requirements.

## **Educators Revalidating Their Teaching Certificates**

House Bill 72, passed by the Texas Legislature in 1984, mandated that all persons issued valid Texas teaching certificates prior to February 1, 1986, must pass the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers (TECAT) to continue their certification. In lieu of the TECAT, which was discontinued in June 2000, an educator may now take the Reading and Writing sections of the THEA Test or a state-approved teacher certification examination to revalidate his or her teaching certificate.

# What Is the THEA IBT and Who Is Eligible to Take It?

## The THEA Internet-Based Test

The THEA Test consists of three sections: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Each section of the THEA Test is designed to measure a student's academic skill against an established standard of competence. A student's score on each section of the test is based on his or her performance in relation to the skills being tested. Scores are not related to how well other students have performed on the same section.

The THEA Internet-Based Test (IBT) assesses the same reading, mathematics, and writing skills as the THEA Quick Test, but it is taken on computer instead of on paper. It is offered at several designated institutions. If you are a student at one of these institutions, you may be eligible to take the THEA IBT.

Prior to beginning the registration process, **you must contact the institution where you would like to test to confirm your eligibility.**

## Who Is Eligible to Take the Test?

The THEA IBT is available at certain institutions designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). If you are a student at one of these institutions, you may be eligible to take the THEA IBT for one or more of the following reasons: as part of the THECB's various Developmental or Intensive programs; in order to satisfy the Texas Success Initiative; and/or for another purpose as authorized by THECB.

Prior to beginning the registration process, you must contact the institution where you would like to test to confirm your eligibility. If you take the THEA IBT and are not eligible, your scores will not be accessible to your institution and you will not receive a credit or refund of any kind.

For a list of institutions where you may test, see "[Test Sites](#)."

## Taking and Passing the IBT

To pass the THEA IBT, you must pass all three sections (Reading, Mathematics, and Writing). You may take one, two, or three sections at a given test session. Once you pass a section of the test, you do not have to take that section again unless directed to retake it by your institution.

For consistency, test scores are reported using the same scale, in a range from 100 to 300. The minimum score needed to pass the Reading and Mathematics sections is 230. For the Writing Section, the minimum passing score is 220.

## Retaking the THEA IBT

If you do not pass one or more sections of the THEA IBT, you may retake it. However, you must wait at least 14 days before retaking the test. You may reregister to take the test before 14 days have elapsed, but you may not take the actual test until after the 14-day waiting period has elapsed, or on the 15th day.

If you are retaking only one or two sections, you will have the entire testing session to complete whichever section(s) you have not previously passed.