

EXPLORE® 2009 / 2010 EXPLORE® at a Glance



EXPLORE in grades 8 and 9 serves as the entry measure of academic progress in the series of longitudinal assessments that constitute a component of the ACT College Readiness System. The longitudinal assessments also include PLAN® (grade 10) and the ACT® test (grades 11 and 12). All three programs share the same score scale, enabling educators to seamlessly document student progress in grades 8 through 12. EXPLORE is an early indicator of college readiness, an effective tool for planning high school coursework, and a useful career exploration and planning program. Learn more at www.act.org/explore.

EXPLORE English Test

30 minutes

| Content/Skills | Number of Items |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Usage/Mechanics | 25 |
| Punctuation | 6 |
| Grammar and Usage | 8 |
| Sentence Structure | 11 |
| Rhetorical Skills | 15 |
| Strategy | 5 |
| Organization | 5 |
| Style | 5 |
| Total | 40 |

EXPLORE Reading Test

30 minutes

| Content Area | Number of Items |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Prose Fiction | 10 |
| Humanities | 10 |
| Social Studies | 10 |
| Total | 30 |

EXPLORE Mathematics Test

30 minutes

| Content Area | Number of Items |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Pre-Algebra | 10 |
| Elementary Algebra | 9 |
| Geometry | 7 |
| Statistics/Probability | 4 |
| Total | 30 |

EXPLORE Science Test

30 minutes

| Content Area | Format | Number of Items |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Earth/Space Sciences | Data Representation | 12 |
| | Research Summaries | 10 |
| Physical Sciences | Conflicting Viewpoints | 6 |
| Total | | 28 |

Key Educational and Career Planning Components

Approximately 45 minutes

- Needs Assessment—collects information about students' perceived needs.
- Plans and Background Information—gathers information about students' school coursework plans, educational and career plans after high school, and other relevant background information.
- Interest Inventory—helps students explore personally relevant career options.

EXPLORE Testing Timeline

Before Testing

- Order test materials at least four weeks before your scheduled test date.
To order, visit www.act.org/education/order.
- You will be invoiced for the number of answer documents scored and an invoice will be sent at the time your score reports are sent. If you order accommodations-related test materials, you will receive an invoice for those materials at the time of the materials shipment. Please note that only the Braille test book can be returned for a refund.

September–May

- Administer EXPLORE test as scheduled by school.

After Testing

- Return student Answer Folders to ACT for scoring.
ACT recommends a method that tracks shipment.
- Expect to receive reports two to four weeks after ACT receives all Answer Folders from your school or district.

NOTE: Districts will receive district-level reports and copies of school-level reports. District-level reports will not be created until the answer document return deadline provided on the online order form.

June 15

- Last date for scoring in the 2009–2010 testing cycle.

Program Packages

Standard Package

Test Materials

- Test Booklets
- Answer Folders
- Student Instruction Booklets
- *Why Take EXPLORE?*

Testing Administrator's Support

- Test Supervisor's Manual
- Room Supervisor's Manuals
- School Headers
- Let's Go to College Poster

Reports and Supporting Materials

- Student Score Reports
- Student Score Labels
- Student List Report
- *Using Your EXPLORE Results*
- Profile Summary Report includes:
 - Presentation Packet
 - Intervention Rosters
 - College Readiness Standards data

Enhanced Reporting Package

Includes all items in the Standard Package, **plus:**

- Item-Response Summary Report
- School Norms on Student Score Report
- Data File with School and District Norms on CD

ACT's Longitudinal Assessments

EXPLORE®

8th–9th Grade

- Baseline assessment
- Helps increase PLAN and ACT scores

PLAN®

10th Grade

- Midpoint assessment
- Helps increase ACT scores

The ACT®

11th–12th Grade

- Measures what students have learned
- Increases college readiness when used with EXPLORE and PLAN
- Documents readiness for college

Assessment Component ACT's College Readiness System

- Only curriculum-based, research-validated system available today
- Increases readiness for college or a career
- Provides link between scores and skills
- Promotes college enrollment, persistence, and success
- Built on a common score scale to measure academic progress from grades 8 through 12
- Helps students identify postsecondary options

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To reorder or for more information, visit www.act.org/explore.
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