

# ACCUPLACER REVIEW PACKET

*From orientation to graduation...*

**Department of Advising and Counseling**

*...a commitment to academic success and student retention.*

Community College of Rhode Island

# ACCUPLACER REVIEW PACKET

## What you should know

### Why the Accuplacer Placement Test is Administered

Accuplacer is administered to students to ensure academic success in English (Writing and Comprehension) and Mathematics, as these courses are foundational to virtually every degree program offered at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Testing aims for success by revealing each prospective student's skill level in English Writing, Reading Comprehension and Mathematics. Mandatory placements based on test scores correspond to the skill level of each student. Using these mandatory placements, students will begin classes at a level where they are more likely to succeed.

**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.

### Who is Required to Complete Placement Testing?

All students are required to complete placement testing in order to meet certain course prerequisites (please consult course descriptions in the College Catalog for prerequisite requirements).

### Waiver Criteria

The CCRI Advising and Counseling Department will consider students for placement testing waivers based on certain academic criteria, however waivers are **NOT** automatically granted to students meeting the criteria below. Waivers are considered individually after a thorough review of the respective student's entire academic record. Students eligible for a waiver from all or part of the Accuplacer exam must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Students who have completed ACCUPLACER at another institution within the past year
- Students who have transfer credits in College-level English and Math classes

If College-level math courses were completed more than **TWO** years ago, placement testing is strongly recommended to obtain estimates of current skill levels for advisement purposes.

Students requesting a waiver from ACCUPLACER should contact the Advising and Counseling Department.

### Preparing for the Placement Test

Preparation is suggested to insure that test scores accurately represent your current skill levels. Reviewing basic concepts in reading, grammar, arithmetic and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER should assist you in preparation for the test.

### Making your Appointment for the Accuplacer Assessment

To schedule your appointment for the Accuplacer Assessment, please contact the Advising and Counseling Department at:

401-825-2301—Warwick Campus

401-333-7159—Lincoln Campus (Office of Student Services)

401-455-6149—Providence Campus

401-851-1631—Newport Campus

## **Referral Sources for Preparation (available at most libraries and bookstores)**

You may find the following resources helpful in your preparation for Accuplacer:

### **Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills**

- GED Review Book
- SAT I Review Books (publishers include: Arco, Kaplan, Nova and Barrons)

### **Arithmetic Review**

- *Essential Mathematics: Basic Math for Everyday Use*, Williams and Akins, Barrons
- *Contemporary's Building Basic Skills in Mathematics*, Contemporary Books
- GED Review Book
- SAT I Review Books (publishers include: Arco, Kaplan, Nova and Barrons)

### **Algebra Review**

- *Forgotten Algebra*, Bleau, Barrons
- *Quick Algebra Review: A Self-Teaching Guide*, Selby and Slavin, Wiley
- SAT I Review Books (publishers include: Arco, Kaplan, Nova and Barrons)

### **Websites**

- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/preparation-sample.html>

## Computer Delivered Testing

Accuplacer is a computer-based test delivered via the Internet. Minimal computer skills are needed to complete the test. All information is entered by using the mouse and/or the keyboard. A proctor will always be present to assist with problems that relate to test format or to computer usage. Proctors may not, however, answer any academic-related questions associated with the test.

## Adaptive Testing

The Accuplacer test is an adaptive test. This means that the computer uses your answers to questions to determine the level of difficulty of each successive question asked. Using this technique, we can determine your skill level on each section of the test by asking relatively few questions. **The test is untimed, so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish.** Once you have verified your answer, however, you cannot return to that question.

## Administrative Instructions

A photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.) and Receipt of Payment are REQUIRED at the time of check-in.

Before testing begins, a proctor will give administrative instructions to all students who are about to test. These instructions are also available at each computer station. To eliminate unnecessary noise in the testing room, you **MUST** turn off any cell phones and pagers, there is no talking during testing, and you should maintain silence if you have to leave the room to take a break. Students are not allowed to use a calculator on the math portion or a dictionary on the essay, reading, or sentence skills portions of the test. If you require special arrangements, please see the following paragraph on accommodations for students with disabilities. Students who are caught violating any testing instructions will be asked to leave the lab and will need to make other arrangements for testing.

## Testing of Students with Disabilities

Students who need Accuplacer testing and are eligible for special accommodations should ensure that the appropriate documentation, reflecting the specified accommodations, is forwarded to the CCRI Office of Disability Services at least **TWO WEEKS** prior to desired testing. Please call Disability Services at 401-825-2164 Warwick Campus, or 401-333-7329 Lincoln Campus, or 401-455-6064 Providence Campus to discuss accommodations and to schedule a testing session where these accommodations can be used.

## Testing Time

You are given 50 minutes to complete the typed essay. The reading, sentence skills, and math portions of the test are un-timed. Generally, students take 2 to 2 ½ hours to complete the full test.

## Testing Fee

You will be required to pay a **\$40 Placement Fee** in advance to Accuplacer testing. You must make this payment at the **BURSAR Office**. This is a one-time fee and is mandatory of all students completing Accuplacer testing. It is used to defray the cost of placement materials and programs as well as the cost of the administration of the mandatory placement tests. This fee is non-refundable.

## Review Questions

The following questions are **examples** of the type of questions you may find on each section of the Accuplacer test. Simply reviewing these questions does not guarantee an improved Accuplacer score, but may serve as a useful starting point in beginning your preparation. Reading through each question and thoroughly understanding how each correct answer was derived will be an excellent starting point in your preparation to take this test!

# WritePlacer

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

You will be allowed **50 minutes** to review your directions and **type** your essay.

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

You may not use any books or papers or other reference materials during the test. Remember to review your writing and make any changes you think will improve what you have written.

## 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, review, and edit what you have typed. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to type.

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.

## **Reading Comprehension**

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

- 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.

## **Sentence Skills**

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

- 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 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

## **Arithmetic**

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. The Arithmetic test is divided into three types of questions:

- 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.

### **Sample Questions**

***Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use scrap paper. Remember, no calculators are permitted on Accuplacer.***

1.  $2.75 + .003 + .158 =$

- A. 4.36
- B. 2.911
- C. 0.436
- D. 2.938

2.  $7.86 \times 4.6 =$

- A. 36.156
- B. 36.216
- C. 351.56
- D. 361.56

3.  $\frac{7}{20}$

- A. 0.035
- B. 0.858
- C. 0.35
- D. 3.5

4. Which of the following is the least?

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

5. All of the following are ways to write 25 percent of N EXCEPT

- A. 0.25 N
- B.  $\frac{25N}{100}$
- C. 14N
- D. 25 N

6. Which of the following is closest to  $27.8 \times 9.6$ ?

- A. 280
- B. 300
- C. 2,800
- D. 3,000

7. A soccer team played 160 games and won 65 percent of them. How many games did it win?

- A. 94
- B. 104
- C. 114
- D. 124

8. 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?

- A.  $\frac{1}{3}$
- B.  $\frac{3}{5}$
- C.  $\frac{1}{6}$
- D.  $\frac{1}{8}$

9. 32 is 40 percent of what number?

- A. 12.8
- B. 128
- C. 80
- D. 800

10.  $3\frac{1}{3} - 2\frac{2}{5} =$

- A.  $1\frac{1}{2}$
- B.  $\frac{1}{15}$
- C.  $\frac{14}{15}$
- D.  $1\frac{1}{15}$

## **Elementary Algebra**

There are three types of questions 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.

### **Sample Questions**

***Solve the following problems and choose your answer from the choices given. You may use scrap paper. Remember, no calculators are permitted on Accuplacer.***

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

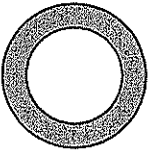
2.  $\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{15} = ?$

- A. 17
- B. 30
- C.  $\sqrt{30}$
- D.  $\sqrt{17}$

3. What is the value of the expression  $2x^2 + 3xy - 4y^2$  when  $x = 2$  and  $y = -4$ ?

- A. -80
- B. 80
- C. -32
- D. 32

4. 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?



- A.  $\pi R^2$
- B.  $\pi(R - 3)^2$
- C.  $\pi R^2 - \pi \times 3^2$
- D.  $\pi R^2 - \pi(R - 3)^2$

5.  $(3x - 2y)^2 =$

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

6. If  $x > 2$ , then  $\frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x^2 - 4} =$

- A.  $\frac{x - 3}{2}$
- B.  $\frac{x - 3}{x - 2}$
- C.  $\frac{x - 3}{x + 2}$
- D.  $\frac{3}{2}$

7.  $\frac{4 - (-6)}{-5} =$

A.  $\frac{2}{5}$

B.  $-\frac{2}{5}$

C. 2

D. -2

8. If  $2x - 3(x + 4) = -5$ , then  $x =$

A. 7

B. -7

C. 17

D. -17

9.  $-3(5 - 6) - 4(2 - 3) =$

A. -7

B. 7

C. -1

D. 1

10. Which of the following expressions is equivalent to  $20 - \frac{4}{5}x \geq 16$ ?

A.  $x \leq 5$

B.  $x \geq 5$

C.  $x \geq 32\frac{1}{2}$

D.  $x \leq 32\frac{1}{2}$

## **College-Level Mathematics Test**

Not all students will take the Accuplacer College-Level Math test. Accuplacer will automatically place you into the College Level Math test based upon your performance in the Arithmetic and Elementary Algebra sections.

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—this includes the simplification of rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents, (b) Solutions of Equations and Inequalities—this area includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, and other algebraic equations, (c) Coordinate Geometry—this presents questions involving plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions, (d) Applications and other Algebra Topics—this area contains complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, factorials, and word problems, (e) Functions—this includes questions involving polynomial, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and (f) Trigonometry—this content area includes trigonometric functions.

### 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  $\left(x - \frac{1}{3}\right)^2 =$

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

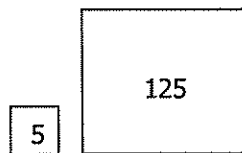
- A.  $y = 2x$
- B.  $2y = x$
- C.  $y = x - 1$
- D.  $y = 2x + 1$
- E.  $\frac{y}{2} = x - 1$

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.  $\frac{x - 1}{4x2}$
- 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 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 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 farm workers. 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 farm workers.

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 farm workers.

## **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.***

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

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

5. 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?  
A. It was the smallest.  
B. It was not very large.  
C. It was larger than some.  
D. It was the largest.
6. When the popular entertainer canceled her appearance, the Latin American festival was postponed indefinitely.  
When will the festival likely take place?  
A. Tonight  
B. Tomorrow  
C. Next week  
D. Many weeks later

7. Janet is never late to meet her friends, and sometimes arrives early.

Which best describes Janet?

- A. Lonely
- B. Punctual
- C. Talkative
- D. Tardy

8. Bram Stoker is best known for his classic horror novel *Dracula*, which was published in 1897.

What did Bram Stoker do?

- A. He was a doctor.
- B. He was a merchant.
- C. He was a writer.
- D. He was an engineer.

9. Exhausted from her transatlantic flight, Judy could not stay up past 9 p.m.

What did Judy do at 9 p.m.?

- A. Leave work
- B. Come home from the airport
- C. Lose her enthusiasm
- D. Go to bed

10. 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?

- A. For a short time
- B. For many years
- C. For an entire school year
- D. 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.***

1. \_\_\_\_\_ washing her sweater, Mary hung it up to dry.

- A. After
- B. Before
- C. By
- D. Until

2. Some day men and women \_\_\_\_\_ to Mars.

- A. will travel
- B. will travels
- C. will traveling
- D. will traveled

3. Water \_\_\_\_\_ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.
- A. having frozen
  - B. freezing
  - C. freeze
  - D. freezes
4. \_\_\_\_\_ get a new haircut?
- A. Have you
  - B. Does you
  - C. Are you
  - D. Did you
5. Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and for \_\_\_\_\_ to marine science.
- A. dedication
  - B. his dedication
  - C. being dedicated
  - D. his being dedicated
6. Since my parents always insist that I get a good night's sleep, they were \_\_\_\_\_ when I stayed out last night past my curfew.
- A. very happy
  - B. very relieved
  - C. very tired
  - D. very angry

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

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

# Answer Key

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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