

ACCUPLACER STUDY GUIDE

Computer Delivered Testing

The Computerized Placement Tests (CPT) use testing methods based on computerized adaptive testing techniques. You will take the tests using a personal computer. You will communicate with the computer by using the keyboard or mouse to enter your answers to the tests and to supply other information. A monitor connected to the computer will allow you to see the instructions, questions, multiple choice response options, your responses, and other information presented to you. The test instructions are easy to understand. Entering information also is very easy. A Test Administrator will always be present should you have any questions or problems. The Test Administrator has the ability to resolve difficulties that may occur.

Answering the Questions

Because you take the CPTs on a computer, you don't have to answer as many questions as on traditional paper and pencil tests. You will be presented with from 12 to 20 questions in one or more of the four test areas. The questions will appear one at a time on the computer screen. Most questions are multiple choice. When you have completed the question and verified your answer, a new screen will appear with your next question.

Adaptive Testing

We have found that each test usually takes students 15 to 20 minutes to complete. However, you may take as long as you need to complete each test. The tests are untimed. Each test is designed using adaptive techniques. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique "zeroes-in" on just the right questions to ask you without being too easy or too difficult. The greater your demonstrated skill level, the more challenging will be the questions presented to you.

Starting to Test

A message will display when the tests are about to start. For example, the message might read:

READING COMPREHENSION TEST

This test measures your ability to understand what you read. Press ENTER to continue.

Every test will be preceded by several sample questions that will familiarize you with the types of questions in that particular test. These sample questions are not scored. When you have completed these, you will continue with the actual test questions. You are shown the correct response for the sample questions only.

Guessing

You should understand that this is an adaptive test. Questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. Because the test works this way, you **must** answer every question when it is first given. You cannot omit any question or

come back later to change an answer. You may change your answer on a particular question; you must do so before continuing on to the following question. If you do not, the answer is accepted and you **cannot** return to the question. If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices. Then pick one of the remaining choices.

Description of the Tests

Reading Comprehension

This test is designed to measure how well you understand what you read. Some are of the sentence relationship type in which you must choose how two sentences are related. Other questions refer to reading passages of various lengths. Some passages are 75 words in length, while others are longer.

Arithmetic

This test measures your skills in three primary categories. The first is operations with whole numbers and fractions. This includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. The second category involves operations with decimals and percents. It includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as well as percent problems, decimal recognition, fraction and percent equivalencies, and estimation problems. The last category involves applications and problem solving. Questions include rate, percent, and measurement problems, geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

Sample Questions

Sample questions are shown below for each of the CPTs explained above. Those presented cover only a few of the areas covered by each test. The correct answers are shown on the last page.

Sample Questions for Reading Comprehension

Question 1: Narrative Question

Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

There are two types of pottery that I do. There is production pottery- mugs, tableware, the kinds of things that sell easily. These pay for my time to do the other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.

The author of the passage implies that:

- (A) artists have a tendency to waste valuable time
- (B) creativity and mass-production are incompatible
- (C) most people do not appreciate good art
- (D) pottery is not produced by creative artists

Question 2: Sentence Relationships Question

Two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in fifteen years.

Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

- (A) It restates the idea found in the first.
- (B) It states an effect.
- (C) It gives an example.
- (D) It analyzes the statement made in the first.

Sample Questions for Arithmetic

Solve the following problems and choose your answer from the alternatives given.

Question 1:

All of the following are ways to write 20 percent of N EXCEPT

- (A) $0.2N$
- (B) $20/100N$
- (C) $1/5N$
- (D) $20N$

Question 2:

Which of the following is closest to $\sqrt{10.5}$?

- (A) 3
- (B) 4
- (C) 5
- (D) 8

Question 3:

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ of his time to the project and a second person for $\frac{1}{3}$ of her time, what part of the third worker's time should be budgeted to this project?

- (A) $\frac{1}{3}$
- (B) $\frac{1}{4}$
- (C) $\frac{1}{6}$
- (D) $\frac{1}{8}$

Answers to the Sample Questions

Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. B

Arithmetic

1. D
2. A
3. C

GREEN BAY AREA STEAMFITTER JOINT APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE

JOB ENTRY INFORMATION: STEAMFITTER TRADE

OCCUPATIONAL DESCRIPTION

Steamfitters install and maintain pipes and piping systems. These systems often run at high pressure. They supply power for heating and cooling, and for moving oil, chemicals, and other liquids and gases. Steamfitters install such systems in apartment houses, schools, office buildings, and power plants. High pressure piping is also used in plants like dairies or paper mills. Using blueprints, work orders, and building layouts, steamfitters plan their work. They select the kinds of pipes and equipment needed. With hand or power tools, they cut, bend, thread, weld, solder and braze the pipes. Steamfitters also connect the pipes, install valves, gauges, and other controls. They test the system for leaks and make final adjustments.

Steamfitters work for plumbing and pipefitting contractors. They work mainly at new building sites. Often they do maintenance work for governments and utilities. Some steamfitters work in the oil, chemical, and food processing industries.

Most steamfitters work 40 hours per week. Overtime may be required. The work is active and strenuous. It involves much standing and occasionally working in cramped spaces.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES CITED BY WORKERS

Steamfitters find satisfaction in completing a job "well done". They like working on their own much of the time. They say the work is varied and often challenging. Good pay is also another benefit. Drawbacks they mention are working in very hot or cold weather, some dirty working conditions, and very strenuous labor.

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM?

Apprenticeship is a period of training after high school that combines practical, on-the-job experience with in-school training.

Each year less than one-third of those that apply ever make it into the program. Those who do make it, however, are proven craftspeople who become a part of a vital industry that is critical to the well being of our community.

METHODS OF ENTRY

The preferred method of entry is a steamfitter apprenticeship. This involves a written agreement or contract. The employer agrees to provide on-the-job training and classroom training. The apprenticeship is currently a five (5) year program. Sometimes, persons learn by working several years as helpers to experienced steamfitters. Most jobs are filled through union hiring halls.

WHO MAY APPLY

Any person who has completed high school or its equivalency may apply. Due to the nature of the work and the environment in which it is performed, each prospective applicant should fairly assess his or her motives and abilities before applying.

APPLICANT FILES

Applicant files are maintained in the Mechanical Contractors Association office indefinitely as long as the applicant submits written correspondence to the office on an annual basis stating their continued interest in becoming a steamfitter apprentice. When this correspondence is not received, the applicant's file will become inactive. Should an applicant whose file is inactive have renewed interest in becoming an apprentice, he or she may reapply and follow the same procedure as a new applicant.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

The Steamfitter committee is not an employer and in no way does it offer or assure employment as a Steamfitter Apprentice to those who have filed applications with it and been interviewed by it. As a result of the interview, the committee provides the applicant with a "Letter of Introduction". Without this letter, it is doubtful that an employer will take the time to talk with a person seeking employment as a Steamfitter Apprentice.

With the "Letter of Introduction", the applicant may seek employment with any of the Mechanical Contractors who are operating within the jurisdictional area of Local 400.

Appleton Area Steamfitters' JAC: The counties of Waupaca and Outagamie, Northwest Section of Calumet (North of city of Stockbridge and West of Highway 57), Northeast section of Winnebago (East of Highway 76, as far South as County Trunk G)

East Central Wisconsin Steamfitters' JAC: Counties of Adams, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Waushara, Winnebago (except N.E. Section East of Highway 76 and North of County Trunk G) Dodge County except Watertown, Southwest quadrant of Calumet (including the city of Kiel):

Green Bay Area Steamfitters' JAC: Wisconsin counties of Brown, East ½ of Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, and Oconto:

The employment decision rests with the employer unless the Committee is required by goals and timetables to contract with either a female or minority applicant.

When an employer decides to hire an applicant, the firm files an application to contract with an apprentice and the committee. The committee, the employer, and the applicant meet for an interview. If the contract is acceptable to all parties, the Committee submits the contract to the State Department of Workforce Development for its approval.

The new applicant may begin working for the employer as a Steamfitter Apprentice while awaiting the approval by the Bureau.

8/25/04

Sf umbrella

Job entry info Green Bay