



Reading Accuplacer Score and Study Guide

What is the Reading Accuplacer?

The Reading Accuplacer study guide is written for students taking the Reading Accuplacer exam. At ECC, students admitted into the school need to be placed into courses appropriately. This exam helps place students accordingly. The test assesses 4 areas: glean information from texts, text structure, making meaning from multiple texts, and vocabulary. All reading passages are either fiction or nonfiction. Students may see questions based on a single passage or based on two passages side by side that cover the same topic. This computer-based test is **untimed** and contains **20 multiple-choice questions**. The exam is also **adaptive**, meaning the difficulty of the questions change based on the test taker's previous answers. The table below outlines the content areas covered on the exam and on the Accuplacer Reading Placement study guide.

Content Area	% of Questions
Information and Ideas	35-55% (\approx 7-11 questions)
Rhetoric	35-55% (\approx 7-11 questions)
Synthesis	10% (\approx 2 questions)
Vocabulary	10-20% (\approx 2-4 questions)

What is on the test?

Information and Ideas

The information and ideas content area assesses how well students understand the material they see on the exam. Students will encounter questions that ask comprehension questions about the passages they read. These answers can either be found directly in the reading passage or be inferred using details from the text. Students will also need to demonstrate proficiency in finding the main idea of a text, or what the passage is mostly about. In this section, test takers will find questions regarding summarizing, or retelling important parts of the reading material. Students should be able to succinctly recall the information as well as put it into the correct order. Finally, test takers will see questions regarding relationships in text. Students might need to identify a cause-and-effect situation in a text, put events in order, or recognize similarities and differences between two events or characters.

Rhetoric

In this content area, students are tasked with analyzing texts in multiple ways. They will need to be able to identify the author's word choice and recognize how it influences the text. Students will also need to understand and explain how the text works together as a whole to convey the author's message, including why it is organized in a certain way. Additionally, students should expect to discuss the author's voice and how it influences both the text and the reader.

Students are expected to understand the author's purpose: Did the author write this piece to inform, entertain, or persuade the audience? This includes understanding the point of view from which an author wrote the piece and the validity of the author's argument. Students should prepare to recognize the author's central message as well as provide details to support it from the text. If the author does not use reliable, authoritative details to support his or her argument, test takers should be able to identify that as well.

Synthesis

Synthesis questions test a student's ability to process multiple pieces of related text. Students will be given multiple passages and asked to draw conclusions, find meaning, and discern relationships between both of them. This requires students to look at meaning and employ reading comprehension skills across a broader field.

Vocabulary

This vocabulary content area assesses a student's vocabulary. Students are tasked with discerning the connotations and denotations of words based on the reading passage in which they appear.

I've taken the test and gotten a score. What does my score mean? What should I study to improve?

Score range: 200-236

- This score indicates that you need to improve your **basic reading skills**, such as 1) identifying the main idea, 2) understanding vocabulary in context, and 3) making inferences.
- You should focus on practicing with simple texts that are familiar to you, such as news articles, personal stories, or instructions.
- You should also review the types of questions that are asked on the ACCUPLACER reading test, such as:
 - Literal comprehension
 - Critical reasoning
 - Synthesis
- Some resources that can help you are:
 - [The ACCUPLACER sample questions](#), which give you an idea of what to expect on the test and how to answer them.

- [The Mometrix ACCUPLACER Reading Practice Test](#), which offers a full-length practice test with detailed explanations.

Score range: 237-262

- This score indicates that you have **adequate reading skills**, but you may need to work on some areas, such as 1) analyzing arguments, 2) comparing and contrasting texts, or 3) evaluating evidence.
- You should focus on practicing with more complex texts that challenge your critical thinking skills, such as academic articles, literary works, or persuasive essays.
- You should also learn how to use different strategies to approach different types of texts and questions, such as:
 - Skimming
 - Scanning
 - Summarizing
 - Annotating
- Some resources that can help you are:
 - [The ACCUPLACER free practice tests](#), which allow you to take timed tests and get instant feedback on your performance.
 - [The ACCUPLACER Reading Comprehension Practice Test](#), which offers another full-length practice test with answer key.

Score range: 263-300

- This score indicates that you have **excellent reading skills** and are ready for college-level reading courses.
- You should focus on maintaining your reading skills and expanding your knowledge of different topics and genres.
- You should also challenge yourself with texts that require higher-level analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills, such as:
 - Scientific reports
 - Historical documents
 - Literary criticism.
- Some resources that can help you are:
 - The Khan Academy website, which offers free online courses and videos on various subjects and skills.
 - The Project Gutenberg website, which features thousands of free ebooks that you can read online or download.