

Accuplacer Study Guide

The Accuplacer is a Computerized Placement Test designed to provide placement and advising information for students entering college. It is a self-paced, untimed test given on a personal computer. Most students complete the test within 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The testing is adaptive. The Accuplacer determines which questions will be given next based upon previous answers. This provides a more accurate method of measuring an individual student's skill levels than a general test. It also means that no two tests taken are precisely the same. You will be told how to get your results after your testing session. Your scores will determine which courses you are eligible to take.

The Accuplacer has three parts:

1. **Reading Comprehension:** Sample questions related to reading skills, such as identifying the main idea and making inferences.
2. **Sentence Skills:** Sample questions related to sentence structure and grammar.
3. **Mathematics:** Sample questions that range from arithmetic to college-level mathematics. You will begin with one section and, depending on your performance, may advance to other sections.

Reading Comprehension

This accuplacer test measures your ability to understand what you read. We are providing some accuplacer reading comprehension sample questions. Some ask you to decide how two sentences are related. Other questions ask you questions about reading passages of various lengths. You will be asked to interpret and draw conclusions from what you have read.

Accuplacer reading comprehension sample questions are divided in following two sections.

1. **Narrative Question:**
Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.
2. **Sentence Relationships Question:**
Two sentences are followed by a question or a statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

Reading Comprehension: Narrative Questions

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

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 other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.**

The author of this passage implies that

- A. artists tend 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.
2. **Myths are stories, the products of fertile imagination, sometimes simple, often containing profound truths. They are not meant to be taken too literally. Details may sometimes appear childish, but most myths express a culture's most serious beliefs about human beings, eternity, and God.**

The main idea of this passage is that myths

- A. are created primarily to entertain young children.
 - B. are purposely written for the reader who lacks imagination.
 - C. provide the reader with a means of escape from reality.
 - D. illustrate the values that are considered important to a society.
3. **In the words of Thomas De Quincey, "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.

4. **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 ninety-five 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 more fond of sweets than most people.
 - D. have more cavities than any other people.
5. **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. Three of the following factors initiated the greatest number of improvements for women: violent revolution, world war, or the rigors of pioneering in an underdeveloped 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.
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.

7. **The ultimate source of energy for all plants and animals is sunlight. But the sun's energy can be harnessed by plants, through photosynthesis, and stored in molecules of carbohydrates. When animals eat these enzymes, large amounts of energy become available. Animals immediately convert this energy into molecules of high-energy ATP (adenosine triphosphate) the universal currency of energy in living things. Excluding only the very first stages in carbohydrate breakdown, which are called glycolysis, the entire complicated process of energy transfer at ATP takes place within the mitochondria.**

Glycolysis refers to

- A. The initial stages of carbohydrate breakdown.
 - B. The process of plants producing oxygen and carbohydrates.
 - C. The production of ATP.
 - D. The production of body heat which occurs in the mitochondria.
8. **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 1848, 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. People had no need for plastics in the 1800's.
 - B. Commercial use of a material does not always rapidly follow its discovery.
 - C. The introduction of plastics in the 1800's would have upset the world economy.
 - D. No practical types of plastics were invented until the twentieth century.
9. **Primitive people tended to be highly superstitious. Anything out of the ordinary that happened was regarded with superstitious fear. Most people throughout history have been right-handed. For that reason, left-handedness was regarded as an evil omen. The Latin word for left is sinister. Since many people regarded left-handedness as bad, the word sinister entered the English language meaning evil.**

From the passage we can conclude that fear and superstition usually grew from

- A. Lack of knowledge.
- B. Left-handedness.
- C. Evil omens.
- D. Terrifying circumstances.

10. 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.
- 11. 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.

Reading Comprehension: Sentence Relationship

Two sentences are followed by a question or a statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

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.

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.

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.

Sentence Skills

Two kinds of questions are given in this test. You will be asked to correct a sentence by choosing a word or phrase to substitute for an underlined portion of a sentence. In the other type of question, you will be asked to rewrite a sentence in a specific way without changing the meaning.

Accuplacer sentence skills sample questions are divided in following two sections.

1. **Sentence Correction:**

Select the best version of the bold 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.

2. **Construction Shift:**

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 sentence given you.

Sentence Skills: Sentence Correction

Select the best version of the bold 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.

- Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next summer.
 - planning
 - are planning
 - with a plan
 - plans
- The baby was obviously getting too hot, then Sam did what he could to cool her.
 - hot, then Sam did
 - hot, Sam did
 - hot; Sam, therefore, did
 - hot; Sam, trying to do
- She hoped to find a new job. One that would let her earn money during the school year.
 - job. One that
 - job. The kind that
 - job, one that
 - job, so that it

4. 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,
5. 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
6. 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
7. Walking by the corner the other day, a child, I noticed, was watching for the light to change.
- A. a child, I noticed, was
 - B. I noticed a child watching
 - C. a child was watching, I noticed,
 - D. there was, I noticed, a child watching
8. Researchers at Cornell University have demonstrated that homing pigeons can sense changes in the earth's magnetic field, see light waves that people cannot see, detect low-frequency sounds from miles away, sense changes in air pressure, and can identify familiar odors.
- A. sense changes in air pressure, and can identify familiar odors
 - B. can sense changes in air pressure, and can identify familiar odors
 - C. sense changes in air pressure, and identify familiar odors
 - D. air pressure changes can be sensed, and familiar odors identified
9. In ancient times, Nubia was the principal corridor where there were cultural influences transmitted between Black Africa and the Mediterranean basin.
- A. where there were cultural influences transmitted
 - B. through which cultural influences were transmitted
 - C. where there was a transmission of cultural influences
 - D. for the transmitting of cultural influences

10. It is a special feature of cell aggregation in the developing nervous system that in most regions of the brain the cells not only adhere to one another and also adopt some preferential orientation.
- A. to one another and also adopt
 - B. one to the other, and also they adopt
 - C. one to the other, but also adopting
 - D. to one another, but also adopt
11. Among the reasons for the decline of New England agriculture in the last three decades were the high cost of land, the pressure of housing and commercial development, and basing a marketing and distribution system on importing produce from Florida and California.
- A. basing a marketing and distribution system on importing produce from Florida and California
 - B. basing a marketing and distribution system on the imported produce of Florida and California
 - C. basing a system of marketing and distribution on the import of produce from Florida and California
 - D. a marketing and distribution system based on importing produce from Florida and California
12. Like Byron at Missolonghi, Jack London was slowly killed by the mistakes of the medical men who treated him.
- A. Like Byron
 - B. Like Byron's death
 - C. Just as Byron died
 - D. Similar to Byron
13. It is known that when neurons activate, we say that they "fire", and they pass on a signal to other neurons.
- A. we say that they "fire", and
 - B. which we say they "fire", and
 - C. called "firing", and
 - D. referred to as "firing",

14. His wife works for the company, the Breakfast Group, so named because during the early years, Eric worked until breakfast, and is also a chartered accountant.
- A. works for the company, the Breakfast Group, so named because during the early years, Eric worked until breakfast, and is also a chartered accountant
 - B. is a chartered accountant and also works for the company, the Breakfast Group, so named because during the early years, Eric worked until breakfast
 - C. also works for the company and is a chartered accountant, the Breakfast Group, so named because during the early years, Eric worked until breakfast
 - D. is also a chartered accountant for the Breakfast Group, so named because during the early years, Eric worked until breakfast, and works for the company
15. For the purposes of the model, the different areas would comprise a dividing line of a different colour between two blocks of the same colour.
- A. a dividing line of a different colour between two blocks of the same colour
 - B. two same coloured blocks with a different coloured dividing line between them
 - C. two blocks of the same colour with a dividing line of a different colour between them
 - D. a different colour dividing line between two same colour blocks
16. Please update and correct the form with the names and address of any new officers, returning the form to the Administration Department as soon as possible.
- A. address of any new officers, returning
 - B. addresses of any new officers, and return
 - C. addresses of any new officers, and return
 - D. address of any new officers, by returning
17. In England the well-dressed gentleman of the eighteenth century protected their clothing while having their wig powdered by poking their head through a device that resembled the stocks.
- A. gentleman of the eighteenth century protected their clothing while having their wig powdered by poking their head
 - B. gentleman of the eighteenth century protected his clothing while having his wig powdered by poking his head
 - C. gentleman of the eighteenth century protected their clothing while having their wigs powdered by poking their heads
 - D. gentlemen of the eighteenth century protected his clothing while having his wig powdered by poking his head

18. Reared apart from each other, a recent United States study showed striking similarities in identical twins, including many idiosyncrasies of behavior.
- A. Reared apart from each other, a recent United States study showed striking similarities in identical twins, including many idiosyncrasies of behavior.
 - B. Reared apart from each other, striking similarities between identical twins that include many idiosyncrasies of behavior were shown in a recent United States study.
 - C. A recent United States study showed striking similarities in identical twins reared apart from each other that include many idiosyncrasies of behavior.
 - D. According to a recent United States study, identical twins reared apart from each other showed striking similarities, including many idiosyncrasies of behavior.
19. Developing nations in various parts of the world have amassed \$700 billion in debts; at stake, should a significant number of these debts be repudiated, is the solvency of some of the world's largest multinational banks.
- A. should a significant number of these debts be repudiated, is
 - B. should a significant number of these debts be repudiated, are
 - C. should they repudiate a significant number of these debts, are
 - D. if there is a repudiation of a significant number of these debts, would be
20. South Korea has witnessed the world's most dramatic growth of Christian congregations; church membership is expanding by 6.6 percent a year, fully two-thirds of the growth coming from conversions rather than the population increasing.
- A. coming from conversions rather than the population increasing
 - B. coming from conversions rather than increases in the population
 - C. coming from conversions instead of the population's increasing
 - D. is from conversions instead of population increases
21. There is ample evidence, derived from the lore of traditional folk medicine, that naturally occurring antibiotics are usually able to be modified to make them a more effective drug.
- A. are usually able to be modified to make them a more effective drug.
 - B. are usually able to be modified to make them more effective drugs
 - C. are usually able to be modified, which makes them more effective drugs
 - D. can usually be modified to make them more effective drugs
22. The unskilled workers at the Allenby plant realized that their hourly rate of \$4.11 to \$4.75 was better than many nearby factory wages.
- A. many nearby factory wages
 - B. many wages in nearby factories
 - C. it is in many nearby factories
 - D. that offered by many nearby factories

23. Since 1970, the number of Blacks elected to state and federal offices in the United States has multiplied nearly four times.
- A. has multiplied nearly four times
 - B. has almost quadrupled
 - C. has almost multiplied by four
 - D. is almost four times as great
24. India is country with at least fifty major regional languages, of whom fourteen have official recognition.
- A. of whom fourteen have official recognition
 - B. fourteen that have official recognition
 - C. fourteen of which are officially recognized
 - D. fourteen that are officially recognized
25. Wind resistance created by opening windows while driving results in a fuel penalty as great or greater than is incurred by using air conditioning.
- A. as great or greater than is incurred by using air conditioning
 - B. that is as great or greater than is incurred using air conditioning
 - C. as great as or greater than that of using air conditioning
 - D. at least as great as that incurred by using air conditioning
26. The residents' opposition to the spraying program has rekindled an old debate among those who oppose the use of pesticides and those who feel that the pesticides are necessary to save the trees.
- A. among those who oppose the use of pesticides and
 - B. between those who oppose the use of pesticides and
 - C. among those opposing the use of pesticides with
 - D. between those who oppose the use of pesticides with
27. In cold-water habitats, certain invertebrates and fish convert starches into complex carbohydrates called glycerols, in effect manufacturing its own antifreeze.
- A. in effect manufacturing its own antifreeze
 - B. effectively manufacturing antifreeze of its own
 - C. in effect manufacturing their own antifreeze.
 - D. so that they manufacture their own antifreeze
28. Slips of the tongue do not necessarily reveal concealed beliefs or intentions but rather are the result from the competition between various processing mechanisms in the brain.
- A. but rather are the result from
 - B. and instead are the result from
 - C. being rather the result of
 - D. but rather result from

Sentence Skills: Construction Shift

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 sentence given you

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. Excited children ran toward the loud music, and they told others about the ice cream truck outside.
Rewrite, beginning with
The excited children, who had run toward the loud...

The next words will be

- A. music, they told
- B. music, told
- C. music, telling
- D. music and had told

5. 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
6. 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
7. 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

Elementary Algebra

This Accuplacer elementary sample questions measure your ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems that involve elementary algebraic concepts.

There are three categories in Accuplacer Elementary Algebra Sample Questions:

1. **Operations with integers and rational numbers**, includes:

Computation with integers and negative rationals
The use of absolute values, and ordering

2. **Operations with algebraic expressions**:

Evaluation of simple formulas
Expressions, and adding
Subtraction monomials and polynomials
The evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents
Simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring

3. **Equation solving, inequalities, and word problems** including:

Solving verbal problems presented in algebraic content
Geometric reasoning
The translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions
Graphing

Following are some Accuplacer elementary algebra sample questions

1. If a number is divided by 4 and then 3 is subtracted, the result is 0. What is the number?
 - A. 12
 - B. 4
 - C. 3
 - D. 2

2. If A represents the number of apples purchased at \$.15 each and B represents the number of bananas purchased at \$.10 each, which of the following represents the total value of the purchases?
 - A. $A+B$
 - B. $25(A+B)$
 - C. $10A+ 15B$
 - D. $15A+ 10B$

3. $16x - 8 =$
- A. $8x$
 - B. $8(2x - x)$
 - C. $8(2x - 1)$
 - D. $8(2x - 8)$
4. 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
5. A student has earned scores of 87, 81, and 88 on the first 3 of 4 tests. If the student wants an average (arithmetic mean) of exactly 87, what score must she earn on the fourth test?
- A. 85
 - B. 86
 - C. 87
 - D. 92
 - E. 93
6. Which of the following expressions represents the product of 3 less than twice x and 2 more than the quantity 3 times x ?
- A. $-6x^2 + 25x + 6$
 - B. $6x^2 + 5x + 6$
 - C. $6x^2 - 5x + 6$
 - D. $6x^2 - 5x - 6$
 - E. $6x^2 - 13x - 6$
7. If $x = -1$ and $y = 2$, what is the value of the expression $2x^3 - 3xy$?
- A. 8
 - B. 4
 - C. -1
 - D. -4
 - E. -8

Accuplacer Study Guide Answer Key

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<p>Reading Comp Sentence Relationship</p> <p><i>page 6</i></p> <p>1. B</p> <p>2. C</p> <p>3. C</p>			