

# EXPLORE® 2008|2009 EXPLORE® at a Glance

EXPLORE in grades 8 and 9 serves as the entry measure of academic progress in the series of longitudinal assessments that comprise a component of the ACT College Readiness System. The longitudinal assessments also include PLAN® (grade 10) and the ACT® test (grades 11 and 12). All three programs share the same score scale, enabling educators to seamlessly document student progress in grades 8 through 12. EXPLORE is an early indicator of college readiness, an effective tool for planning high school coursework, and a useful career exploration and planning program. Learn more at [www.act.org/explore](http://www.act.org/explore).

## EXPLORE English Test

30 minutes

Content/Skills	Number of Items
<b>Usage/Mechanics</b>	<b>25</b>
Punctuation	6
Grammar and Usage	8
Sentence Structure	11
<b>Rhetorical Skills</b>	<b>15</b>
Strategy	5
Organization	5
Style	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

## EXPLORE Reading Test

30 minutes

Content Area	Number of Items
Prose Fiction	10
Humanities	10
Social Studies	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## EXPLORE Mathematics Test

30 minutes

Content Area	Number of Items
Pre-Algebra	10
Elementary Algebra	9
Geometry	7
Statistics/Probability	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## EXPLORE Science Test

30 minutes

Content Area	Format	Number of Items
Earth/Space Sciences	Data Representation	12
	Research Summaries	10
Physical Sciences	Conflicting Viewpoints	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>

## Key Educational and Career Planning Components

Approximately 45 minutes

- Needs Assessment—collects information about students' perceived needs.
- Plans and Background Information—gathers information about students' school coursework plans, educational and career plans after high school, and other relevant background information.
- Interest Inventory—helps students explore personally relevant career options.

## EXPLORE Testing Timeline

### Before Testing

- Order test materials at least three weeks before your scheduled test date.  
Existing customers visit [www.act.org/explore](http://www.act.org/explore).  
New customers call 800/553-6244, ext. 1892.
- Customer will be invoiced when test materials are **shipped**.

### September–May

- Administer EXPLORE test as scheduled by school.

### After Testing

- Return student Answer Folders to ACT for scoring.  
*ACT recommends a method that tracks shipment.*
- Expect to receive reports two to four weeks after ACT receives all Answer Folders from your school or district.  
NOTE: If you are from a District and ordered the Enhanced Reporting Package, reports will be held until Answer Folders from **all** schools have been received.

### June 30

- Last date for scoring in the 2008–2009 testing cycle.

## Program Packages

### Standard Package

#### Test Materials

- Test Booklets
- Answer Folders
- Student Instruction Booklets
- *Why Take EXPLORE?*

#### Testing Administrator's Support

- Test Supervisor's Manual
- Room Supervisor's Manuals
- School Headers
- Let's Go to College Poster

#### Reports and Supporting Materials

- Student Score Reports
- Student Score Labels
- High School List Report
- *Using Your EXPLORE Results*
- Presentation Packet
- Early Intervention Rosters
- Profile Summary Report
- College Readiness Standards Report

### Enhanced Reporting Package

Includes all items in the Standard Package, **plus:**

- Item-Response Summary Report
- School and/or District Norms
- Data File on CD (School and District)

## ACT's Longitudinal Assessments

### EXPLORE<sup>®</sup>

8th–9th Grade

- Baseline assessment
- Helps increase PLAN and ACT scores

### PLAN<sup>®</sup>

10th Grade

- Midpoint assessment
- Helps increase ACT scores

### The ACT<sup>®</sup>

11th–12th Grade

- Measures what students have learned
- Increases college readiness when used with EXPLORE and PLAN
- Documents readiness for college

### Assessment Component ACT's College Readiness System

- Only curriculum-based, research-validated system available today
- Increases readiness for college or a career
- Provides link between scores and skills
- Promotes college enrollment, persistence, and success
- Built on a common score scale to measure academic progress from grades 8 through 12
- Helps students identify postsecondary options

## ACT Offices

### ACT National Office

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### Southwest Region

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To reorder or for more information: Visit: [www.act.org/explore](http://www.act.org/explore).  
Call Customer Services: 800/553-6244, ext. 1892.