

ACT
Directions and Sample Questions
WRITING & READING

Directions: Prompts used for the ACT Writing Test:

- describe an issue relevant to high school students
- ask examinees to write about their perspective on the issue

As a starting place, two different perspectives on the issue will be provided. Examinees may choose to support one of these perspectives or to develop a response based on their own perspective.

Sample writing prompt: Educators debate extending high school to five years because of increasing demands on students from employers and colleges to participate in extracurricular activities and community service in addition to having high grades. Some educators support extending high school to five years because they think students need more time to achieve all that is expected of them. Other educators do not support extending high school to five years because they think students would lose interest in school and attendance would drop in the fifth year. In your opinion, should high school be extended to five years?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Directions: There are several passages in this test. Each passage is accompanied by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary

Sample reading question: It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that Abshu and the Masons would agree with which of the following statements about the best way to raise a child?

- A. For a child to be happy, he or she must develop a firm basis in religion at an early age.
- B. For a child to be fulfilled, he or she must be exposed to great works of art and literature that contain universal themes.
- C. For a child to thrive and be a responsible member of society, he or she must develop a sense of discipline.
- D. For a child to achieve greatness, he or she must attach importance to the community and not to the self.

<http://www.actstudent.org/writing/sample/>
http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/reading/read_01.html