**Explore, Plan, ACT**

EXPLORE is the first part of a testing system that goes on to include PLAN and the ACT.

Typically, students take EXPLORE in the 8th or 9th grade, PLAN as 10th graders, and the ACT as juniors or seniors.

All three test you in English, math, reading, and science. However, the material tested in each program gets more difficult.

This is why the top scores are different.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **Grade Level** | **CompositeScore Range** |
| EXPLORE | 8 and 9 | 1 to 25 |
| PLAN | 10 | 1 to 32 |
| ACT | 11 and 12 | 1 to 36 |

**The Explore Test**

EXPLORE includes four multiple-choice tests:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Number of Questions** | **How Long It Takes** |
| English | 40 | 30 minutes |
| Math | 30 | 30 minutes |
| Reading | 30 | 30 minutes |
| Science | 28 | 30 minutes |

<http://www.act.org/explorestudent/tests/index.html>

Your skills in these subjects will make a big difference—in school and, eventually, in your career.

Once you know what each test covers, your EXPLORE test results can show you where you're strong or weak.

**English Test**

The EXPLORE English Test measures your understanding of standard written English—punctuation, grammar and usage, and sentence structure (Usage/Mechanics)—and your understanding of the use of strategy, organization, and style in writing (Rhetorical Skills).

You receive a total score for the English test and separate scores (called "subscores") for Usage/Mechanics and Rhetorical Skills.

Sample Test Items <http://www.act.org/explorestudent/tests/english.html>

**Math Test**

The EXPLORE Math Test measures your mathematical reasoning. The test focuses on your ability to reason in math rather than on how well you have memorized formulas or can do involved computations.

Questions on the test cover four areas—knowledge and skills, direct application, understanding concepts, and integrating your understanding of concepts—in pre-algebra, elementary algebra, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Sample Test Items <http://www.act.org/explorestudent/tests/math.html>

**Reading Test**

The EXPLORE Reading Test measures your ability to understand written material from different school subjects. The skills measured include referring to details in the passage, drawing conclusions, and making comparisons and generalizations. The test does not cover information outside the passages, vocabulary taken out of context, or formal logic.

The passages are typical of materials you might read in school, including:

**Prose Fiction**

Short stories or excerpts from short stories or novels

**Humanities**

Excerpts from memoirs and personal essays, and from works on architecture, art, dance, ethics, film, language, literary criticism, music, philosophy, radio, religion, television, and theater

**Social Sciences**

Excerpts from works on anthropology, archaeology, biography, business, economics, education, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology

Sample Test Items <http://www.act.org/explorestudent/tests/reading.html>

**Science Test**

The EXPLORE Science Test measures your scientific reasoning skills and your ability to understand scientific information and draw conclusions from it. Six sets of scientific information are presented in one of three formats: data representation (graphs, tables, and other forms), research summaries (descriptions of several related experiments), or conflicting viewpoints (two or more hypotheses that are inconsistent with one another).

Materials for this test are drawn from the life sciences, Earth/space sciences (e.g., geology, astronomy, and meteorology), and physical sciences. The test emphasizes your scientific reasoning skills rather than how well you can recall scientific facts, or your skills in mathematics or in reading

Sample Test Items <http://www.act.org/explorestudent/tests/science.html>

Top 20 Test Taking Tips

General Strategies