



EXPLORE

ACT's College and Career
Readiness System

What is EXPLORE?

- ❖ ACT's College Readiness Assessment for 8th graders
- ❖ A curriculum-based achievement test including:
 - Four Subject Area Tests:
 - English (30 minutes, 40 items)
 - Mathematics (30 minutes, 30 items)
 - Reading (30 minutes, 30 items)
 - Science (30 minutes, 28 items)
- ❖ An Assessment of Career Interest
 - The UNIACT Interest Inventory
 - Untimed, 72 items
 - Identification of career areas based on ACT's World of Work Map

Sequence of ACT's CCRS

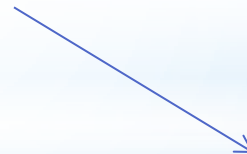
EXPLORE - grade 8



PLAN - grade 10



ACT - grade 11



WorkKeys - grade 12

ENGLISH TEST

- ❖ Measures students' understanding of the conventions of standard written English
- ❖ Replicates the “editing and revision” stage in the writing process
- ❖ Measures students' ability to effectively communicate meaning by:
 - critiquing
 - revisiting
 - editing
- ❖ 2 sub-scores: usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills
- ❖ Not rote recall of rules of grammar

EXPLORE English Test

Punctuation	6 items
Grammar & Usage	8 items
Sentence Structure	11 items
Strategy	5 items
Organization	5 items
Style	5 items
<i>Total Items</i>	<i>40</i>
Passages	4
Passage Length	300 words

MATHEMATICS TEST

- ❖ Requires student to
 - ✓ Analyze problems - in both real world and purely mathematical settings
 - ✓ Tests ability to carry out strategies
 - ✓ Verify appropriateness of solutions

 - ❖ 4 content categories or strands:
 - ✓ Pre-Algebra - 10 items
 - ✓ Elementary Algebra - 9 items
 - ✓ Geometry - 7 items
 - ✓ Statistics/Probability - 4 items
- Total Items - 30

MATHEMATICS TEST

- ❖ Knowledge & Skills Questions 27%
- ❖ Direct Application Questions 27%
- ❖ Understanding Concepts & Integrating Conceptual Understanding Questions 46%

READING TEST

- ❖ Measures student proficiencies in understanding and deriving meaning from texts ranging from fiction narratives to informational passages
- ❖ Measures vocabulary by determining the meaning of unfamiliar or multiple-meaning words from context
- ❖ Measures skills used to read and understand published materials
- ❖ Passages come from prose fiction (10), humanities (10), and social sciences (10) - total 30 items
- ❖ There are a total of 3 passages, 500 words each

READING TEST

- ❖ It measures students' literal-level reading skills as well as their ability to make inferences, draw conclusions, generalize from specific data and reason logically.

SCIENCE TEST

- ❖ Measures scientific reasoning skills acquired through grade 8
- ❖ Scientific information is conveyed through data representation, research summaries, and conflicting viewpoints
- ❖ Materials drawn from life science, physical science, and earth/space science

SCIENCE TEST

❖ Asks students to:

- ✓ Communicate information & use scientific research strategies
- ✓ Make comparisons between, & draw conclusions from scientific findings, studies, and viewpoints
- ✓ Extrapolate and extend scientific understandings consistent with sound scientific reasoning

SCIENCE TEST

Scientific information is conveyed in 1 of 3 formats:

❖ Data representation	12 items
❖ Research summaries	10 items
❖ Conflicting viewpoints	6 items
❖ Total Items	28 items

A student's score on the content area tests is based upon the number of correct answers; you are not penalized for giving an incorrect answer.

UNIACT INTEREST INVENTORY

- ❖ Recognizes career choices are becoming more complex
- ❖ Provides students with a panoramic view of their options in the worlds of work & education
- ❖ It points to regions of the world of work that link to students' interests and strengths

CAREER INTEREST INVENTORY

- ❖ Provides a focus for career exploration
- ❖ Careers are reported in 6 clusters:
 - ✓ Technical
 - ✓ Science and technology
 - ✓ Arts
 - ✓ Social services
 - ✓ Administration and sales
 - ✓ Business operations



from Holland's (1997) theory of careers

- ❖ Student responds likes, dislikes or indifference to each of 72 work-related activities

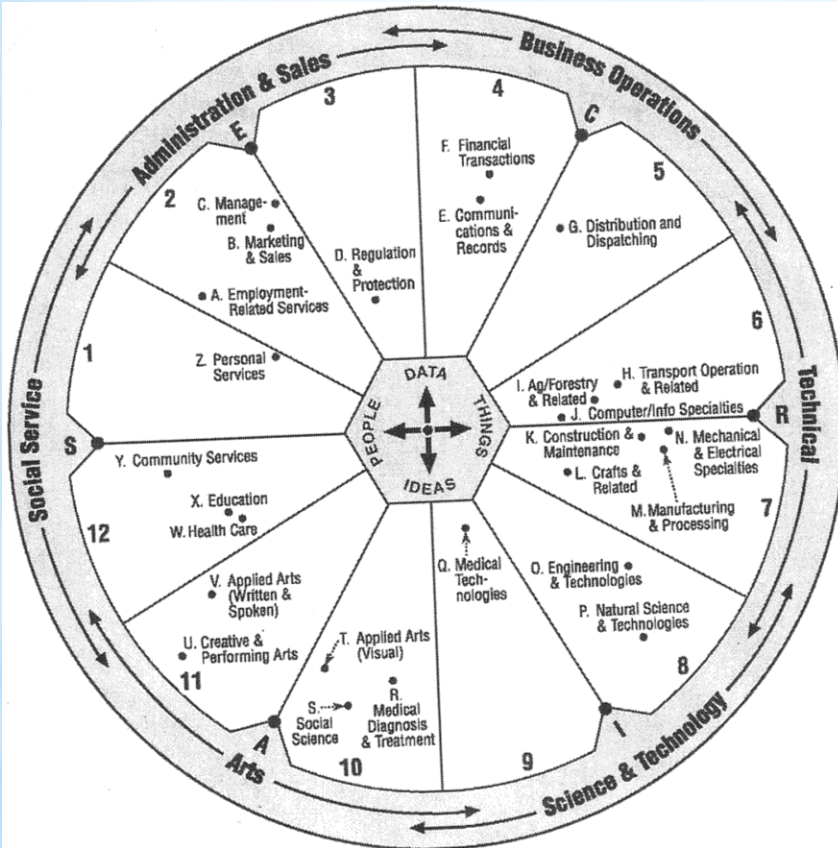
THE WORLD OF WORK MAP

About The Map:

- 26 career areas (groups of similar occupations) arranged into 12 regions
- Career area locations are empirical.

Based on work tasks:

- **DATA:** Facts, numbers, files, accounts, procedures
 - **IDEAS:** insights, theories, new ways of saying or doing something-ex. with words, equations, music
 - **PEOPLE:** people you help, serve, inform, care for, or sell things to
 - **THINGS:** machines, tools, living things, and materials like food, wood or metal
- 6 general types of work (career clusters) & related Holland types are shown on the map.



SCORE REPORT

Your student report will include:

- ❖ A test score for English, Mathematics, Reading and Science
- ❖ There are 2 subscores for the English Test - Usage/Mechanics and Rhetorical Skills
- ❖ A Composite score (the average of the four test scale scores)

TEST RESULTS

Scores should be viewed as a range, rather than a precise point.

- ❖ For example, a score of 16 on the Mathematics test is probably somewhere between 14 to 18.
- ❖ For the Composite Score the range is + or - 1 so a Composite of 15 is probably between 14 and 16.

BENCHMARK SCORE

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are the minimum ACT test scores required for students to have a high probability of success in credit-bearing college courses - English Composition, social science courses, college algebra, or Biology.

Explore Benchmark Scores (fall of 8th grade):

- ❖ English - 13
- ❖ Mathematics - 17
- ❖ Reading - 15
- ❖ Science - 20

Students who meet or exceed a benchmark score have a 50% chance of achieving a B or higher or about a 75% chance of achieving a C or better in the corresponding college course

READINESS STANDARDS

- ❖ EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT measure students' progressive development of knowledge and skills in the same academic areas from grades 8-12.
- ❖ For each strand and score range, they list the Standard and Ideas for Progress.
- ❖ The Standards serve as a direct link between what students have learned and what they are ready to learn.
- ❖ Performance on the ACT is directly related to first-year college grade point average.

Your Individual Student Score Report

- ❖ Individual Composite Score plus scores for each subject area
- ❖ Bar graph indicating the % of 8th graders nationally, in your school, and in your state who scored at or below your score (your are compared to 8th graders who took the test in the fall)
- ❖ An estimate of what your score on the PLAN Test (10th grade)

- ❖ **Your High School Course Plans Compared to Core**
 - ✓ The Core Curriculum for ACT is 4 years of English, 3 years of Mathematics (through Algebra 2), 3 years of Social Studies and 3 years of Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

- ❖ **Your Reported Needs (survey completed by the student)**

- ❖ **Your Plans for After High School (educational and career)**

- ❖ **College Readiness**
 - ✓ based on students individual scores showing whether scores are “below,” “at,” or “above” ACT’s Benchmark Scores

 - ✓ each subject area test is listed separately

Interpreting the World of Work Map

- ❖ Reflects the student's responses to the Interest Inventory taken the first day
- ❖ The map shows 26 Career Areas which are groups of similar jobs according to their basic work tasks involving people, things, data, and ideas
- ❖ The Career Areas are on the map as well as listed to the right of the map.
- ❖ The list also includes examples of specific occupations in the Career Area.

- ❖ The map is divided into 12 regions with each region having a different mix of work tasks. For example, Career Area P, Natural Science & Technologies, mostly involves working with things and ideas.
- ❖ When you receive your individual scores, the areas you indicated as of interest to you will be shaded grey.
- ❖ For more information about careers go to

www.explorestudent.org

YOUR SKILLS

- ❖ Located on the back of Your Score Report
- ❖ Gives you a breakdown of each of the 4 subject area tests
 - ✓ Gives the correct answer to all the test questions (each student will get their test back)
 - ✓ In the column next to the correct answer, you will find a + (you answered correctly), a capital letter (the correct answer), a O (no response) or * (marked more than one answer)

- ❖ The report also breaks down the content areas for each test and offers the student suggestions for improving their skills.