PLACEMENT TESTING

ACCUPLACER®
NEXT-GENERATION ENGLISH

&

QMAT MATH PLACEMENT

Sample Questions for Students
Sample Questions

Read the following early draft of an essay and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

(1) The prevalence of nectarines in US supermarkets today is directly related to the company started by two unrelated men who shared a last name, an inventive bent, and a drive to succeed. (2) Moving from Korea to the United States in 1914, Ho “Charles” Kim founded the Kim Brothers trucking company in California in 1921 with his friend Harry Kim. (3) Much of the freight their trucks carried in the early years were fruit grown in the San Joaquin valley. (4) Kim Brothers soon expanded to include nurseries, orchards, and fruit-packing sheds. (5) Eventually the operation became a major employer, providing year-round jobs for about two hundred people and up to four hundred part-time jobs during harvest season coming after growing season. (6) Kim Brothers succeeded even in the face of the Great Depression of the 1920s and 30s because the company produced and sold the first commercially viable nectarines. (7) The nectarine is a hybrid fruit. (8) It combines peach and plum, with the taste and texture of the former and the smooth skin of the latter. (9) With the help of a staff horticulturalist, Kim Brothers developed and patented the “fuzzless peach” known as the Sun Grand nectarine. (10) Though not the first nectarine—the fruit had existed in China for two millennia; the Sun Grand was unique in being hardy enough to ship great distances. (11) By the 1960s, Kim Brothers included more than five hundred acres of farmland and grossed more than $1 million annually. (12) Charles and Harry Kim were eventually recognized as the first millionaires of Korean descent. (13) They were also known for giving back to their community. (14) Charles was also instrumental in helping to create Los Angeles’s Koreatown (home today to more Koreans than any place other than North and South Korea).

1. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 3 (reproduced below)?

Much of the freight their trucks carried in the early years were fruit grown in the San Joaquin valley.

A. (as it is now)
B. have been
C. are
D. was

2. Which is the best decision regarding the underlined portion of sentence 5 (reproduced below)?

Eventually the operation became a major employer, providing year-round jobs for about two hundred people and up to four hundred part-time jobs during harvest season coming after growing season.

A. Leave it as it is now
B. Revise it to “when the crops were ready to pick.”
C. Revise it to “after the produce had ripened.”
D. DELETE it and end the sentence with a period

3. Which is the most logical placement for sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

The nectarine is a hybrid fruit.

A. Where it is now
B. After sentence 3
C. After sentence 10
D. After sentence 11

4. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 10 (reproduced below)?

Though not the first nectarine—the fruit had existed in China for two millennia; the Sun Grand was unique in being hardy enough to ship great distances.

A. (as it is now)
B. millennia. The
C. millennia—the
D. millennia) the

5. Sentence 13 is reproduced below.

They were also known for giving back to their community.

The writer is considering adding the following text at the end of the sentence.

by building churches, funding scholarships, and establishing the Korean Association of Southern California

Should the writer make this addition there?

A. Yes, because it elaborates on the claim made at the beginning of the sentence.
B. Yes, because it establishes the historical period in which Kim Brothers operated.
C. No, because it introduces details that are irrelevant to the paragraph’s focus on nectarines.
D. No, because it fails to explain whether the institutions that the Kims established still exist today.
7. Which choice most effectively combines sentences 5 and 6 (reproduced below) at the underlined portion?

A spider of this species was discovered in the Erg Chebbi. It is a sandy desert in southeastern Morocco.

A. Chebbi
B. Chebbi—this being
C. Chebbi, and the Erg Chebbi is
D. Chebbi, the Erg Chebbi being

8. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 10 (reproduced below)?

Ultimately, the spider was determined to be a member of a previously unknown species.

A. (As it is now)
B. For example,
C. Nevertheless,
D. At the same time,

9. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 13 (reproduced below)?

Agile and athletic, C. rechenbergi rear up on their back legs and lash out when attacked—or it somersaults away, rolling like tumbleweed.

A. (as it is now)
B. it will somersault
C. they somersault
D. they were somersaulting

10. Which sentence blurs the focus of the last paragraph and should therefore be deleted?

A. Sentence 14
B. Sentence 15
C. Sentence 16
D. Sentence 17

6. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 2 (reproduced below)?

These spiders don’t simply scurry across the sand on their many legs, like tumbling gymnasts, they propel themselves forward (or backward) in a series of quick flips.

A. (as it is now)
B. legs like tumbling gymnasts;
C. legs; like tumbling gymnasts,
D. legs like tumbling gymnasts,
12. Which sentence blurs the focus of the second paragraph and should therefore be deleted?
A. Sentence 4
B. Sentence 5
C. Sentence 6
D. Sentence 7

13. Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 9 (reproduced below)?

*Her poems often bore witness to what she called “the bond of live things everywhere,” a bond she evoked through seemingly simple but precisely chosen words.*

A. (as it is now)
B. called:
C. called—
D. called,

14. Which version of the underlined portion of sentence 10 (reproduced below) provides the most effective introduction to the last paragraph?

*Clifon’s powerful and innovative poems have been widely recognized and appreciated.*

A. (as it is now)
B. passion for teaching others about poetry has
C. desire to use poetry to speak for the powerless has
D. many gifts as a writer and teacher have

15. In sentence 12 (reproduced below), the writer wants to echo Bingham’s observation from sentence 11. Which version of the underlined portion best accomplishes that goal?

*Of Clifon’s ambitious lines, poet Kevin Young said, “There is a kind of quietude in that lowercase, but also a boldness of speech” that achieves a “powerful intimacy.”*

A. (as it is now)
B. spare
C. nuanced
D. vivid

11. Which is the best decision regarding the underlined portion of sentence 3 (reproduced below)?

*Family, injustice, being African American and female were Clifon’s enduring themes.*

A. Leave it as it is now
B. Revise it to “and being”
C. Revise it to “and the subjects of”
D. DELETE it
### ACCUPLACER Next-Generation Writing (Sentence) Sample Questions Answer Key

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Sample Questions
Directions for questions 1-18

Read the passage(s) below and answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the passage(s) and in any introductory material that may be provided.

In this passage, an amateur theater group called the Laurel Players is putting on its first production.

(1) The Players, coming out of their various kitchen doors and hesitating for a minute to button their coats or pull on their gloves, would see a landscape in which only a few very old, weathered houses seemed to belong; it made their own homes look as weightless and impermanent, as foolishly misplaced as a great many bright new toys that had been left outdoors overnight and rained on. (2) Their automobiles didn’t look right either—unnecessarily wide and gleaming in the colors of candy and ice cream, seeming to wince at each splatter of mud, they crawled apologetically down the broken roads that led from all directions to the deep, level slab of Route Twelve. (3) Once there the cars seemed able to relax in an environment all their own, a long bright valley of colored plastic and plate glass and stainless steel—KING KONE, MOBILGAS, SHOPORAMA, EAT—but eventually they had to turn off, one by one, and make their way up the winding country road that led to the central high school; they had to pull up and stop in the quiet parking lot outside the high-school auditorium.

(4) “Hi!” the Players would shyly call to one another.


(8) Clumping their heavy galoshes around the stage, blotting at their noses with Kleenex and frowning at the unsteady print of their scripts, they would disarm each other at last with peals of forgiving laughter, and they would agree, over and over, that there was plenty of time to smooth the thing out. (9) But there wasn’t plenty of time, and they all knew it, and a doubling and redoubling of their rehearsal schedule seemed only to make matters worse. (10) Long after the time had come for what the director called “really getting this thing off the ground; really making it happen,” it remained a static, shapeless, inhumanly heavy weight; time and time again they read the promise of failure in each other’s eyes, in the apologetic nods and smiles of their parting and the spastic haste with which they broke for their cars and drove home to whatever older, less explicit promises of failure might lie in wait for them there.

1. The contrasts the narrator draws in sentences 1 and 2 between the Players’ homes and the houses in the “landscape” and between the Players’ automobiles and the “roads” are most likely meant to suggest that the Players’ homes and automobiles are
A. old and neglected
B. modern and alien
C. small but expensive
D. grand but unappreciated

2. Based on the passage, which of the following most accurately characterizes the claim that “there was plenty of time to smooth the thing out” (sentence 8)?
A. A comforting falsehood that the Players know to be untrue
B. An outright lie that the director persuades the Players to accept
C. An optimistic conclusion reached by outside observers watching an early rehearsal
D. A realistic appraisal offered by the director after careful analysis of the play’s shortcomings

3. The descriptive language in sentence 10 is mainly intended to reinforce the passage’s depiction of the Players’
A. growing resentment of the director’s leadership
B. increasing reluctance to work as hard as they have been
C. lingering doubts about their fellow cast members
D. persistent mood of despair regarding the play

4. The narrator most strongly suggests that which of the following resulted in the transformation described in the last paragraph?
A. The change in time of day during which rehearsals were being held
B. The greater frequency with which rehearsals were being scheduled
C. The shift in the director’s style from strict to more forgiving
D. The break in routine occurring the day before the first performance
Passage 1

Green Bank, West Virginia, is a tech-savvy teenager’s nightmare. In this tiny town in Pocahontas County—population 143—wireless signals are illegal. No cell phones. No WiFi. No radio. No Bluetooth. No electronic transmitters at all. You’re not even allowed to cozy up to an electric blanket.

The remote town is smack in the center of the National Radio Quiet Zone, a 13,000 square mile stretch of land designated by the Federal Communications Commission to protect two government radio telescopes from human-made interference. The rules are most strict in Green Bank. So strict that a police officer roves the streets listening for forbidden wireless signals.

It’s necessary, though. The town is home to the Green Bank Telescope, the largest steerable radio telescope in the world—and arguably our most powerful link to the cosmos. Scientists there listen to radio energy that has journeyed light years, unlocking secrets about how the stars and galaxies formed. A rogue radio signal could prevent potential discoveries, discoveries that could answer big questions about how the universe ticks.


Passage 2

Lawn mowers seem to have little in common with astronomy, but they are keeping astronomers at the National Radio Astronomical Observatory up at night. A new type of robotic lawn mower has been proposed that uses beacons to train the lawn mower to stay within property lines. The beacons, placed around the yard, transmit at the same wavelength as interstellar molecules astronomers study to understand how stars form. Humans wouldn’t notice the tiny amount of energy given off by the beacons, but the Green Bank Telescope—the size of a football stadium—is so sensitive it can detect the energy given off by a snowflake as it melts. By simply mowing the lawn, a homeowner runs the risk of interfering with one of our greatest tools for studying the universe.

The manufacturer of one “lawnbot” requested a waiver to operate within the National Radio Quiet Zone. Astronomers countered with the suggestion that the beacons be reprogrammed to transmit at another wavelength not emitted by interstellar molecules. Alternately, astronomers want global positioning system (GPS) devices added to each lawnbot to prevent them from operating within the Quiet Zone.

5. The main purpose of the last paragraph of Passage 1 is to offer
A. criticism
B. justification
C. exemplification
D. comparison

6. Which conclusion can reasonably be drawn about the status of the “lawnbot” issue at the time of the writing of Passage 2?
A. The manufacturer has received a waiver to operate within the National Radio Quiet Zone.
B. The manufacturer has changed the wavelength at which the lawnbot’s beacons transmit.
C. Astronomers have succeeded in getting GPS devices added to each lawnbot.
D. The manufacturer and astronomers have yet to resolve their conflict.

7. Which choice best describes the relationship between the two passages?
A. Passage 1 mainly discusses the National Radio Quiet Zone in general, while Passage 2 mainly discusses a particular threat to the zone’s integrity.
B. Passage 1 focuses on Green Bank, West Virginia, while Passage 2 focuses on the National Radio Quiet Zone surrounding the town.
C. Passage 1 evaluates drawbacks of the National Radio Quiet Zone, while Passage 2 evaluates benefits of the zone.
D. Passage 1 offers praise for astronomers, while Passage 2 offers criticism of astronomers.

8. Given the evidence in the passages, with which statement would the authors of both passages most likely agree?
A. Radio telescopes could be used to measure snowfall amounts.
B. The Green Bank Telescope can detect extremely small amounts of energy.
C. Increased sales of robotic lawn mowers may require the creation of more radio quiet zones.
D. The lack of modern technology has made people move away from Pocahontas County.
As soon as I saw the Manhattan map, I wanted to draw it. I should be able to draw the place where I lived. So I asked Mom for tracing paper and she got it for me and I brought it into my fort and I pointed the light right down on the first map in the Hagstrom Atlas—downtown, where Wall Street was and the stock market worked. The streets were crazy down there; they didn't have any kind of streets and avenues; they just had names and they looked like a game of Pick-Up Sticks. But before I could even worry about the streets, I had to get the land right. Manhattan was actually built on land. Sometimes when they were digging up the streets you saw it down there—real dirt! And the land had a certain curve to it at the bottom of the island, like a dinosaur head, bumpy on the right and straight on the left, a swooping majestic bottom.


9. In the passage, the use of "crazy," "dinosaur head," "bumpy," "straight," and "swooping" serve mainly to emphasize the
   A. narrator’s serious approach to mapmaking
   B. narrator’s frustration with drawing
   C. irregularity of downtown Manhattan
   D. ways in which a landscape can change over time

The life of Edith Wharton is not an inspiriting rags-to-riches saga, nor is it a cautionary tale of riches to rags—riches to riches, rather. Born Edith Newbold Jones, in January of 1862, into one of the leading families of New York, the author maintained multiple establishments and travelled in the highest style, with a host of servants, augmenting her several inheritances by writing best-selling fiction. In the Depression year of 1936, when two thousand dollars was a good annual income, her writing earned her a hundred and thirty thousand, much of it from plays adapted from her works. Yet her well-padded, auspiciously sponsored life was not an easy one. The aristocratic social set into which she was born expected its women to be ornamental, well-sheltered, intellectually idle agents of their interwoven clans, whereas Edith was an awkward, red-haired bookworm and dreamer, teased by her two older brothers about her big hands and feet and out of sympathy with her intensely conventional mother, née Lucretia Stevens Rhinelander—a mother-daughter disharmony that rankled in Edith’s fiction to the end.

Adapted from John Updike, “The Changeling,” a review of the biography Edith Wharton by Hermione Lee. ©2007 by Condé Nast.

10. Which choice best describes the overall structure of the passage?
   A. Biographical incidents are recounted chronologically.
   B. An author’s life is connected to various themes in her work.
   C. The works of two authors are compared and contrasted.
   D. A list of advantages is followed by a list of disadvantages.

Bones found in South America reveal a bizarre new dinosaur. Based on an ancestry that links it to Tyrannosaurus rex, this reptile should have been a meat eater. Instead, it preferred plants. Researchers described the new species in Nature.

Its genus name—Chilesaurus—reflects that it was found in what’s now Chile. The team that discovered the fossils gave it a species name of diegosuarezi to honor Diego Suarez. While just 7 years old, Diego found the first dinosaur bones in the same general area of Chile. It’s a place known as the Toqui Formation.

C. diegosuarezi roamed South America 150 million years ago. It measured about 3 meters (roughly 10 feet) from head to tail. Its sturdy back legs, thin body and short, stout arms made it look a bit like T. rex. But it also had a long neck, small head and a mouth full of leaf-shaped teeth. Those gave it a Brontosaurus-like appearance. And like the Brontosaurus, it would have eaten plants, making it an herbivore.

Adapted from Ashley Yeager, “'Frankenstein' Dino Showed a Mashup of Traits.” ©2015 by Society for Science & the Public.

11. When the author writes that C. diegosuarezi "should have been a meat eater," she most likely means that the species
   A. would have been healthier if it had eaten meat
   B. would have grown even larger if it had eaten meat
   C. had the head, neck, and teeth of a meat eater
   D. had body features similar to those of its meat-eating relative

Adapted from John Updike, “The Changeling,” a review of the biography Edith Wharton by Hermione Lee. ©2007 by Condé Nast.
The first album that singer Leehom Wang bought as an adolescent was the Beastie Boys’ *Licensed to Ill*; his first concert was Heart, at the War Memorial in Rochester, New York. As for Chinese pop music, though, Wang says he recalls hearing it only once as a youngster—when his singer uncle, Li Jian-fu, paid a visit in the 1980s and played his nationalistic-patriotic hit “Descendants of the Dragon” in Wang’s living room.

Wang didn’t know it then, but he would go on to remix “Descendants of the Dragon” for a new generation, adding new lyrics about his parents’ own immigrant experience. Over the last decade, Wang’s songs have frequently emphasized his dedication to and pride in his Chinese heritage—themes that reflect his personal journey and have a powerful commercial appeal, particularly on the mainland.

At the same time, Wang has demonstrated a strong interest in incorporating traditional Chinese music and instruments into his hip-hop and R&B-based tunes.

Adapted from Julie Makinen, “Can Leehom Wang Transcend China and America’s Pop Cultures?” ©2014 by Los Angeles Times.

12. The second paragraph marks a shift in the passage from a discussion of Leehom Wang’s
A. family members to Leehom Wang himself
B. early musical influences to his later musical career
C. interest in the United States to his interest in China
D. fondness for pop music to his fondness for traditional music

Technology has scrambled the lines between public and private. Cellphones make our most intimate conversations available to anyone within earshot, while headphones create zones of pure solitude even in the midst of the liveliest crowd. Smartphones and tablets allow us to spend time with art without ever leaving the office, while sophisticated new robots enable people who are house-bound to participate in live events remotely.

Adapted from Philip Kennicott, “How to Act in Public Spaces in a Digital Age.” ©2015 by the Washington Post.

13. Which of the following would be most similar to the examples the author provides in the passage?
A. A person’s confidential information is compromised because that person left some papers in a public place.
B. A person enjoys numerous television programs, so that person buys a sophisticated new television on which to watch them.
C. A person’s unfiltered first reaction to a major event becomes widely known because that person posts it online.
D. A person wants to keep a record of his or her private thoughts, so that person secretly starts keeping a daily journal.

Construction management is ideal for someone who has a general interest in building and design. Working as a construction manager affords the chance to learn a construction project from the planning stage with architects and engineers, to the budgeting stage with cost estimators, to the production stage with laborers. And that’s just a small taste of the job’s duties: Construction managers also obtain work permits, hire contractors, troubleshoot emergencies, schedule walkthroughs and keep clients informed on work timetables and progress.

Adapted from “Best Construction Jobs: Construction Manager.” ©2015 by U.S. News & World Report LP.

14. The passage most strongly emphasizes which aspect of the job of construction management?
A. The variety of its responsibilities
B. The educational background it requires
C. The kind of person for whom it is suitable
D. The amount of stress it inflicts
In this passage, “serialization” refers to the publication of installments, or parts, of an ongoing story in a newspaper or magazine.

The Pickwick Papers (1836-7) wasn’t the original serialized novel—the format had existed for at least a century prior—but it was the work that truly popularized the form. The first installment had a print order of 1,000 copies; by the time the final entry was published, circulation had reached 40,000. Buoyed by the success of Pickwick, Charles Dickens serialized his work for the rest of his career, and scores of other notable Victorian novelists joined the publishing craze. William Makepeace Thackeray’s Vanity Fair, Wilkie Collins’s The Woman in White and Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes stories all emerged as serials. Old and new magazines, such as Blackwood’s and Household Words, competed for established and emerging voices. The constant influx of unresolved plots and elliptical section breaks stoked a fervor for fiction in Victorian England. It wasn’t until book production became cheap and easy, and new mediums such as radio arose to fill leisure time, that serialization slowly shriveled away.


15. Which of the following does the author offer as evidence to support the point that, for a time, serialization was highly successful?
A. The change in circulation for The Pickwick Papers
B. The use of unresolved plots and elliptical section breaks
C. The decrease in cost of book production
D. The development of new mediums, such as radio

The neighborhood of Harlem in the twenties offered up a cultural richness that made everything seem possible. Jervis Anderson, writing in the New Yorker in 1981, noted, “Harlem has never been more high-spirited and engaging than it was during the nineteen-twenties. Blacks from all over America and the Caribbean were pouring in, reviving the migration that had abated toward the end of the war—word having reached them about the ‘city,’ in the heart of Manhattan, that blacks were making their own.”


16. Based on the passage, Anderson puts “city” in quotation marks most likely to
A. introduce irony into his writing
B. signal a nonliteral usage
C. mark a citation of another author
D. indicate the inclusion of dialogue

Certainly, scholars are driven toward a “regression to the safe,” as science historian Alice Dreger puts it, though that is not, as she implies, particularly new in the Internet age. Since Galileo’s time, thinkers have relied on the patronage of others to fund their work, and that patronage—be it from government, business interests or individuals—generally extracts a price. In Galileo’s case, that meant softening his position on the Copernican theory under pressure from the pope. In the case of science today, despite Dreger’s argument, that pressure comes less as a consequence of political correctness than of economic forces that have shifted academic and scientific institutions to a corporate model not designed to prioritize public interests. In the academy, it is money far more than ideology that rules the day.


17. It can reasonably be concluded from the passage that in the author’s opinion, scientific research today is chiefly impaired by the
A. influence of the academic institutions with which scientists are affiliated
B. overabundance of information available to scientists in the Internet age
C. pressure on scientists to make their outcomes socially acceptable
D. operation of economic forces potentially hostile to the common good
Sherry Turkle of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been writing about human-technology interactions for the past three decades. She has become increasingly wary of the capacity of online spaces to fulfill us in the ways we seem to want them to. According to Turkle, part of the problem with the internet is that it encourages self-invention. “At the screen,” she writes in *Alone Together* (2011), “you have a chance to write yourself into the person you want to be and to imagine others as you wish them to be, constructing them for your purposes. It’s a seductive but dangerous habit of mind.”


18. The main purpose of the passage is to
   A. evaluate conflicting assessments
   B. present a sharp critique
   C. propose a necessary remedy
   D. provide background details

19. Deciding that none of the nominees was ____________ the award, the film committee began reviewing a new group of candidates with better qualifications.
   A. known for
   B. pleased with
   C. worthy of
   D. interested in

20. Nuclear engineer Meena Mutyala argues that nuclear power is an environmentally ____________ technology, operating with essentially no emissions.
   A. lavish
   B. culpable
   C. antagonistic
   D. benign

Directions for questions 19-20

The following sentence has a blank indicating that something has been left out. Beneath the sentence are four words or phrases. Choose the word or phrase that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Deciding that none of the nominees was ____________ the award, the film committee began reviewing a new group of candidates with better qualifications.

A. known for
B. pleased with
C. worthy of
D. interested in
## ACCUPLACER Next-Generation Reading Sample Questions

### Answer Key

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The Five-Paragraph Essay

Essay

Writing Sample
Students are required to write an essay responding to one of two topics. You should express your thoughts clearly and organize your ideas so that they will make sense to a reader. Your essay should be well developed with many specific details. Correct grammar and sentence structure are important. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic.

Introduction:
Introductory Paragraph
Begin the first paragraph of your essay with a topic sentence that expresses the main point of your essay, the thesis statement, a kind of mini-outline for the essay; it tells the reader what the essay is about. For the second sentence write a subordinate sentence about one of the main points supporting the topic sentence of the essay. The third sentence write a second subordinate sentence about another main point supporting the topic sentence of the essay. Finish the first paragraph with a concluding or summary sentence. It must also contain a transitional “hook” which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the essay.

Body:
Body – First Paragraph:
The first paragraph of the body should contain the strongest argument, most significant example, cleverest illustration, or an obvious beginning point. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the “reverse hook” which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the introductory paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional hook to tie the second paragraph of the body.

Body – Second Paragraph:
The second paragraph of the body should contain the second strongest argument, second most significant example, second cleverest illustration, or an obvious follow up the first paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the paragraph of the body. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional hook to tie into the third paragraph of the body.

Body – Third Paragraph:
The third paragraph of the body should contain the weakest argument, weakest example, weakest illustration, or an obvious follow up to the second paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the second paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional concluding hook that signals the reader that this is the final major point being made in the essay. This hook also leads in to the last, or concluding, paragraph.
Conclusion:

Concluding Paragraph

Finish the essay with a summary paragraph that covers all main topic points. This paragraph should include the following:

1. an allusion to the pattern used in the introductory paragraph,
2. a restatement of the thesis statement, using some of the original language or language the “echoes” the original language. (The restatement, however, must not be a duplicate thesis statement.)
3. a summary of the three main points from the body of the essay.
4. a final statement that gives the reader signals that the discussion has come to an end. (This final statement may be a “call to action” in an persuasive essay.)
Note: QCC does not use the College Board Accuplacer for math. We have developed our own test (QMAT). These sample problems have been reviewed by our math faculty and found to be appropriate for students to study.

Arithmetic Sample Questions

For each of the questions below, choose the best answer from the four choices given. You may use the paper you received as scratch paper.

1. \(2.75 + .003 + .158 =\)
   A. 4.36
   B. 2.911
   C. 0.436
   D. 2.938

2. \(7.86 \times 4.6 =\)
   A. 36.156
   B. 36.216
   C. 351.56
   D. 361.56

3. \(\frac{7}{20} =\)
   A. 0.035
   B. 0.858
   C. 0.35
   D. 3.5

4. Which of the following is the least?
   A. 0.105
   B. 0.501
   C. 0.015
   D. 0.15

5. All of the following are ways to write 25 percent of \(N\) EXCEPT
   A. 0.25 \(N\)
   B. \(\frac{25N}{100}\)
   C. \(\frac{1}{4} \cdot N\)
   D. 25 \(N\)

6. Which of the following is closest to 27.8 \(\times 9.6\)?
   A. 280
   B. 300
   C. 2,800
   D. 3,000

7. A soccer team played 160 games and won 65 percent of them. How many games did it win?
   A. 94
   B. 104
   C. 114
   D. 124
8. Three people who work full-time are to work together on a project, but their total time on the project is to be equivalent to that of only one person working full-time. If one of the people is budgeted for one-half of his time to the project and a second person for one-third of her time, what part of the third worker’s time should be budgeted to this project?

A. \(\frac{1}{6}\)  
B. \(\frac{3}{5}\)  
C. \(\frac{1}{6}\)  
D. \(\frac{1}{8}\)

9. 32 is 40 percent of what number?

A. 12.8  
B. 128  
C. 80  
D. 800

10. \(3\frac{1}{3} - 2\frac{2}{5} = \)

A. \(1\frac{1}{2}\)  
B. \(1\frac{3}{5}\)  
C. \(\frac{14}{15}\)  
D. \(1\frac{1}{5}\)

11. \(2\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{2}{3} = \)

A. \(6\frac{1}{6}\)  
B. \(6\frac{5}{6}\)  
C. \(7\frac{1}{6}\)  
D. \(7\frac{5}{6}\)

12. What is \(\frac{1.345}{99}\) rounded to the nearest integer?

A. 12  
B. 13  
C. 14  
D. 15

13. Three of four numbers have a sum of 22. If the average of the four numbers is 8, what is the fourth number?

A. 4  
B. 6  
C. 8  
D. 10

14. \(46.2 \times 10^{-2} = \)

A. 0.0462  
B. 0.462  
C. 4.62  
D. 462

15. If \(\frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = n\), then \(n\) is between

A. 1 and 3  
B. 3 and 5  
C. 5 and 7  
D. 7 and 9

16. What is 12% of 120?

A. 10  
B. 14.4  
C. 18.4  
D. 28.8

17. A box in a college bookstore contains books, and each book in the box is a history book, an English book or a science book. If one-third of these books are history books and one-sixth are English books, what fraction of the books are science books?

A. \(\frac{1}{3}\)  
B. \(\frac{1}{2}\)  
C. \(\frac{2}{3}\)  
D. \(\frac{3}{4}\)

18. The measures of two angles of a triangle are 35° and 45°. What is the measure of the third angle of the triangle?

A. 95°  
B. 100°  
C. 105°  
D. 110°
19. Erica bought \( \frac{3}{2} \) yards of fabric. If she uses \( \frac{2}{3} \) of the fabric to make a curtain, how much will she have left?

A. \( \frac{1}{6} \) yd.
B. \( \frac{1}{3} \) yd.
C. \( \frac{1}{2} \) yd.
D. \( \frac{2}{3} \) yd.

20. Jen wants to tile the floor of her kitchen. The floor is rectangular and measures 12 feet by 8 feet. If it costs $2.50 per square foot for the materials, what is the total cost of the materials for tiling the kitchen floor?

A. $160
B. $200
C. $220
D. $240

Elementary Algebra

A total of 12 questions of three types are administered in this test.

- The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- The second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- The third type of question involves translating written phrases into algebraic expressions and solving equations, inequalities, word problems, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations (by factoring), and verbal problems presented in an algebraic context.
7. \( \frac{4 - (-6)}{-5} = \)
   A. \( \frac{2}{5} \)
   B. \( -\frac{2}{5} \)
   C. \( 2 \)
   D. \( -2 \)

8. If \( 2x - 3(x + 4) = -5 \), then \( x = \)
   A. \( 7 \)
   B. \( -7 \)
   C. \( 17 \)
   D. \( -17 \)

9. \( -3(5 - 6) - 4(2 - 3) = \)
   A. \( -7 \)
   B. \( 7 \)
   C. \( -1 \)
   D. \( 1 \)

10. Which of the following expressions is equivalent to \( 20 - \frac{4}{5} x \geq 16? \)
    A. \( x \leq 5 \)
    B. \( x \geq 5 \)
    C. \( x \geq 32\frac{1}{2} \)
    D. \( x \leq 32\frac{1}{2} \)

11. Which of the following lists of numbers is ordered from least to greatest?
    A. \( \frac{1}{3}, -\frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{5} \)
    B. \( -\frac{3}{5}, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{2}{3} \)
    C. \( \frac{1}{3}, -\frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{5} \)
    D. \( -\frac{3}{5}, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{5} \)

12. If \( 5t + 2 = 6 \), then \( t = \)
    A. \( 8 \)
    B. \( \frac{5}{4} \)
    C. \( \frac{4}{5} \)
    D. \( -8 \)

13. For which of the following equations are \( x = 5 \) and \( x = -5 \) both solutions?
    A. \( x^2 - x^2 - 5x - 25 = 0 \)
    B. \( x^2 + 25 = 0 \)
    C. \( x^2 + 10x - 25 = 0 \)
    D. \( x^2 - 25 = 0 \)

14. If \( x \neq 0 \), then \( \frac{u}{x} + \frac{5u}{x} - \frac{u}{5x} = \)
    A. \( \frac{7x}{5u} \)
    B. \( \frac{5u}{7x} \)
    C. \( \frac{29u}{5x} \)
    D. \( \frac{31u}{5x} \)

15. The solution set of which of the following inequalities is graphed on the number line above?
    A. \( 2x - 4 \geq -3 \)
    B. \( 2x + 5 \leq 6 \)
    C. \( 3x - 1 \leq 5 \)
    D. \( 4x - 1 \geq 7 \)

16. \( 2x + 6y = 5 \)
    \( x + 3y = 2 \)
    How many solutions \( (x, y) \) are there to the system of equations above?
    A. None
    B. One
    C. Two
    D. More than two

17. Which of the following is a factor of both \( x^2 - x - 6 \) and \( x^2 - 5x + 6 \)?
    A. \( x - 3 \)
    B. \( x + 3 \)
    C. \( x - 2 \)
    D. \( x + 2 \)
18. \( \frac{10x^6 + 8x^4}{2x^2} = \)

A. \( 9x^{12} \)
B. \( 14x^4 \)
C. \( 5x^4 + 4x^2 \)
D. \( 5x^3 + 2x^2 \)

19. A rectangular yard has area 96 square feet. If the width of the yard is 4 feet less than the length, what is the perimeter, in feet, of the yard?

A. 40
B. 44
C. 48
D. 52

20. On Monday, it took Helen 3 hours to do a page of science homework exercises. The next day she did the same number of exercises in 2 hours. If her average rate on Monday was \( p \) exercises per hour, what was her average rate the next day, in terms of \( p \)?

A. \( 2(p + 1) \) exercises per hour
B. \( 3(p - 1) \) exercises per hour
C. \( \frac{2}{3}p \) exercises per hour
D. \( \frac{3}{2}p \) exercises per hour

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**College-Level Mathematics Test**

The College-Level Mathematics test measures your ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. There are six content areas measured on this test: (a) Algebraic Operations, (b) Solutions of Equations and Inequalities, (c) Coordinate Geometry, (d) Applications and other Algebra Topics, (e) Functions and (f) Trigonometry.

The Algebraic Operations content area includes the simplification of rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents. The Solutions of Equations and Inequalities content area includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, and other algebraic equations. The Coordinate Geometry content area presents questions involving plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions. The Functions content area includes questions involving polynomial, algebraic, exponential and logarithmic functions. The Trigonometry content area includes trigonometric functions. The Applications and other Algebra Topics content area contains complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, factorials, and word problems. A total of 20 questions are administered on this test.

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**Sample Questions**

For each of the questions below, choose the best answer from the four choices given. You may use the paper you received as scratch paper.

1. \( 2^7 - 2^3 \)

A. \( 2^7 \)
B. 2
C. \( 2^5 \)
D. \( 2^4 \)
E. \( 2^4 \)
2. If \( a \neq b \) and \( \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{b} \), then \( x = \) 
   A. \( \frac{1}{b} - \frac{1}{a} \) 
   B. \( b - a \) 
   C. \( \frac{1}{ab} \) 
   D. \( \frac{a - b}{ab} \) 
   E. \( \frac{ab}{a - b} \) 

3. If \( 3x^2 - 2x + 7 = 0 \), then \( \left( x - \frac{1}{3} \right)^2 = \) 
   A. \( \frac{20}{9} \) 
   B. \( \frac{7}{9} \) 
   C. \( -\frac{7}{9} \) 
   D. \( -\frac{8}{9} \) 
   E. \( \frac{20}{9} \) 

4. The graph of which of the following equations is a straight line parallel to the graph of \( y = 2x \)? 
   A. \( 4x - y = 4 \) 
   B. \( 2x - 2y = 2 \) 
   C. \( 2x - y = 4 \) 
   D. \( 2x + y = 2 \) 
   E. \( x - 2y = 4 \) 

5. An equation of the line that contains the origin and the point \((1, 2)\) is 
   A. \( y = 2x \) 
   B. \( 2y = x \) 
   C. \( y = x - 1 \) 
   D. \( y = 2x + 1 \) 
   E. \( \frac{y}{2} = x - 1 \) 

6. An apartment building contains 12 units consisting of one- and two-bedroom apartments that rent for \$360 and \$450 per month, respectively. When all units are rented, the total monthly rental is \$4,950. What is the number of two-bedroom apartments? 
   A. 3 
   B. 4 
   C. 5 
   D. 6 
   E. 7 

7. If the two square regions in the figures below have the respective areas indicated in square yards, how many yards of fencing are needed to enclose the two regions? 
   \[ \text{Area of square region 1: 125 square yards} \] 
   \[ \text{Area of square region 2: 5 square yards} \] 
   A. \( 4\sqrt{130} \) 
   B. \( 20\sqrt{10} \) 
   C. \( 24\sqrt{5} \) 
   D. 100 
   E. 104\( \sqrt{5} \) 

8. If \( \log_{10}x = 3 \), then \( x = \) 
   A. \( 3^{10} \) 
   B. 1,000 
   C. 30 
   D. \( \frac{10}{3} \) 
   E. \( \frac{3}{10} \) 

9. If \( f(x) = 2x + 1 \) and \( g(x) = \frac{x - 1}{2} \), then \( f(g(x)) = \) 
   A. \( x \) 
   B. \( \frac{x - 1}{4x + 2} \) 
   C. \( \frac{4x + 2}{x - 1} \) 
   D. \( \frac{5x + 1}{2} \) 
   E. \( \frac{(2x + 1)(x - 1)}{2} \) 

10. If \( \theta \) is an acute angle and \( \sin \theta = \frac{1}{2} \), then \( \cos \theta = \) 
    A. -1 
    B. 0 
    C. \( \frac{1}{2} \) 
    D. \( \sqrt{3} \) 
    E. 2 

11. \( 5y(2y - 3) + (2y - 3) = \) 
    A. \( (5y + 1)(2y + 3) \) 
    B. \( (5y + 1)(2y - 3) \) 
    C. \( (5y - 1)(2y + 3) \) 
    D. \( (5y - 1)(2y - 3) \) 
    E. \( 10y(2y - 3) \) 

12. For what real numbers \( x \) is \( x^2 - 6x + 9 \) negative? 
    A. \(-3 < x < 3\) 
    B. \( x < -3 \) or \( x > 3 \) 
    C. \( x = -3 \) or \( x = 3 \) 
    D. \( 0 < x < 6 \) 
    E. For no real numbers \( x \)
13. A root of \(x^2 - 5x - 1 = 0\) is
   
   A. \(\frac{1 - \sqrt{29}}{2}\)  
   B. \(\frac{5 - \sqrt{17}}{2}\)  
   C. \(\frac{1 + \sqrt{29}}{2}\)  
   D. \(\frac{5 + \sqrt{17}}{2}\)  
   E. \(\frac{5 + \sqrt{29}}{2}\)

14. In the xy-plane, the graph of \(y = x^2\) and the circle with center (0,1) and radius 3 have how many points of intersection?
   
   A. None  
   B. One  
   C. Two  
   D. Three  
   E. More than three

15. If an equation of the linear function in the figure above is \(y = mx + b\), then \(m = \)
   
   A. \(-\frac{r}{s}\)  
   B. \(\frac{r}{s}\)  
   C. \(rs\)  
   D. \(r\)  
   E. \(-s\)

16. One ordering of the letters T, U, V and W from left to right is UTWV. What is the total number of orderings of these letters from left to right, including UTWV?
   
   A. 8  
   B. 12  
   C. 16  
   D. 20  
   E. 24

17. If \(f(x) = \frac{3x - 1}{2}\) and \(f^{-1}\) is the inverse of \(f\), what is the value of \(f^{-1}(3)\)?
   
   A. \(\frac{1}{3}\)  
   B. \(\frac{2}{3}\)  
   C. 1  
   D. 2  
   E. 7 \(\frac{1}{3}\)

18. The sequence \(\{a_n\}\) is defined by \(a_0 = 1\) and \(a_{n+1} = 2a_n + 2\) for \(n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots\). What is the value of \(a_3\)?
   
   A. 8  
   B. 10  
   C. 16  
   D. 20  
   E. 22

19. From 5 employees at a company, a group of 3 employees will be chosen to work on a project. How many different groups of 3 employees can be chosen?
   
   A. 3  
   B. 5  
   C. 6  
   D. 10  
   E. 15

20. If \(f(x) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^x\) and \(a < b\), which of the following must be true?
   
   A. \(f(a) + f(b) = 3\)  
   B. \(f(a) + \frac{1}{3} = f(b)\)  
   C. \(f(a) = f(b)\)  
   D. \(f(a) < f(b)\)  
   E. \(f(a) > f(b)\)
### Answer Key

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Resources for studying for the math placement test:

- **Math Boot Camps** are free workshops offered by the QCC Math Department. They are designed to refresh students’ math skills in order to prepare for success in math placement testing and college mathematics.

  Go to The Q for additional information: [https://theq.qcc.edu/ics](https://theq.qcc.edu/ics)

  Link to Math Boot Camp registration:
  [http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/pub/mathBootCamp/frm.asp](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/pub/mathBootCamp/frm.asp)

- **Three booklets for self-study** are available in the **Math Center** (206 HLC). They review topics from the following QCC courses: Basic Mathematics - MAT 090 (to place into MAT 095), Beginning Algebra - MAT 095 (to place into MAT 099) and Intermediate Algebra - MAT 099 (to place into MAT 100). The booklets include brief explanations and practice problems with solutions. Please drop-in for copies.

- **The QCC Math Department YouTube channel** is an excellent resource for math placement test questions. Go to: [http://www.youtube.com/user/QCCmath](http://www.youtube.com/user/QCCmath) click on the course, look for the topic and watch informative videos by QCC faculty.

- **Additional practice placement test material** and resources (including a free app) can be found at: [https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/](https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/)

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**QCC also offers TEAS review courses.** Information can be found at the Workforce Development and Continuing Education website:


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**Math Center**  
Quinsigamond Community College  
206 HLC (Harrington Learning Center)  
[www.QCC.edu/math](http://www.QCC.edu/math)  
Updated May 2018
www.youtube.com/QCCmath

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- Beginning Algebra
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- Intermediate Algebra
- Probability and Statistics for
- College Algebra
  Scientists & Engineers
- Statistics
- Calculus I

Instructors
Link your students to homework help videos and view training videos.

→ Get help when you’re stuck with homework.
→ Prepare for finals.
→ Find your instructor’s youtube channel in “Featured Channels”
→ More courses coming soon!

For more information contact:
Professor Ulises Poyser
upoyyser@qcc.mass.edu
Placement Testing - Study Tips and Information

1. **Study and review before the test:**
   - [www.QCC.edu/placement-testing](http://www.QCC.edu/placement-testing) - Read “Prepare for the test.” Review the Placement Test Study Guide and the Five Paragraph Essay documents.
   - [https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice](https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice) - Select Next Generation Reading, Next Generation Writing (which we call Sentence), and WritePlacer Guide.
   - [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) - You will find videos here for learning math and many other subjects.
   - [https://www.studyguidezone.com/images/accuplacerteststudyguide.pdf](https://www.studyguidezone.com/images/accuplacerteststudyguide.pdf) - Though based on the older version of Accuplacer, the information here is still very useful.

2. **Schedule your studying** for your most alert time of day.

3. **Get plenty of rest and eat** a well-balanced meal before your test.

4. **Relax!** The placement tests are designed to help you succeed in college. Once you identify your academic strengths and needs, you can get the help you need to improve underdeveloped skills.

5. **Make sure you understand the directions** for each test before that test session begins.

6. **Ask questions** if you don’t understand what to do.

7. **If you do not know the answer** to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices.

8. **Keep a positive attitude** while testing.

9. **Accuplacer (English) is an adaptive test.** Questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. The test stops after a certain number of questions. QMAT (math) is different. You progress from one section to another, depending on your score in the previous section. The test stops after you finish a section in which your course placement has been determined. After either test, you will receive your test scores when you finish testing; the only exception may be your score for the essay. If you receive a “pending” comment, we will receive your essay score 24 hours later.

10. **The tests are untimed.** Math usually takes less than an hour. English usually takes 2-3 hours. You may need to schedule two appointments to complete all the tests.
   - To schedule an appointment, visit [www.QCC.edu/testing](http://www.QCC.edu/testing) or call 508.854.2784.

11. **Remember to bring a picture ID to the test.**