

ACCUPLACER STUDENT GUIDE

The College Board developed the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Tests with the help of committees of college faculty to provide information about a student's level of skill in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Scheduling an Appointment

The exam is given by appointment only. Call (940) 552-6291 ext. 2317 or (940) 696-8752 ext. 3278 to schedule an appointment.

Accuplacer exam

The ACCUPLACER is an approved alternative to THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment). Students are tested in reading, writing, and math (same as the THEA). Students who have previously taken the THEA and have not passed all sections may elect to take the section that they failed through the ACCUPLACER exam.

If a student does not pass all sections of the ACCUPLACER, they must be placed in the appropriate developmental class. Vernon College has developmental classes in English, reading, and math to help students who need to improve their basic skills before attempting higher-level coursework.

A student may re-test every 10 days.

Score Reporting

When you have completed the tests, there is a report of your scores on the screen. An examinee may also receive a printed copy of their scores. Your scores can only be obtained through the college where you tested.

It is important that you answer each question to the best of your ability. Scores are used to determine course placement for students and whether remedial work is needed. Failure to do your very best may result in course placements that are too low for your current skill level.

Fees for ACCUPLACER

The fee for the ACCUPLACER exam is \$29 for all three sections. If taking one section of the exam, the fee is \$10 per section. If a student takes the exam at Vernon College but would like his/her scores sent to another institution, a \$5 fee is charged for each report mailed out.

What to Take With You to the Tests

Examinees are required to provide photo identification. This may be in the form of a driver's license, passport, military ID or college-issued student ID card. If tester is under the age of 16 without a driver's license, a high school ID card or a yearbook with a photograph is accepted if it is accompanied by a letter from a school counselor. Pencils and scratch paper are provided at the testing site for the math portion of the test. While taking the exam, examinees must check personal belongings into a locker that will be locked, and the tester will have possession of the key.

Testing Regulations

Before taking the test you will be asked to confirm that you have read the Testing Disclosure and that you agree to comply with the rules and conditions of the Testing Center.

Confidentiality

Your test scores and the information you provide when taking the tests will only be provided to The College Board and to the college at which you are taking the test. The information may be used for counseling, advisement and placement purposes. Your test information will not be disclosed for any other purpose without your permission.

Answering the Questions

Because the ACCUPLACER is taken on a computer, you do not have to answer as many questions as on traditional paper and pencil tests. The number of questions on the four tests ranges from 17 – 25. The questions appear one at a time on the computer screen. Since the questions are multiple choice, all you need to do is use the mouse to select an answer. When you have completed the question and confirmed your answer, a new screen will appear with the next question.

ACCUPLACER includes a writing test. When you take the Texas WritePlacer test, you will be given a topic and asked to write an essay of 300-600 words. The test has been designed so that you will not be rushed and will have enough time to plan, write, review, and revise your essay. A prompt will ask you if you are sure that you are ready to submit your written response.

The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- Focus
- Organization
- Development and support
- Sentence Structure
- Mechanical Conventions

Generally speaking, a placement test is designed to be a measurement of a person's academic skills. Taking time to refresh yourself in the general concepts can be helpful, especially if it has been a year or more since your last English or math class. Vernon College offers sample questions to help you gain familiarity with the format of each particular test.

Reading Comprehension Test

This test measures your ability to understand what you read.

Sample Questions

Question 1 - There are two types of pottery that I do. There is production pottery—mugs, tableware—the kinds of things that sell easily. These pay for my time to do the other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.

The author of the passage implies that

- A) Artists have a tendency to waste valuable time.
- B) Creativity and mass-production are incompatible
- C) Most people do not appreciate good art
- D) Pottery is not produced by creative artists.

The correct answer is B). Creativity and mass-production are incompatible.

Question 2 – Every sip of milk contains 59 different bioactive hormones according to endocrinologist Clark Grosvenor. Imagine taking 59 different hormone pills every morning, afternoon and evening. These hormones cause mood swings, irritability and depression. Imagine the devastation that is created in your body by the cumulative effect of taking those powerful drugs? What is the gross effect on the total behavior of a society, so dosed?

As we drink more and more milk and increase the amount of genetically engineered milk and cheese and ice cream products containing increased levels of naturally occurring milk hormones, we most certainly have influenced the way we act as a society.

The author's argument is that:

- A) Many people are drug addicts.
- B) Milk has an effect on the way our society acts.
- C) Women need to take hormones
- D) Everyone should drink more milk.

The answer is B. Milk has an effect on the way our society acts.

Question 3 – In the words of Thomas De Quincy, “It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it.” If, like most people, you have trouble recalling 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; 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

The answer is C. improves if it is used often.

Question 4 – With varying success, many women around the world today struggle for equal rights. Historically, women have achieved greater quality 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 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.

The correct answer is D. Historically, the principle of equality alone has not been enough to secure women equal rights.

Question 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 ten years before it got a carriage factory, and the first year only 75 carriages were sold.

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.

The correct answer is B. Americans were still reluctant to buy baby carriages.

Question 6 – Plastics are synthetic materials that are so common today that we barely notice them. The process of making plastics, called polymerization, is a little over a hundred years old. Vinyl chloride was polymerized in 1838, acrylics in 1843, and polyester in 1847. Oddly, those newly synthesized plastics languished in polymer laboratories for decades because no one had yet found a use for the new materials.

We can see from the information in this passage that

- A) Commercial use of a material does not always rapidly follow its discovery.
- B) People had no need for plastics in the 1800s.
- C) The introduction of plastics in the 1800s would have upset the world economy.
- D) No practical types of plastics were invented until the 20th century.

The correct answer is A. Commercial use of a material does not always rapidly follow its discovery.

In other questions, 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.

Question 1 - The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in fifteen 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.

The correct answer is B. It states an effect.

Question 2 – The rain froze as it touched the ground. Roads were slippery and dangerous.

How are the two sentences related?

- A) The second sentence contradicts the first.
- B) The two sentences set up a comparison.
- C) The second sentence shows a direct result of the first.
- D) The second sentence states what dangerous means

The correct answer is C. The second sentence shows a direct result of the first.

Question 3 – The American prison system functions primarily to extract retribution. In Japan, the courts are less concerned with sending people to jail than they are with rehabilitating them.

What does the second sentence do?

- A) It supports an idea found in the first sentence
- B) It analyzes an idea stated in the first sentence
- C) It states a contrast to the statement in the first sentence
- D) It exemplifies an idea found in the first sentence

The correct answer is C. It states a contrast to the statement in the first sentence.

Sentence Skills Test (Writing)

This test measures your understanding of sentence structure, how sentences are put together and what makes a sentence complete and clear.

Sample Questions

In some questions you will be asked to select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first one.

Question 1 – Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next summer.

- A) planning
- B) are planning
- C) with a plan
- D) plans

The correct answer is D. plans

Question 2 – 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

The correct answer is B. I noticed a child watching

Question 3 – 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

The correct answer is A. Knocked sideways, the statue looked

Question 4 – 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

The correct answer is B. Walking, biking, and driving

Question 5 – She hoped to find a new job. One that would let her earn money during the school year.

- A) job. One that
- B) job. The kind that
- C) job, one that
- D) job, so that it

The correct answer is C. job, one that

Other questions ask that a sentence be rewritten in a specific way without changing the meaning.

Question 6 – Being a female jockey, she was often interviewed.
Rewrite, beginning with

She was often interviewed...
The next words will be

- A) on account of she was
- B) by her being
- C) because she was
- D) being as she was

The correct answer is C. because she was.

Question 7 - 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

The **correct answer is C.** solid objects can easily be

Question 8 – In his songs, Gordon Lightfoot makes melody and lyrics intricately intertwine. Rewrite, beginning with

Melody and lyrics...

Your new sentence will include

- A) Gordon Lightfoot has
- B) make Gordon Lightfoot's
- C) in Gordon Lightfoot's
- D) does Gordon Lightfoot

The **correct answer is C.** in Gordon Lightfoot's

Question 9 – 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

The **correct answer is B.** because he

Question 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) when Chris heard no unusual noises
- C) and hearing no unusual noises
- D) Chris heard no unusual noises

The **correct answer is D.** Chris heard no unusual noises

As part of the writing test, students will write a multiple paragraph essay on a given topic.

Arithmetic test

The arithmetic Accuplacer tests measure skills in three primary categories:

- Operations with whole numbers and fractions.
- Operations with decimals and percents.
- Applications and problem-solving

Sample Questions

Question 1 – A soccer team played 160 games and won 65 percent of them. How many games did they win?

- A) 95
- B) 104
- C) 114
- D) 246

The correct answer is B. 104

Question 2 – $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} =$

- A) $\frac{5}{6}$
- B. $\frac{1}{6}$
- C. $\frac{1}{5}$
- D. $\frac{2}{5}$

The correct answer is A.

Question 3 – Which of the following is the least?

- A) 0.105
- B) 0.501
- C) 0.015
- D) 0.15

The correct answer is C.

Question 4 – The average weight for a group of 20 women is 130 pounds. If the average weight for $\frac{3}{4}$ of these women was 140 pounds, what was the average weight, in pounds, for the rest of the women?

- A) 100
- B) 110

- C) 120
- D) 135

The correct answer is A.

Question 5 - $\frac{7}{20} =$

- A) .35%
- B) $\frac{28}{100}$
- C) 0.35
- D) 3.5

The correct answer is C.

Elementary Algebra Sample Problems

Question 1:

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?

- A) $A + B$
- B) $25(A+B)$
- C) $10A + 15B$
- D) $.15A + .10B$

The correct answer is D.

Question 2:

The Greens scored one less than twice as many points as the Yellows. If the Yellows scored "N" points, which expression represents the total number of points scored by the two teams?

- A) $2N - 1$
- B) $2N$
- C) $3N - 1$
- D) $2(n - 1)$

The correct answer is C.

Question 3:

$(3x - 2y)^2 =$

- A) $9x^2 - 4y^2$
- B) $9x^2 + 4y^2$
- C) $9x^2 + 4y^2 - 6xy$
- D) $9x^2 + 4y^2 - 12xy$

The correct answer is D.

Question 4:

$$2x + 3x + y =$$

- A) $6xy$
- B) $5x + y$
- C) $5(x = y)$
- D) $6x + y$

The correct answer is B.

Question 5:

$$16x - 8 =$$

- A) $8x$
- B) $8(2x - x)$
- C) $8(2x - 1)$
- D) $8(2x - 8)$

The correct answer is C.

Question 6:

If $x^2 - x - 6 = 0$, then x is

- A) -2 or 3
- B) -1 or 6
- C) 1 or -6
- D) 2 or -3

The correct answer is A.