ACT Aspire™ Exemplar Test Items

We invite educators, administrators, and policy makers to learn about ACT Aspire by viewing this collection of sample test items and tasks. There is a variety of content illustrated here, scattered across grade bands, and showing different types of test questions and formats.

These Exemplar items are best accessed on a desktop or laptop computer rather than on a tablet iPad or smartphone. The platform in which the ACT Aspire Exemplar Test Items are currently housed does not represent the final platform on which the ACT Aspire assessment will be delivered.

Login Information

To view the ACT Aspire Exemplar Items visit: tn.actaspire.org

Use the appropriate username and password for the subject area you wish to view.

Subject	Username	Password
English	english	actaspire
Reading	reading	actaspire
Math	math	actaspire
Science	science	actaspire
Writing Grade 9	writing9	actaspire
Writing Grade 8	writing8	actaspire
Writing Grade 7	writing7	actaspire
Writing Grade 6	writing6	actaspire
Writing Grade 5	writing5	actaspire
Writing Grade 4	writing4	actaspire
Writing Grade 3	writing3	actaspire

Tech Support

For tech support related to the platform experience for this set of ACT Aspire Exemplar Test Items, please contact 888-802-7502 or actaspire_implementation@actaspire.org.

For assistance with the functionality of the embedded TestNav tools please visit Avocet at:

http://actaspire.avocet.pearson.com/actaspire/Home#5040

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ACT Aspire™ Reading

Introduction and Answer Key Document

Each ACT Aspire Reading test contains several passages, including literary narratives (prose fiction, memoirs, personal essays) and informational texts (social science, natural science). Within and across grade levels, the passages span a range of complexity levels in order to provide students, teachers, and parents with information about how well students understand texts of increasing difficulty. Students answer a series of multiple choice, technology enhanced, and constructed response items in order to assess their abilities to recognize meaning in, reason logically about, and make connections between and among texts. ACT Aspire reading items operate at various Depth of Knowledge levels, or cognitive complexities, and reflect a range of difficulty appropriate for the age group.

All levels of ACT Aspire reading assessments include constructed response tasks that measure the higher order cognitive processes necessary for reading and understanding increasingly complex texts. Constructed response tasks are scored according to rubrics that allow students to receive varying amounts of credit for responses that are correct or partially correct, enabling differentiation between multiple skill levels.

Examples of the types of constructed response tasks in ACT Aspire reading assessments include the following.

- Formulate a conclusion by making connections within a passage and provide support using specific details from the text
- Formulate a conclusion by making connections between a pair of passages and provide support using specific details from both texts
- Identify cause and effect relationships within a passage and provide support using specific details from the text
- Identify similarities and differences between the key ideas of paired passages and provide support using specific details from both texts

Answer Key Document

The next pages show the correct response for each selected response and technology enhanced item, as well as identifies the grade level band represented by the item.

Reading Exemplar Answer Key

Sequence	Grade	Item Type	Correct Response
1	Early HS	Selected Response	B
2	Early HS	Technology Enhanced	
3	Early HS	Selected Response	A
4	Early HS	Selected Response	A
5	Early HS	Selected Response	D
6	Early HS	Selected Response	B
7	Early HS	Selected Response	C
8	Early HS	Constructed Response	Not provided
9	8-9	Selected Response	A
10	8-9	Technology Enhanced	
11	8-9	Selected Response	A
12	8-9	Selected Response	A
13	8-9	Selected Response	B

Sequence	Grade	Item Type	Correct Response
14	8-9	Selected Response	D
15	8-9	Selected Response	D
16	8-9	Constructed Response	Not provided
17	6-7	Selected Response	C
18	6-7	Selected Response	A
19	6-7	Technology Enhanced	
20	6-7	Selected Response	C
21	6-7	Selected Response	D
22	6-7	Selected Response	D
23	6-7	Selected Response	B
24	6-7	Selected Response	A
25	6-7	Constructed Response	Not provided
26	6-7	Constructed Response	Not provided
27	3-5	Selected Response	A
28	3-5	Technology Enhanced	
29	3-5	Selected Response	C
30	3-5	Selected Response	D
31	3-5	Selected Response	C

Sequence	Grade	Item Type	Correct Response
32	3-5	Selected Response	C
33	3-5	Selected Response	B
34	3-5	Selected Response	B
35	3-5	Constructed Response	Not provided