

What is the College Ability Test?

The *College Ability Test* is the same test that ATS has used for more than 20 years. Test results list data and rank comparisons that help identify special aptitudes which can be further developed. **Taking the “advanced” level test automatically qualifies 6th–9th graders** (students entering grades 7–10 in Fall 2010) for ATS.

If I’ve taken the test before, do I have to take it again?

If you are a current 6th-grader who took the “intermediate” test as a 5th-grader in 2009, you will need to take the “advanced” level exam this year. Students in other grades are NOT required to retake the exam. However, many students choose to retake the test every year to try and improve their scores as class placements are made based on test scores (top score down). There are classes available for all scores.

How much does it cost to take the test?

There is a \$15 processing fee (payable to “ATS”). This fee covers the scoring of your exam and the mailing of your test results directly to your home. If you cannot afford the processing fee, ask your School Representative about a fee waiver.

What if I miss the test at school?

Testing is also available on the Sac State campus (for a fee of \$15 per student) on the following Saturday mornings:

- February 6
- February 27
- March 13
- March 20

About the ATS Qualifying Exam (College Ability Test)

The *College Ability Test* is a 40-minute, multiple-choice exam. There are two parts to the exam: a verbal section and a quantitative section. Each section has 50 questions, and you have 20 minutes to complete each part. **The test is designed for older students so you are not expected to know all of the answers or prepare for the test in any way.** The test helps assess your aptitude for learning— remember, the test results do not affect your school grades so there is no risk in taking it.

• Verbal Section

The verbal section tests your knowledge of the meaning of words and your ability to identify relationships between pairs of words. You will be asked to find the pair of words that go together in the same way as the first two words.

Example

album : photographs ::

- a) meeting : agendas
- b) checkbook : money

- c) board : directors
- d) scrapbook : clippings

Solution

To solve analogy questions, put the primary pair of words into a sentence which explains their relationship (“You save photographs in an album”). Next, substitute the answer choices into your sentence until you create a sentence that makes sense. The correct answer is D: “Album” is related to “photographs” as “scrapbook” is related to “clippings.”

• Quantitative Section

The quantitative section tests how well you work with numbers. Each question has two parts (Column A and Column B). You must determine if the value presented in Column A is greater than the value presented in Column B, if the parts are equal, or if there is not enough information to decide.

Example

Column A

52,291 x 831

Column B

52,730 x 894

- A if the part in Column A is greater
- B if the part in Column B is greater
- C if the two parts are equal
- D if not enough information is given for you to decide

Solution

The numbers in the example are asking you to multiply. You can see that both of the numbers in Column B are larger than their counterparts in Column A (52,730 is larger than 52,291 and 894 is larger than 831) so when multiplying the numbers, column B would be a larger number. Therefore the correct answer is B.

To find out if testing is offered at your school, please contact the ATS office by:

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phone	(916) 278-7032
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