

ACCUPLACER Placement Test Preparation Packet

The ACCUPLACER is a comprehensive series of tests designed to test a student's skills in reading, writing, and math. It includes questions on reading comprehension, sentence skills, arithmetic, and elementary algebra. **The ACCUPLACER is not timed, and the tests are all multiple-choice.** They can be taken all at once or in parts. Testers will need to bring a picture ID to the Assessment Center on their testing date to be able to take the ACCUPLACER.

Testing Locations:

- Lawrenceville Campus: Building 100 Room 528
- Alpharetta-North Fulton Campus: Building A Room 117

Exit Exam

After completing a Gwinnett Technical College Learning Support course with at least an 80 average and with recommendation from the instructor, a student is allowed to retake the ACCUPLACER section(s) that placed him/her in Learning Support. The English/Reading instructor will provide a signed permission slip for the Exit Exam ACCUPLACER to be taken free of charge.

ACCUPLACER Practice Links

General:

- ACCUPLACER info site: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org>
- ACCUPLACER practice site: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice>

English:

- <http://www.accuplacerpracticetest.com/accuplacer-sentence-skills-practice-test/>
- <https://www.mometrix.com/academy/accuplacer-writing-practice-test/>
- <https://www.practiceaccuplacertests.com/english-questions/sentence-skills-sample/>
- <https://study.com/academy/exam/course/accuplacer-sentence-skills-test-practice-study-guide.html>
- <https://www.test-guide.com/free-accuplacer-practice-tests.html>

Reading:

- <http://www.accuplacerpracticetest.com/accuplacer-reading-comprehension-practice-test/>
- <https://www.mometrix.com/academy/accuplacer-reading-practice-test/>
- <https://study.com/academy/exam/course/accuplacer-reading-comprehension-test-practice-study-guide.html>
- <https://www.test-guide.com/free-accuplacer-practice-tests.html>

Additional Resources

For additional resources, please go to **www.GTCEnglish.weebly.com**, and click on "RESOURCES." There are several English and Reading sample test questions and answers on that page. Be sure to complete the sample tests by yourself before checking our website for the correct answers.

Study Skills

Below are some online resources for additional preparation for the ACCUPLACER.

- <https://www.collegeatlas.org/college-study-guides.html>
- www.academictips.org
- www.testtakingtips.com
- <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/academic-resources-support/student-academic-support-services/tutorial-academic-skills-9>

**Excerpt from Top Standardized Test-Taking Tips
by Mark Kantrowitz**

If you're taking a standardized test soon, whether it's the SAT, ACT, MCAT, GRE or one of the other tests, there are a few tips that can help you prepare. Find out how to make the most of your prep time by following our advice.

1. Practice, practice, practice. The more you practice, the more familiar you will be with the test format, and the less likely you are to panic when you take the test for real. Practice also gives you an opportunity to get rid of all the bad habits that lead to careless errors. The more you practice, the more likely you are to recognize careless errors. Try to practice with practice tests under realistic testing conditions.
2. Ask for pencils and paper to use, even if you are taking a reading or writing test.
3. Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test. Avoid eating sugary foods. High-protein foods like scrambled eggs are often best for aiding concentration and minimizing fatigue.
4. Visit the bathroom 15-30 minutes before the test. Do not drink water or other beverages for an hour before the test, as a full bladder will affect your concentration.
5. Get a full night's sleep before the test. Do not pull an all-nighter cramming before the test. A lack of sleep will affect your performance.
6. Wear comfortable clothing.
7. Don't panic. If you start getting anxious, take slow deep breaths. Don't worry about other people finishing early. Smart people know to use all available time to double-check their work.
8. For ACCUPLACER test, you have unlimited time. Use your once chance to do the best you can. If you start losing your concentration or getting frustrated or anxious, you should take a little time to walk, use the restroom, or get some water or fresh air. **Just raise your hand and let the room proctor know you need to pause the test and take a break.**
9. Don't second-guess an answer unless you are certain that you misread or misinterpreted the question. Watch out for careless errors.
10. Read the question in full before trying to answer it. At least some of the answer choices will be designed to trap students who don't read the question fully. Also identify the answer first before looking at the answer choices, since some of the choices will be designed to prime you into misinterpreting the question. Don't jump to conclusions.
11. Eliminate any answers that you know are incorrect, especially on questions where you are having trouble arriving at the answer. Eliminating a few wrong answers can increase the chances of a random guess being correct.
12. Consider all the answer choices before choosing your final answer. If one of the answers is an all-of-the-above choice, make sure there isn't more than one correct answer. If you've identified at least two correct answers, choose the all-of-the-above response.
13. Answers that are positive are more likely to be correct than answers that are negative. Answers that are more informative are more likely to be correct.

Accuplacer Sentence Skills Practice Questions

Directions for questions 1-10

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.

- Stamp collecting being a hobby that is sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.
 - being a hobby that is
 - is a hobby because it is
 - which is a hobby
 - is a hobby
- Meat products are very popular in the United States, they compose about 40% of the average person's diet.
 - United States, they compose
 - United States, however they compose
 - United States, composing
 - United States: therefore they compose
- Going back to his old school, everything there looked smaller than Don remembered.
 - Going back to his old school,
 - When he went back to his old school,
 - To go back to his old school,
 - As he went back to his old school,
- Typically, young adults leave home between the ages of 18 and 24, because in some instances they end up staying with their parents much longer.
 - Because in some instances
 - or in some instances
 - but in some instances
 - which in some instances
- Painting, drawing and to sculpt are some of the techniques artists such as Picasso used to express themselves.
 - Painting, drawing and to sculpt
 - To paint, to draw, and sculpting
 - Painting, drawing and sculpting

- D. To paint, draw, and sculpting
6. Eating a well-balanced diet, many people find it helps them maintain energy throughout the day
- A. Eating a well-balanced diet, many people find it helps them
 - B. Eating a well-balanced diet is found that it helps
 - C. Many people find that eating a well-balanced diet helps them
 - D. Many people eating a well-balanced diet, this is found helpful to
7. Playing sports in school which is an activity meant to teach teamwork and leadership skills students can use later in life.
- A. which is an activity
 - B. is an activity because it is
 - C. being an activity which is
 - D. is an activity
8. Glancing at his watch, Daniel picked up his speed.
- A. Glancing at his watch
 - B. He glanced at his watch and
 - C. To glance at his watch
 - D. Since he glanced at his watch
9. The Providence Repertory Theatre, after it moved to its new location, it attracted smaller audiences to its shows.
- A. The Providence Repertory Theatre, after it moved to its new location,
 - B. After the Providence Repertory Theatre moved to its new location,
 - C. The Providence Repertory Theatre, when it moved to its new location,
 - D. With the Providence Repertory Theatre having moved to its new location,
10. To appear white or colorless, light is actually composed of an entire spectrum of colors.
- A. To appear white or colorless,
 - B. In appearing white or colorless,
 - C. As it appears white or colorless,
 - D. While it appears white or colorless,

Directions for questions 11-30

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.

11. Women seem to have an increasing interest in becoming machinists, but there remains some resistance by men in the trade to women competing for the better paying jobs.

Rewrite beginning with:

Although women seem to have an increasing interest in becoming machinists,

The next part of the sentence will be:

- A. however, there remains some
- B. there remains some
- C. but there remains some
- D. and there remains some

12. Adapted to rivers, lakes, estuaries and even marine waters, the river otter is common throughout most of Greater Puget Sound.

Rewrite beginning with:

Common throughout most of Greater Puget Sound,

The next words will be:

- A. Adapted to rivers
- B. Even marine waters
- C. The river otter
- D. Estuaries are

13. 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

14. 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

15. It is unusual to see owls during the daytime, since they are nocturnal animals.

Rewrite, beginning with:

Being nocturnal animals,

The next words will be:

- A. it is unusual to see owls
- B. owls are not usually seen
- C. owls during the daytime are
- D. it is during the daytime that

16. Bats see extremely well in the dark; in fact, much better than humans.

Rewrite, beginning with:

Unlike bats,

The next words will be:

- A. humans can see
- B. it is not easy to see
- C. humans cannot see
- D. seeing is difficult

17. North Korea found itself in trouble after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Rewrite beginning with:

After the Soviet Union

The next words will be:

- A. collapsing in 1991
- B. collapsed in 1991
- C. collapses in 1991
- D. found itself in trouble

18. If they don't begin to take school seriously, these students are going to fail the exit exam.

Rewrite beginning with:

These students are going to fail the exit exam

The next words will be:

- A. after not taking
- B. if they begin to take

- C. when they would not take
- D. unless they begin to take

19. Skating, like skiing, is an active winter sport; it helps many people to better enjoy the winter months

Rewrite beginning with:
Skating and skiing are active winter sports

The next words will be:

- A. that help many people
- B. to better enjoy
- C. helping people to
- D. that many people

20. Apart from light and heat, water and air are the main prerequisites for animal and plant life on our planet.

Rewrite beginning with:
Water and air,

The next words will be:

- A. are the main prerequisites
- B. are the most needed elements
- C. are apart from light and heat
- D. along with light and heat,

21. Saddleback dolphins are oceanic cetaceans rarely found in coastal waters or in groups fewer than 100.

Rewrite beginning with:
Saddleback dolphins are most often found

The new sentence will include:

- A. In groups of 100 or more
- B. In very small groups
- C. In v-shaped formations
- D. In inland waterways

22. Prior to the Civil War, only one state, Massachusetts, permitted African Americans to serve on juries.

Rewrite beginning with:
Prior to the Civil War, African Americans

The new sentence will include:

- A. in only one state

- B. chose to serve on juries
- C. went to Massachusetts
- D. who were born in Massachusetts

23. Rivers are refuges for the soul, where the natural flow and play of running water mirror the movement of life itself.

Rewrite beginning with:
The natural flow and play of running water

The new sentence will include:

- A. are refuges for the soul
- B. making them refuges for the soul
- C. are the mirrors of the soul
- D. can be refuges for the soul

24. Sunspots do have an influence on our weather, but a very slight one.

Rewrite beginning with:
The influence of sunspots

The new sentence will include:

- A. is on the weather
- B. affects the weather
- C. would be very slight
- D. is very slight

25. Although chicken fried steak can be found in many parts of the United States, it is most popular in the Southwest.

Rewrite beginning with:
Chicken fried steak

The new sentence will include:

- A. just as popular
- B. but it is most
- C. and also most popular
- D. cannot be found anywhere

26. The pioneer family struggled to reach the west coast throughout the summer and fall and finally succeeded just before the start of winter.

Rewrite beginning with:
Just before the start of winter

The new sentence will include:

- A. succeeded in reaching
- B. have reached
- C. as reaching
- D. they were reaching

27. It is not only unethical but foolish to cheat on tests, since the consequences of being caught doing so can be serious.

Rewrite beginning with:
The consequences of being caught

The new sentence will include:

- A. and, it is not only unethical
- B. that it were not only unethical
- C. however, it is not only unethical
- D. so it is not only unethical

28. At about this time, a crucial discovery was made that would forever effect Hubel's work.

Rewrite beginning with:
Hubel's work

The new sentence will include:

- A. by a crucial discovery
- B. with a crucial discovery
- C. toward a crucial discovery
- D. in place of a crucial discovery

29. The fact that addictions are displacements explains why people can shift so readily from one addiction to another.

Rewrite beginning with:
People can shift readily

The new sentence will include:

- A. given that addictions are displacements
- B. and also addictions are displacements
- C. because addictions are displacements
- D. but addictions are displacements

30. There was no issue of greater concern in the United States than the unemployment rate, which seemed to be stuck in the 9-10 % range.

Re-write, beginning with:
The unemployment rate,

Your new sentence will include:

- A. of greater concern was
- B. was the issue of greatest concern
- C. concerned the unemployed
- D. except the unemployment rate

Source: Grays Harbor College

(https://www.ghc.edu/sites/default/files/AreasOfStudy/documents/runningstart/accuplacer_sentence_skills.pdf)

Sample Questions for Reading Comprehension

Part 1: Directions: Two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best completion of the statement.

1. Managers need to listen to the different ways different groups communicate.
Managers also need to respect the ways and values of ethnic groups.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It gives the main idea.
 - B. It gives a major supporting detail.
 - C. It gives a minor supporting detail.
 - D. It gives a conclusion.
2. Japanese food is on the whole superb, one of the adornments of the culture.
Merely by eating it one begins to feel part of a society that is frugal, competitive, and keen-edged.

The relationship between the two sentences is best described as

- A. time.
 - B. contrast.
 - C. comparison.
 - D. cause-effect.
3. Another important role of peer groups is to give kids a sense of identity.
From their friends, teens learn who they are in relation to other kids around them.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It gives the main idea.
- B. It gives a major supporting detail.
- C. It gives a minor supporting detail.
- D. It gives a conclusion.

4. A paraphrase is a statement in our own words of what a person has said.
For instance, after a person has given you direction on how to get to a certain place, you might say, "In other words, what I should do is..."

How are these two sentences related?

- A. They present problems and solutions.
 - B. They provide definition and example.
 - C. They establish a contrast.
 - D. They repeat the same idea.
5. Psychologists think that road rage is caused by a buildup of stress that acts like a time bomb waiting to explode.
Once an event triggers the release of tension, road rage strikes.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It explains what is stated in the first.
 - B. It reinforces what is started in the first.
 - C. It establishes a cause-effect relationship with the first.
 - D. It draws a conclusion about what is stated in the first.
6. Riding along with a unified culture is like riding a bike with the wind: as the wind carries us along, we hardly notice it's there.
However, when we try riding against it we feel its force, as when moving to or visiting another part of the world.

How are these two sentences related?

- A. They present problems and solutions.
- B. They provide definition and example.
- C. They establish a contrast.
- D. They repeat the same idea.

Part 2: Directions: Each passage in this section is followed by questions based on its content. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question.

The stress under which morally responsible behavior breaks down can be of varying kinds. It is not so much the sudden, one-time, great temptation that makes human morality break down, but the prolonged stressful situation. Hunger, anxiety, the necessity to make difficult decisions, overwork, hopelessness, and the like all have the effect of sapping moral energy and, in the long run, of breaking down moral resistance. Anyone who has had the opportunity to observe people under this kind of strain, for example in prisoner-of-war camps, knows how unpredictably and suddenly the moral breakdown sets in. People in whose strength one trusted unconditionally suddenly break down. Anyone who has experienced such things knows that the fervor of good intention is not always equal to its power of endurance. Once you have realized this, you cease to feel superior

to the person who breaks down a little sooner than you do yourself. Even the best and noblest reach a point where resistance is at an end.

7. The passage is mainly concerned with?

- A. Defining moral energy.
- B. Showing that people cannot be trusted.
- C. Explaining some human behavior.
- D. Analyzing stress.

8. What is the main point the author is making?

- A. We cannot predict what life will be like for any of us.
- B. If you believe you have moral courage, it will be there when you need it.
- C. There is a point at which each one of us will break.
- D. We should not put ourselves through the stress of trying to be perfect.

9. Which of the following provides an example of the kind of person the passage is most concerned with?

- A. A hostage, during a brief holdup, who obeys her captors' orders.
- B. A woman who, during a famine, calmly watches two people drown.
- C. A member of a burglary ring who has robbed eighteen houses in the past six months.
- D. A general who, believing the government to be undemocratic, commits treason.

The spider is one of Nature's most successful wanderers. Found all over the world, it is able to travel huge distances. When a traveling spider approaches a stream or river, it uses a unique method of locomotion. Rolling over on its back, the spider shoots out a glue-tipped glob of web material attached to a line as the wind carries the "anchor." If the arrowing line strikes a secure target on the favored side of the water, the spider then climbs a bush and walks over the bridge. Another method of locomotion is even more dramatic. The spider again spins out a sticky line ending a swollen tip. If the line is kept short and the spider does not attach itself firmly to an anchoring bush or rock, the wind will carry the creature far away to an unknown destination. Such sailing spiders have been scraped off the superstructures of ships several hundred miles away from the nearest land.

10. The passage is mainly concerned with how spiders

- A. travel
- B. spin webs
- C. reach ships
- D. cross rivers

11. The author feels that it is especially dramatic that the spider

- A. rolls over on its back
- B. spins out a sticky line
- C. anchors to rocks and bushes

D. sails through the air.

12. From the way “superstructures” is used in line 12

It is probably that such ship parts are to be found

- A. inside the ship
- B. at the waterline
- C. near the propeller
- D. on the top section

Source: Prince George’s Community College

[https://www.pgcc.edu/uploadedFiles/Resources/pdf/Accuplacer%20SampleTest\(1\).pdf](https://www.pgcc.edu/uploadedFiles/Resources/pdf/Accuplacer%20SampleTest(1).pdf)