

# The ACT Assessment®

## Sample Test Booklet and Answer Document

A sample answer document appears on pages 61 and 62. Instructions for scoring this sample test begin on page 54.

This booklet contains tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. These tests measure skills and abilities highly related to high school course work and success in college. *CALCULATORS MAY BE USED ON THE MATHEMATICS TEST ONLY.*

The questions in each test are numbered, and the suggested answers for each question are lettered. On the answer document, the rows of ovals are numbered to match the questions, and the ovals in each row are lettered to correspond to the suggested answers.

For each question, first decide which answer is best. Next, locate on the answer document the row of ovals numbered the same as the question. Then, locate the oval in that row lettered the same as your answer. Finally, fill in the oval completely. Use a soft lead pencil and make your marks heavy and black. *DO NOT USE A BALLPOINT PEN.*

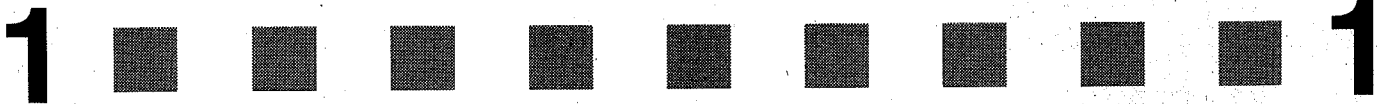
Mark only one answer to each question. If you change your mind about an answer, erase your first mark thoroughly before marking your new answer. For each question, make certain that you mark in the row of ovals with the same number as the question.

Only responses marked on your answer document will be scored. Your score on each test will be based only on the number of questions you answer correctly during the time allowed for that test. You will NOT be penalized for guessing. *IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION EVEN IF YOU MUST GUESS.*

You may work on each test ONLY when your test supervisor tells you to do so. If you finish a test before time is called for that test, you should use the time remaining to reconsider questions you are uncertain about in that test. You may NOT look back to a test on which time has already been called, and you may NOT go ahead to another test. To do so will disqualify you from the examination.

Lay your pencil down immediately when time is called at the end of each test. You may NOT for any reason fill in ovals for a test after time is called for that test. To do so will disqualify you from the examination.

Do not fold or tear the pages of your test booklet.



## ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

**DIRECTIONS:** In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

### PASSAGE I

#### Amy Tan: The Secret of Her Success

[1]

In the home of Amy Tan's editor, a large blowup of a 1991 *New York Times* best-seller list was hung on the wall. The number one

novel, Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, is boldly

circled. [3] For Tan, the reward of writing is not found

in how many books she sells, but if she were to learn about herself from writing them.

1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. hangs  
C. hung  
D. was hanging
2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. novel, Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife* is boldly  
H. novel Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, is boldly,  
J. novel: Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife*, is boldly
3. At this point, the writer would like to contrast Tan's response to her accomplishments to her editor's response. Which of the following sentences (assuming all are true), if added here, would most successfully achieve this effect?  
A. Tan is considered one of America's best authors.  
B. Success is only one measure of a person, however.  
C. Tan says fame can result in a loss of privacy.  
D. No such symbols of success hang in Tan's home.
4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. in what she has learned  
H. if she would learn  
J. what is she to learn

1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

[2]

5 [1] After college, she spent many unsatisfying years writing business articles for a variety

of American corporations. [2] Tan, finally realized that  
6 her discontent stemmed not from the writing itself, but  
with the subject matter—she didn't care about business.  
7

[3]

[1] At first, Tan originally tried to write her  
8 stories from a non-Chinese perspective, assuming that work from a Chinese-American point of view would never be published. [2] But trying to write from a non-Chinese viewpoint proved  
9 unfulfilling. [3] Tan came to see that, for her, writing was a kind of exploration, a way to examine her life.

[4]

Tan also realized that, whether her work was published or not, one could only learn about oneself by  
10 writing in her own, Chinese-American, voice. That distinctive voice is part of what made her first novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, a best-seller.

[5]

In *The Joy Luck Club*, as in much of her writing, Tan explores the relationships between mothers and daughters. Her interest in this theme grew directly from her once difficult relationship

5. Which of the following sentences (assuming all are true), if added here, would best introduce the new subject of Paragraph 2?
- A. Tan began to understand her life by writing about it.
  - B. Tan dropped out of medical school to study English.
  - C. Writing wasn't always a rewarding experience for Tan.
  - D. Finding the right career is difficult for many people.
6. F. NO CHANGE  
G. Tan finally realized, that  
H. Tan finally realized that,  
J. Tan finally realized that
7. A. NO CHANGE  
B. for  
C. from  
D. in
8. F. NO CHANGE  
G. Tan originally  
H. First, Tan originally  
J. In the beginning, Tan first
9. A. NO CHANGE  
B. written from a non-Chinese viewpoint it was  
C. writing from a non-Chinese viewpoint she was  
D. it was from this non-Chinese viewpoint which proved
10. F. NO CHANGE  
G. one could only learn about herself  
H. she could only learn about herself  
J. oneself could only be known

with her mother and Tan describes her teen-aged self as “every mother’s nightmare.” Writing about those years

was given Tan a way of understanding her past—and of coming closer to her mother.

[6]

Tan, who once felt she could never live up to her mother’s, expectations now feels that her professional success has filled her mother with pride. On the other hand, Tan says that if she were asked what the most important thing she has done in her life was, she would answer, “I made my mother happy.”

- 11. A. NO CHANGE  
B. mother: Tan  
C. mother, and she also  
D. mother, Tan
- 12. F. NO CHANGE  
G. has gave  
H. had gave  
J. gave
- 13. A. NO CHANGE  
B. mother’s expectations  
C. mothers’ expectations,  
D. mother’s expectations,
- 14. F. NO CHANGE  
G. However,  
H. In fact,  
J. Despite this,

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

- 15. In reviewing notes, the writer discovers that the following information has been left out of the essay:  
She decided what she really wanted to do was write fiction.  
If added to the essay, the sentence would most logically be placed after Sentence:  
A. 1 in Paragraph 2.  
B. 2 in Paragraph 2.  
C. 2 in Paragraph 3.  
D. 3 in Paragraph 3.

PASSAGE II

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in brackets, and question 30 will ask you to choose the best placement of Paragraph 6.

**Home Improvement, or Not?**

[1]

Have you ever seen those home-improvement shows on television? Beware, for they don't tell the whole story. These shows portray remodeling projects under ideal conditions, not the conditions most of us must contend with. I recently added a second bathroom<sup>16</sup> to my house, doing all the work myself. Over an entire summer, I learned a lot about plumbing, electrical wiring, and carpentry. I also learned about the four stages of remodeling: Enthusiasm, Despair, Adaptation, and Satisfaction.

[2]

The first stage is marked by eagerness. One morning you tear into a wall, feeling a trickle<sup>17</sup> of enthusiasm as plaster crumbles beneath your wrecking bar. That enthusiasm sustains you for days as you take out the old to build the new.

[3]

But the wall your intent to cut an arch<sup>18</sup> through turns out to be brick, not wood. Lifting the floorboards, you find a twisted mess of rusted pipe and rotting wire. About then the building inspector stops by, to ensure proper drainage<sup>19</sup>, she says, you'll have to landscape the lawn.

- 16. F. NO CHANGE
- G. bathroom, adding
- H. bathroom in addition
- J. bathroom not long ago

- 17. Which of the choices would be most appropriate here?
- A. NO CHANGE
- B. a surge
- C. a twinge
- D. an ounce

- 18. F. NO CHANGE
- G. your intending to cut
- H. your intent on cutting
- J. you intended to cut

- 19. A. NO CHANGE
- B. by; to
- C. by, to,
- D. by to