

Accuplacer Test Prep Video Transcript

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- Hi! Welcome to the El Centro College Online Accuplacer Prep Workshop.
- This workshop will take about 30 minutes to complete.
- Be sure to pay close attention. At the end, you will have to take a short quiz where you must correctly answer 80 percent of questions asked. After passing the quiz, you will need to print out your results and bring them to the advising Center, where you can get your test referral, which will be necessary to take the Accuplacer, once you have prepared. Let's get started!

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- This workshop is designed to explain what the Accuplacer assessment is
- why it's important
- what information you can expect to be tested on
- and identify ways that you can prepare before taking it. So before we go into all of the details—it might help you to understand how the Accuplacer works if we compare it to something a little more familiar...let's use football, as an example.

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- NFL hopefuls go to what is called a Scouting Combine to have their football skills assessed.
- Their goal is to do as well as possible in all skills so that they can place as high as possible in the NFL draft.

- They take this test of their skills very seriously, since it can seriously impact their future football career.

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- Players are tested for all sorts of skills
- each of them being equally important for professional football success.

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- They try their best on all of them. Some players put forth their best effort..
- but some don't focus...
- and end up being unhappy with their effort.

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- The Accuplacer is your "NFL Scouting Combine". In other words, this is an assessment that will test you on skills that you already have. It's important to put forth your best effort so that you can place as high as possible in your course level...
- when you start school, here at El Centro.

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- Your scores on the Accuplacer determine your skill level in reading, writing and math. These scores will determine which courses you are prepared to take.
- This chart shows all of the different placement levels that a student may place in after taking the Accuplacer. All of the classes starting with letter “D” are what we call Developmental courses. Developmental courses are designed to build your skills so that you are able to eventually progress to college level work. After completing a sequence of developmental courses, students are ready to begin taking college level courses. Let’s use football again to look at it another way.

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- Sometimes even when you do your very best on the Accuplacer, you may not place into college level courses at the start.
- You might end up in a situation a little closer to this guy’s...

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- Tony Romo went to the NFL Scouting Combine and put forth his best effort,
- and while he didn’t initially get drafted, he did get noticed by the coaches and ended up getting a football contract with the Cowboys anyway.
- At first, he didn’t “start”. Just like you might not “start” at college level courses.

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- But Tony kept working hard
- and eventually he got to play.
- Keep working hard if you need to go through developmental courses. You will get to college-level classes.

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- Now...sometimes Tony struggled. Sometime's he'd drop the ball...
- Again...
- And Again
- And Again

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- He may have even got a little down about his performance,
- but he got support from his teammates.
- Sometimes...a little too much
- If you feel like you are struggling in any class, be sure to use support services like free campus tutoring available in the Learning Center to help you make it through.

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- Sometimes Tony got distracted by outside things, as well...
- Make sure you stay focused on your classes.

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- In the end Tony persevered and has become a good quarterback.

- If you have to take developmental courses, keep working hard and you'll get to college level and soon be on your way to your goals.

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- Tony Romo's success started with a good performance at the NFL Combine. If he hadn't taken the combine seriously, it would have affected his career.
- Be sure to take the accuplacer seriously. It affects your placement into classes, your time and your money (\$135 per 3-hour class).

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- Let's look at some of the details of the Accuplacer.
- It is very important that you understand that the Accuplacer is not a "pass or fail" type of exam.
- In fact, it's impossible to "fail" the Accuplacer,
- Because the test is designed to place you at the level of course work, where you are best able to learn. So no matter where you place on the exam, El Centro advisors can help in selecting the best courses for you.

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- Except for the writing section, the Accuplacer is untimed. Most first-time test takers easily complete the Accuplacer within 4-5 hours.
- The entire test is computerized. It is not a paper and pencil test—even for the writing section.

- You will be provided with a computerized calculator for the parts of the math section that will allow you to use a calculator.
- The only thing that you need to bring with you on test day is a Photo ID.
- The place where you will take your exam is the Testing Center, located in room A-067.

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- All portions of the test are multiple choice, except for the essay.
- The Accuplacer is an adaptive test. That means that the difficulty of each question will depend on how you answered the previous question. The more questions that you answer correctly, the more challenging the questions will become.
- Because the test is designed this way, for all multiple choice questions, you MUST submit an answer in order to move on to the next question. You cannot go back to previous questions.

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- After completing the Accuplacer, it is important that you discuss your scores with an Academic Advisor. Advisors are located in room A-110. It is there in the Advising Center where someone will be able to help you interpret your scores and select classes—not the Testing Center.
- The Accuplacer may be re-taken once per semester. It is free the first time that you test. Re-tests range from \$10-\$40 within the DCCCD depending on how many sections of the test you wish to re-take. Remember that taking the test seriously, and doing your best the first time is to your greatest benefit.

- Your ACCUPLACER scores will count at any DCCCD college. They may also count at other Texas institutions.

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You may be asking yourself “Why Do I Have to Take the Accuplacer?”

- As we’ve stated before, one of the most important reasons is because the college uses Accuplacer test results to determine which level of course work you will be most successful in, so that we will place you in correct courses.
- Another reason is that It is a state legal requirement for the college.
- The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) mandates that incoming students must take a TSI approved test before starting college.
- The Accuplacer is TSI approved, but there are other approved tests as well. Other TSI approved tests include: ACT, SAT, THEA, ASSET, TAKS English Scores (Math Scores are not accepted), and COMPASS.

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Special Note on the Compass:

- We recommend that you take the COMPASS exam, instead of the Accuplacer, IF:
- Your primary language is NOT English
- OR
- You were raised with English, but have difficulty with the language.

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- Scores from this test are designed to place students in ESOL courses in listening, reading, writing and grammar in preparation for college-level courses for credit.
- For more information on the COMPASS test, contact El Centro's Advising Center: Email: eccadvising@dccd.edu, PH. 214-860-2084, or stop by and visit us in Rm. A-110.

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- Now we'll discuss what's on the Accuplacer.
- The accuplacer measures your skills in reading, writing, and math. Your writing skills are assessed in two parts, sentence structure and writing.
- Students who want to complete their CORE courses, transfer to a university, or are pursuing an associate of arts or science degree will also be assessed on their computer literacy skills.
- Please be sure to ask your academic advisor if you will be required to complete the computer literacy portion of the assessment.

- Now I'll give you some inside tips and show you a few sample problems from the reading, writing, and math sections.

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- Let's review the reading section first.

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- The reading assessment will assess your ability to understand and apply information that you read.
- The stories you will be asked to assess are usually no more than 4 sentences, but they will be packed with information.
- You may be asked to determine the main idea
- make an inference, or educated guess about the paragraph
- determine the relationship between two sentences, do they support each other, contradict each other, etc.
- You may also be asked about the author's purpose or tone of the passage
- and the meaning of words within the context of the paragraph.

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- The reading comprehension assessment is adaptive; this means you will be given certain questions based on your response to the previous question.
- The problems will become more difficult as you answer correctly and easier if you answer incorrectly.
- Reading comprehension consists of 20 multiple choice questions and is untimed.

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- Many of your questions will be phrased in this manner.

- You will need to carefully read the passage to choose the correct answer.

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- As you read the passage think about its content. Take your time to carefully read and understand the passage.
- Once you've read the passage review the question to determine what you are looking for.
- Now read the passage again and predict the answer to the question you were asked.
- Read all of your possible choices and refer back to the passage to support your answer.
- You may also use the process of elimination
- and finally select the best answer.

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- Apply the strategies we just reviewed to answer this question.
- The main idea is that students who hope to avoid math may have math anxiety. Support for this answer is found in the paragraph: 'These students (students who hope to avoid math) may be suffering from math anxiety, an overwhelming fear of the subject, rather than an intellectual impairment.'

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- In sentence relationship questions you will be asked to identify the relationship between 2 sentences. You will need to be aware of transition words and logical connections.
- These are 5 common relationships.

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- Let's take a look at this example.

- Using the process of elimination we can say that D is not the answer, these sentences do not say the same thing. We can also eliminate C. The first sentence doesn't introduce the second; the second sentence can stand alone/makes sense on its' own.
- We have 2 choices left, A and B...what do you think the correct answer is?
- The sentences contradict each other, A. The first sentence implies that Americans can easily travel the country while the second sentence states that travelling the country is severely limited.

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- Now we'll review the writing and sentence skills portion of the accuplacer.

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- Here are a few things to remember about the writing/essay portion.
- When you get to this portion of the assessment it will ask you if you want to skip this section, you do not want to skip. Your essay score combined with your sentence skills score will be required to place you in courses.
- Be sure to write multiple paragraphs, this means you'll want to start a new line and indent for each new paragraph.
- You will be prompted to write 300-600 words, there is no word count tool so count your words. We recommend writing closer to 600 words.
- The prompt will be persuasive in nature. This means you'll need to convince the reader whether you agree or disagree with the topic at hand.
- Unlike the other sections of the accuplcaer the essay is timed. You will be given 60 minutes. Use your time wisely.

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- The accuplcaer is graded by the computer.
- Your essay will be graded on focus, organization, development and support of your argument, sentence structure, and mechanics and grammar.

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- Since this section is timed you will want to use it wisely. We suggest the following.
- Take your first fifteen minutes to organize your thoughts. You will have scratch paper, jot down your ideas as they come to you.
- With the next 30 minutes type your essay without editing, get your words onto the screen in an organized manner,
- and take the last fifteen minutes to check for focus, organization, sentence structure and spelling.

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- Here are a few tips to remember when writing your essay. You can use the 5 paragraph rule, an introduction, 3 supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- In your introductory statement, use language from the prompt to create your thesis statement.
- Your 3 supporting paragraphs should be three separate and distinct reasons that support your point of view. This is where you will expand on your ideas.
- Your introduction and conclusion can be brief.

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This is a prompt that has been used on the accuplacer.

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- (CLICK)

- When writing your essay you want to first determine your point of view, do you support the idea that participation in organized sports should be mandatory or should participation be optional? This will be expressed in your introduction.
- After you've made your decision develop 3 reasons that can support your stance.
- Conclude by restating your thesis.

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- The next portion of the writing accuplacer focuses on sentence skills.
- This section is untimed. There will be 20 multiple choice questions in two formats.
- You will be asked to correct or rewrite the sentence.

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- In sentence correction questions you will be asked to replace a portion of the sentence. You may want to read the sentence with each replacement option to see which makes the most sense. This portion is untimed so take as long as you need.
- Which answer is correct?
- The correct answer is D.

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- In questions where you are asked to rewrite the sentence you will be shown a sentence and asked to rewrite a portion of it to make more sense without changing its meaning.
- This portion of the test is untimed so you may want to write out the question with each answer choice.
- The correct answer here is c. She was often interviewed because she was a female jockey makes more sense than the other choice options.

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- Now we will review the math section.

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- Similar to the reading section, the math portion of the accuplacer is adaptive. This means questions are chosen for you based on how you've answered the previous question.
- You will see one question at a time and this section is untimed so take as long as you need.
- You are not able to skip questions, so be sure to select the best answer for each problem.

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- There are three categories in the math section.
- Every student will begin by answering elementary algebra questions. Remember, the math portion of the accuplacer is adaptive;
- if you find the elementary algebra section difficult you will move on to arithmetic questions.
- If you do well in the elementary algebra section you will move on to college algebra questions.

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- The elementary algebra section consists of twelve questions.
- Those questions will cover operations with algebraic expressions and simple formulas,
- operations with integers and rational numbers,
- and translating phrases and solving equations, quadrants and inequalities. Let's take a look at some examples.

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- During the test you will be given a pencil and scratch paper. Take your time and work each problem to the best of your ability. Take a moment now to look over these problems.
- Are you feeling confident about your ability to solve these problems or a little shaky? Either way, don't worry, remember, this is not a pass or fail test, we want to see where your skill level is now so we can place you in an appropriate level math course.

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- If you found the previous problems tricky you may be moved on to arithmetic questions.
- In this section, there are seventeen questions.
- They will cover operations with whole numbers and fractions.
- operations with decimals and percents
- and applications and problem solving.

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- Let's take a look at some samples.
- We have appropriate level courses for everyone. Do your best!

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- If you felt at ease with the elementary algebra questions you may be moved on to more difficult questions covering college algebra.
- The college algebra portion consists of 20 questions.
- These questions will review algebraic operations,
- solutions of equations and inequalities,
- coordinate geometry,
- applications and other algebra topics,
- functions,
- and trigonometry.

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- Let's take a look.
- These are the types of questions you'll see on the math portion. If you feel overwhelmed after seeing the sample questions, don't worry. El Centro has classes and resources available to help you reach your highest potential.

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- Now that you are familiar with the purpose and content of the Accuplacer. Lets discuss some tips to ensure that you will be PREPARED to take the Accuplacer.
- First tip, don't rush. Although it may be tempting to rush and complete the exam to register for classes, it is in your best interest to take your time on each question.
- You don't have to take the Accuplacer the day you hear about it. The form that an advisor provides is valid for 30 days. Keep in mind for your convenience, the testing center is also open Saturdays. Next tip.
- Make sure you have enough time to take it – give yourself at least 5 hours. Don't be rushed. Except for the writing section, the ACCUPLACER is untimed.
- The average student takes between three and a half to five hours to complete the exam. However, budget enough time in your personal schedule to allow ample time to complete the exam. Also, do not park in metered parking, because it may take longer to complete than you initially planned.
- Although this exam not "pass or fail", there are certain scores that an advisor looks for to place you directly into college level classes. To ensure that the exam is an accurate reflection of your skill, take your time. Don't take the Accuplacer just to get it done; take it to place in the class that is the best fit for you.

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- The next tip may be obvious, however in addition to taking your time while taking the exam.

- Studying ahead of time will likely ensure a better score.

- If while reviewing you find that there are areas beyond your knowledge don't worry, the

Accuplacer will help advisors place you in the class where you will learn those concepts.

- There are reviews available online. You may want to take a few moments to write down the link on

the following slide

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- The advising center has a hard copy of sample problems and answers available for students.

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- Last but not least. Relax. Although it is easier said than done make sure you relax!

- Like other tests you want to make sure that you are well rested and eat before the exam.

- If you are feeling overwhelmed while taking the exam stop, take a deep breath gather your thoughts and continue.

- Also, be aware that at the beginning of each semester approaches, the testing center is busy. So if

you can get to school early to avoid long lines.

- With preparation you will do great.

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- We are happy to have you here at our college and we know you have what it takes to accomplish your goals!

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- Thank you for watching this Accuplacer Preparation video.
- You are now able to take a short quiz.
- Click on the 'Accuplacer Assessment' link below to take a quiz.
- Your results will be given at the end of the quiz.
- If you pass, please print your results and see an academic advisor for your testing referral.
- If you do not pass you will be able to take the quiz again.