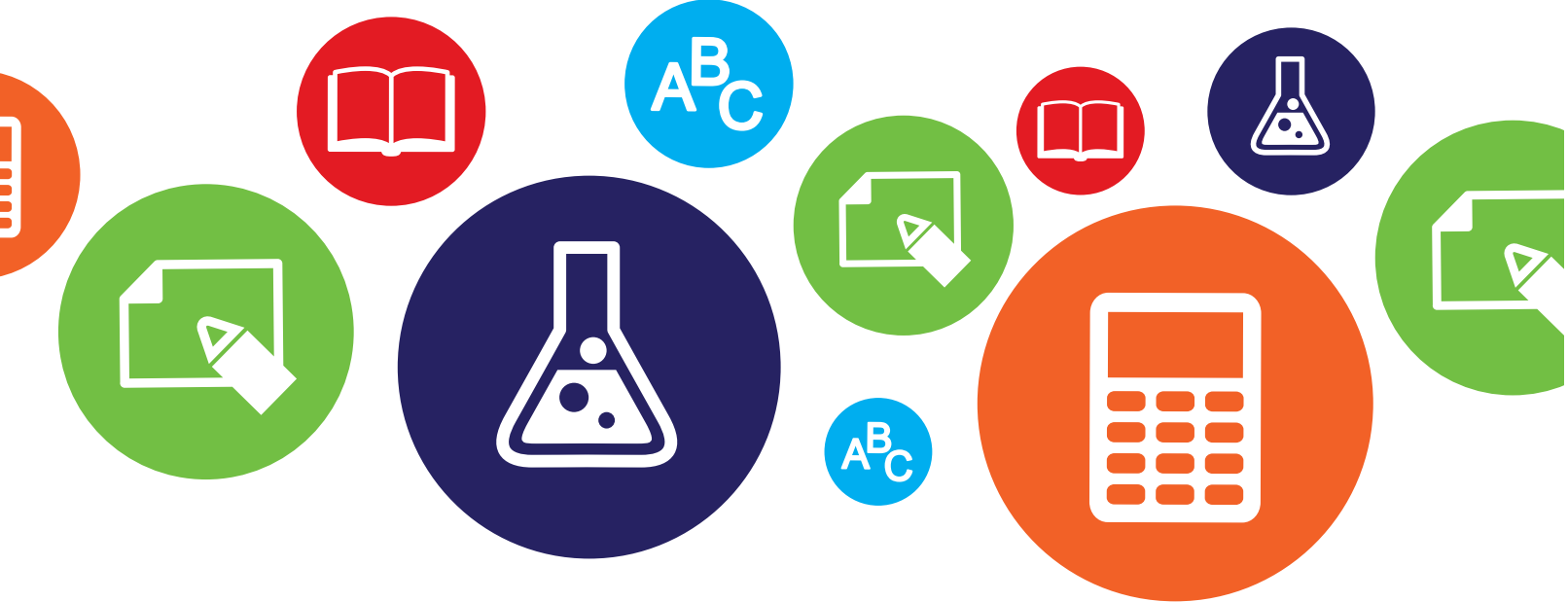




ACT Aspire[®] Summative Assessments Overview





English

ACT Aspire® English tests assess students' developed ability to revise and edit texts. A typical English test contains several stimuli, or texts, and a series of selected-response and technology-enhanced questions. Texts used in the assessments represent various content areas (including English language arts, the humanities, and the social and natural sciences), and, considered collectively, reflect a range of text complexity levels from simple to complex, as appropriate for students' age and educational attainment.

Roughly 1/3
of each English test is assessing at
DOK Level 3.
See related videos for details by grade.
act.org/learning-at-act/training/aspire.html

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Reporting Categories

Production of Writing (POW)

- Topic Development
- Organization, Unity, and Cohesion




Conventions of Standard English (CSE)

- Punctuation and Usage Conventions
- Sentence Structure and Formation

Knowledge of Language (KLA)*

*Knowledge of Language is not reported in Grade 3.

Table 1. Points and Percentage of Points by Content Category for the ACT Aspire English Assessments

	Grade 3 		Grades 4–5		Grade 6 		Grades 7–8		EHS 	
	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts
POW	9–11	36–44	6–8	24–32	11–13	31–37	9–11	26–31	12–14	24–28
CSE	14–16	56–64	14–16	56–64	19–21	54–60	19–21	54–60	29–31	58–62
KLA			2–4	8–16	2–4	6–11	4–6	11–17	6–8	12–16
Total	25	100	25	100	35	100	35	100	50	100

Notes. POW = Production of Writing; KLA = Knowledge of Language; CSE = Conventions of Standard English.

Table 2. Points and Percentage of Points by Item Type for ACT Aspire English Assessments

	Grades 3–5		Grades 6–7		Grade 8		EHS	
	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts
MC	21–22	84–88	31–33	89–94	33–35	94–100	48–50	96–100
TE	3–4	12–16	2–4	6–11	0–2	0–6	0–2	0–4
Total	25	100	35	100	35	100	50	100

Notes. EHS = Early High School (Grades 9 and 10); MC = Multiple-Choice; TE = Technology-Enhanced. Paper-and-pencil tests do not have TE items. MC items are used in their place.



Reading

Each ACT Aspire Reading assessment contains several passages, including literary narratives (prose fiction, memoirs, personal essays) and informational text (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 questions that assess their abilities to recognize meaning in, reason logically about, and make connections between and among texts.

Between
25–48%
of each Reading test
is assessing at

DOK Level 3.

See related videos for details by grade.
act.org/learning-at-act/training/aspire.html

Passage Types

Students will encounter a variety of reading passages on ACT Aspire Reading tests. In Grades 3–5, half the MC/TE items (10–11) will pertain to literary narratives and the rest divided evenly between social science and natural science informational texts. In Grades 6–EHS, items will be distributed evenly across the three passage types (i.e. 7 items each).

See related videos for details by grade.
act.org/learning-at-act/training/aspire.html

3

Reporting Categories

Key Ideas and Details:

reading texts closely; determine central ideas and themes and summarize information and ideas accurately; understand sequential, comparative, and cause-effect relationships

Craft and Structure:

determine word and phrase meaning and analyze an author's word choice rhetorically; analyze text structure; understand purpose and point of view

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

understand how arguments are constructed; make connections to prior knowledge and between and among texts

Table 3. Points and Percentage of Points by Content Category for the ACT Aspire Reading Assessments

Notes. KID = Key Ideas and Details; CS = Craft and Structure; IKI = Integration of Knowledge and Ideas.

	Grades 3–7		Grade 8–EHS	
	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts
KID	13–18	45–62	13–20	42–65
CS	6–11	21–38	6–12	19–39
IKI	3–6	10–21	4–8	13–26
Total	29	100	31	100



Table 4. Points and Percentage of Points by Item Type for the ACT Aspire Reading Assessments

Notes. EHS = Early High School (Grades 9 and 10); MC = Multiple-Choice; TE = Technology-Enhanced. Paper-and-pencil tests do not have TE items. MC items are used in their place.

	Grades 3–7		Grade 8–EHS	
	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts
MC	18–19	62–66	20–21	65–68
TE	2–3	7–10	0–1	0–3
CR	8	28	10	32
Total	29	100	31	100



Mathematics

ACT Aspire Mathematics tests provide a picture of the whole of a student’s mathematical development, including a look at the concepts and skills new to the grade level as well as whether the student has continued to strengthen, integrate, and apply mathematics from earlier grades. These components are important in judging how a student is progressing and what next steps are appropriate. If administered on computers, ACT Aspire Mathematics tests include questions in three formats: selected response/multiple choice (MC), constructed response/Justification and Explanation (JE), and technology enhanced (TE). For paper administration, TE questions are replaced with additional MC items.

**More than
50%**
of each Mathematics test
is assessing at
DOK Level 3.

See related videos for details by grade.
act.org/learning-at-act/training/aspire.html

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Reporting Categories

Grades 3–5	Grades 6–7	Grade 8	EHS
Numbers and Operations in Base 10	The Number System		Number and Quantity
Number and Operations—Fractions	Expressions & Equations		Algebra
Operations and Algebraic Thinking	Ratios and Proportional Relationships	Functions	
Geometry	Geometry		
Measurement and Data	Statistics & Probability		

Four Additional Reporting Categories

- **Grade-Level Progress:** reporting how well students are doing with the topics (across the five content domains) new to their grade
- **Foundation:** reporting grade-level success at using content acquired in earlier years; these questions have greater cognitive complexity than those in Grade-Level Progress
- **Modeling:** reporting on those items in Grade-Level Progress and Foundation that provide information about how students can apply mathematics in real-world situations
- **Justification and Explanation:** designation of constructed-response items in Grade-Level Progress and Foundation which provide evidence of a student’s ability to support and explain his or her mathematical reasoning

Table 5. Number of Items, Points and Percentage of Points by Item Type for ACT Aspire Mathematics Assessments

	 Grades 3–5			 Grades 6–7			 Grade 8–EHS		
Grade–Level Progress	#	Points	% of Pts	#	Points	% of Pts	#	Points	% of Pts
MC/TE	15	15	41	20	20	43	21	21	39
JE	2	8	21.5	2	8	17	3	12	23
Foundation									
MC/TE	6	6	16	10	10	22	12	12	23
JE	2	8	21.5	2	8	17	2	8	15
Total	25	37	100	34	46	100	38	53	100

Notes. EHS = Early High School (Grades 9 and 10); MC = Multiple-Choice; TE = Technology-Enhanced; JE = Justification and Explanation (Constructed-Response). Paper-and-pencil tests do not have TE items. MC items are used in their place.

Table 6. Points by Content Category for the ACT Aspire Mathematics Assessments

Content Category	Grade Level						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	EHS
Total	37	37	37	46	46	53	53
Number & Operations in Base 10	5–7	3–5	3–5	1–3	1–3	1–3	0–2
Number & Operations—Fractions	2–4	4–6	4–6	1–3	1–3	1–3	0–2
The Number System				3–5	3–5	2–4	1–3
Number & Quantity							1–3
Operations & Algebraic Thinking	3–5	3–5	3–5	1–3	1–3	0–2	0–2
Expressions & Equations				3–5	3–5	5–7	2–4
Ratios & Proportional Relationships				3–5	3–5	0–2	1–3
Algebra							2–4
Functions						3–5	3–5
Measurement & Data (Measurement)			0–2	0–2	1–3	1–3	
Geometry	3–5	3–5	3–5	5–7	4–6	6–8	5–7
Measurement & Data	3–5	3–5	3–5				
Measurement & Data (Data)				0–2	1–3	1–3	1–3
Statistics & Probability				3–5	3–5	4–6	4–7
Justification and Explanation	16	16	16	16	16	20	20

Notes. If points are listed in a category that is not a reporting category for a particular grade level, those points represent questions included in the Foundation reporting category for that grade.



Science

ACT Aspire Science tests focus on the assessment of science practices using real-world scientific scenarios. The content of the tests includes materials from biology (life sciences at the earlier grades), chemistry and physics (physical science at the earlier grades), and Earth/space sciences (such as geology, astronomy, and meteorology). Advanced knowledge in these areas is not required, but background knowledge acquired in general, introductory science courses may be needed to answer some of the questions in the upper grade assessments. The ACT Aspire tests stress science practices over recall of scientific content, complex mathematics skills, and reading ability.

Between 25–40%
of each ACT Aspire Science test is assessing at
DOK Level 3.
See related videos for details by grade.
act.org/learning-at-act/training/aspire.html

3

Reporting Categories

- Interpretation of Data (IOD)
- Scientific Investigation (SIN)
- Evaluation of Models, Inferences, and Experimental Results (EMI)

Table 7. Points and Percentage of Points by Domain for the ACT Aspire Science Assessments

	Grades 3–5		Grades 6–7		Grade 8		EHS	
	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts
IOD	18–22	50–60	20–22	50–55	18–20	45–50	16–18	40–45
SIN	7–9	20–25	6–10	15–25	8–10	20–25	8–10	10–12
EMI	7–9	20–25	10–12	25–30	12–14	30–35	12–14	30–35
Total	36	100	40	100	40	100	40	100



Notes. IOD: Interpretation of Data; SIN: Scientific Investigation; EMI: Evaluation of Models, Inferences, and Experimental Results. Scores in Mathematics and Science will be used to provide a STEM score.

Table 8. Points and Percentage of Points by Item Type for ACT Aspire Science Assessments

	Grades 3–5		Grades 6–7		Grade 8–EHS	
	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts	Points	% of Pts
MC	18–19	50–53	22–23	55–58	23–24	58–60
TE	3–4	8–11	3–4	8–10	3–4	8–10
CR	14	39	14	35	13	33
Total	36	100	40	100	40	100

Notes. EHS = Early High School (Grades 9 and 10); MC = Multiple-Choice; TE = Technology-Enhanced; CR = Constructed-Response. Paper-and-pencil tests do not have TE items. MC items are used in their place.

Table 9. Passage Formats for ACT Aspire Science Assessments

Passage Format	Grade Level						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	EHS
Data Representation				1	1	2	2
Research Summaries					1	2	2
Conflicting Viewpoints						1	1
Data Presentation	2	2	2				
Scientific Investigation	2	2	2	2	1		
Student Viewpoints				1	1		



Writing

ACT Aspire Writing assessments consist of 30-minute summative writing tasks for grades 3 through 8 and early high school. They ask students at each grade level to respond in essay form to a single writing stimulus. The assessments are designed to provide a strong indication of whether students have the writing skills they will need to succeed as they begin work at their next grade level. Student responses are evaluated according to analytic rubrics that assess the generation, development, organization, and communication of ideas in standard written English.

4

Content Domains

- **Ideas and Analysis**
(Rubric description specific to mode)
- **Development and Support**
- **Organization**
- **Language Use and Conventions**

See related videos online for more information on rubrics and scoring.
act.org/learning-at-act/training/aspire.html

All ACT Aspire Writing prompts are assigned **DOK Level 3.**



Writing Modes

- **Reflective Narrative**
(Grades 3, 6)
- **Analytical Expository**
(Grades 4, 7, EHS)
- **Persuasive Argumentative**
(Grades 5, 8)

