

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	<pre> graph TD 1[1. Antonio Mattei created a cookie that was baked twice.] --> 2[2. Italia Ciampolini bought the Mattei bakery.] 2 --> 3[3. Ernesto Pandolfini inherited the Mattei bakery.] 3 --> 4[4. Renzo Guarducci took over the Mattei bakery with his cousin Paolo.] </pre>
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	<pre> graph TD 1[1. President Washington laid the cornerstone on Jenkins Hill.] --> 2[2. The Library of Congress moved into the Capitol that Thornton had designed.] 2 --> 3[3. Congress first appointed Latrobe to oversee construction of the Capitol.] 3 --> 4[4. The Senate and House began to meet in a brick structure where the Supreme Court building stands today.] </pre>
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>He played with his brothers and sisters.</td> <td>He ventured outside of his cave.</td> <td>He felt sunlight.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>He attempted to follow his father.</td> <td>He recognized his mother.</td> <td>He thought that his world was gloomy.</td> </tr> </table>	He played with his brothers and sisters.	He ventured outside of his cave.	He felt sunlight.	He attempted to follow his father.	He recognized his mother.	He thought that his world was gloomy.
He played with his brothers and sisters.	He ventured outside of his cave.	He felt sunlight.							
He attempted to follow his father.	He recognized his mother.	He thought that his world was gloomy.							
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Search for milkweed plants. 2. Search for monarch larva. 3. Record current location. 4. Type location of larva and milkweed plant on websites. 						
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