



Ability To Benefit ASSET Practice Test

To be eligible for Federal financial aid, some students are required to take an “Ability to Benefit” test. The Financial Aid office (848-4727) can determine if you must take this test. The test used at Gavilan College is the ASSET test by ACT. The test consists of three sections: Writing Skills, Reading Skills, and Numerical Skills. All three sections are objective multiple-choice tests lasting 25 minutes each. There is no “guessing penalty” so students should attempt to answer every question correctly even if uncertain about which answer is the best. On the next page are sample questions for each section of the test. It is important to review these questions and study if necessary to pass this exam. Other colleges also have practice tests on their websites:

<http://www.pickens.tec.ga.us/sserv/asset.htm>

<http://mil.ccc.cccd.edu/assessment.htm>

<http://www.kvvc.net/Website/Frames/WebSiteData/ProspectiveStudents/HowToEnroll/hteasset.htm>

http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/eddev/students/course_placement/PREPARIN.html

These web sites have not been reviewed for accuracy and are only supplied for your information.

Passing scores are as follows:

Writing Skills = 35

Reading Skills = 35

Numerical Skills = 33

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Sample Assessment Questions
Writing Skills

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Study the underlined sections in the following passage. For each underlined section, decide whether or not a change is required to make the section grammatically correct. If no change is necessary, mark the “no change” option as your answer. If a change is necessary, study the options available and choose the correct one.

“When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said in a rather a scornful tone, “It means just what I
1
choose it to mean – neither more nor less.

“The question is,” said Alice, “whether you can makes words mean different things.”
2

“The question is,” said Humpty Dumpty, “which is to be master -- that's all.”
3

1. A) No Change B) tone. “It C) tone; “it D) tone, “it	2. A) No Change B) can make C) does make D) does makes	3. A) No Change B) thats all.” C) thats’ all.” D) that all.”
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Answers: 1. C 2. B 3. A

Sample Assessment Questions Reading Skills

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Read the passage and then choose the best answer to the questions that follow.

A town is a thing like a colonial animal. A town has a nervous system and a head and shoulders and feet. A town is a thing separate from all other towns, so that there are no two towns alike. And a town has a whole emotion. How news travels through a town is a mystery not easily to be solved. News seems to move faster than small boys can scramble and dart to tell it, faster than women can call it over the fences.

Before Kino and Juana and the other fishers had come to Kino's brush house, the nerves of the town were pulsing and vibrating with the news—Kino had found the Pearl of the World. Before panting little boys could strangle out the words, their mothers knew it. The news swept on past the brush houses, and it washed in a foaming wave into the town of stone and plaster.

1. This story most likely takes place:
 - A. in a desert
 - B. in a high mountain village
 - C. near the ocean
 - D. on a distant planet

2. The author's comparison of a town to a colonial animal most likely is intended to:
 - A. show that towns are living creatures
 - B. suggest that people in towns are closely associated
 - C. state that towns people are untamed and wild
 - D. make a political statement about colonialism

3. In the last sentence of the first paragraph, the word *scramble* most likely means:
 - A. to run quickly
 - B. to beat an egg
 - C. to mix up
 - D. to crawl slowly

4. Kino and Juana are probably:
 - A. farmers
 - B. fisher folk
 - C. factory workers
 - D. weavers

5. The news that Kino and Juana had was:
 - A. ordinary
 - B. mundane
 - C. tragic
 - D. exciting

Answers: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. D

Sample Assessment Questions Numerical Skills

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Solve each problem, choose the correct answer, and then fill in the corresponding space on your answer sheet. For some questions, the fifth choice for an answer will be “Not given.” Whenever none of the first 4 possible answers is correct, choose “Not given” as your answer. You are not permitted to use any type of calculator on the numeric skills assessment.

1. $8 \times \frac{3}{4} = ?$

- A. $\frac{24}{32}$
- B. $\frac{3}{32}$
- C. 5
- D. 6
- E. 10

2. $10.2 - 2.001 = ?$

- A. 8.199
- B. 8.21
- C. 8.201
- D. 7.1
- E. 12.201

3. $7 \div \frac{1}{4} = ?$

- A. $7\frac{1}{4}$
- B. $6\frac{3}{4}$
- C. 28
- D. $\frac{1}{11}$
- E. $\frac{7}{4}$

4. 8% of 25 = ?

- A. .02
- B. .2
- C. 2
- D. 20
- E. 200

5. A worker who earns \$10 an hour received a 5% raise last week. She also gets paid overtime at 1.5 times her hourly rate for every hour worked over 8 hours of work in a day. If she works 10 hours today, how much will she earn?

- A. \$115.50
- B. \$114.00
- C. \$110.00
- D. \$100.00
- E. Not given

Answers: 1. D 2. A 3. C 4. C 5. A