YOCKET PREP

Study abroad, made simple

ACT Practice Paper 1

English | Maths | Reading | Science

Section-wise answer keys with explanations

About This Paper

This is a Yocket Prep original practice paper that follows the structure of the ACT. It contains 50 questions across four sections. Every passage and question is written by Yocket Prep, so you can attempt it as a timed mock.

Section	Questions	Suggested time	What it tests
1. English	15	11 minutes	Grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, rhetorical skills
2. Maths	15	17 minutes	Algebra, geometry, statistics, probability, trigonometry
3. Reading	10	11 minutes	Main idea, detail, inference, vocabulary in context
4. Science	10	10 minutes	Reading tables, spotting variables, drawing conclusions

Suggested times follow the per-question pace of the full ACT sections, scaled down to this shorter paper.

How to Use It

- **Set a timer:** attempt each section in one sitting and stop when the suggested time ends.
- **Work on paper:** circle your answers, and keep the answer key closed until you finish the section.
- **Review every miss:** the key explains the reasoning, so you learn the method and not only the answer.
- **Treat your score as a diagnostic:** a short paper cannot produce an official ACT scale score, so use it to find your weak sections.

Section 1

English

15 questions | Suggested time: 11 minutes | Choose the best answer for each underlined portion or question. Choose NO CHANGE if the underlined portion is already correct.

Passage I: Bees on the Roof

Beekeeping is no longer limited to the countryside. Many city residents across Europe and North America **[1]**keeps bees on their rooftops, in community gardens, and even on hotel terraces. City bees often produce more honey than their rural cousins**[2]**; because gardens, parks, and tree-lined streets bloom across a longer season than a single farm crop does.

Urban beekeeping still demands commitment. A hive needs an inspection once a week, and each inspection **[3]**takes about twenty minutes in terms of time. Beekeepers must also shield their colonies from the weather. **[4]**Nevertheless, a hive on a windy roof needs a sheltered corner or a low wall. **[5]**

1. Look at the underlined portion marked **[1]** in the passage: keeps. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** keep
- **C.** is keeping
- **D.** has kept

2. Look at the underlined portion marked **[2]** in the passage: ; because. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** , because
- **C.** . Because
- **D.** : because

3. Look at the underlined portion marked **[3]** in the passage: takes about twenty minutes in terms of time. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** takes about twenty minutes
- **C.** takes about twenty minutes of time in length
- **D.** lasts a duration of about twenty minutes

4. Look at the underlined portion marked **[4]** in the passage: Nevertheless,. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** For example,
- **C.** In contrast,
- **D.** Meanwhile,

5. The writer wants to end the passage with a sentence that reinforces its main point. Which choice best does this?

- **A.** Honey prices have risen in many countries over the last five years.
- **B.** With planning and care, rooftop beekeeping can succeed even in the middle of a busy city.
- **C.** Some cities have more rooftops than parks.
- **D.** Bees belong to the same insect order as wasps and ants.

Passage II: Libraries Beyond Books

Public libraries have changed **[6]**there role over the past twenty years. In 2010, most branches in the city **[7]**lend only books and DVDs. Today, many of the same branches also lend laptops, tools, and musical instruments.

Many branches now host free **[8]**classes. The classes cover topics such as coding, CV writing, and English conversation. Rising usage figures **[9]**effect how councils decide on funding, so libraries track every class and every loan. **[10]** The council also repaired the car park behind the main branch last spring.

6. Look at the underlined portion marked **[6]** in the passage: there. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** their
- **C.** they're
- **D.** its

7. Look at the underlined portion marked **[7]** in the passage: lend. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** lent
- **C.** are lending
- **D.** will lend

8. Look at the underlined portion marked **[8]** in the passage: classes. The classes cover. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** classes, they cover
- **C.** classes that cover
- **D.** classes, and covering

9. Look at the underlined portion marked **[9]** in the passage: effect. Which choice is best?

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** affect
- **C.** affects
- **D.** effects

10. The writer is considering deleting the last sentence (The council also repaired the car park behind the main branch last spring). Should the writer make this deletion?

- **A.** Yes, because it shifts the focus from library services to an unrelated maintenance project.
- **B.** Yes, because it contradicts the claim that libraries offer new services.
- **C.** No, because it shows that the council is committed to libraries.
- **D.** No, because it explains why library visits have increased.

Passage III: The Mango Stall

My grandmother's stall at the Sunday market sells only one product, pickled mangoes. Every Saturday night, she washes the mangoes, **[11]**slicing them thinly, and she packs them into jars with salt and chilli. The recipe has only **[12]**three ingredients mango, salt, and chilli, but she guards its exact proportions as a family secret. My grandmother and her sister started the stall together, but **[13]**she now runs it alone.

[S1] Her stall opens at seven. **[S2]** By nine, the first batch has sold out. **[S3]** **[14]** Customers, however, start queueing at half past six. **[15]**

11. Look at the underlined portion marked **[11]** in the passage: slicing them thinly, and she packs. Which choice is best?

A. NO CHANGE
B. slices them thinly, and packs
C. slices them thinly, and packing
D. slicing them thinly and to pack

12. Look at the underlined portion marked **[12]** in the passage: three ingredients mango, salt, and chilli. Which choice is best?

A. NO CHANGE
B. three ingredients, mango, salt, and chilli
C. three ingredients: mango, salt, and chilli
D. three ingredients; mango, salt, and chilli

13. Look at the underlined portion marked **[13]** in the passage: she. Which choice is best?

A. NO CHANGE
B. my grandmother
C. her
D. it

14. For the sake of logic, sentence S3 (Customers, however, start queueing at half past six) is best placed:

A. where it is now.
B. before sentence S1.
C. after sentence S1.
D. after the last sentence of the paragraph.

15. Which choice most effectively concludes the essay by returning to the grandmother's dedication?

A. Pickled mangoes are popular in many parts of Asia.
B. Rain or shine, she is behind the counter at seven, jars lined up, ready for the first customer.
C. The market also sells vegetables, flowers, and second-hand books.
D. I have never tried to make the pickle myself.

Answer Key: Section 1, English

Mark your paper, then count your correct answers. Read the explanation for every question you missed or guessed.

Q	Answer	Why it is correct
1	**B**	*Residents* is plural, so the verb must be the plural form *keep*.
2	**B**	A comma joins a main clause to a *because* clause. A semicolon needs a full clause after it, a full stop leaves a fragment, and a colon does not fit.
3	**B**	*In terms of time* repeats what *minutes* already shows. The shortest clear choice is best.
4	**B**	The windy roof is an example of weather protection. *Nevertheless*, *In contrast* and *Meanwhile* signal contrast or timing that the logic does not need.
5	**B**	It restates the passage's central point, that urban beekeeping works with commitment and care. The other choices add unrelated facts.
6	**B**	*Their* is the possessive for the plural *libraries*. *There* is a place, *they're* means *they are*, and *its* is singular.
7	**B**	*In 2010* places the action in the past, so the past tense *lent* is needed.
8	**C**	*Classes that cover* joins two sentences smoothly. Choice B is a comma splice and choice D is ungrammatical.
9	**B**	*Affect* is the verb meaning *influence*, and it agrees with the plural subject *figures*. *Effect* is usually a noun.
10	**A**	The sentence is about car park repairs. It does not support the passage's focus on library services and usage.
11	**B**	The verbs must be parallel: *washes, slices, and packs*.
12	**C**	A colon introduces a list after a complete clause.
13	**B**	*She* could refer to either woman. Naming *my grandmother* removes the ambiguity.
14	**C**	*However* signals contrast. Queueing at 6:30 contrasts with the stall opening at seven, so S3 belongs right after S1.
15	**B**	It returns to the grandmother's dedication, which is the focus of the essay. The other choices drift to other topics.

Your score: _____ / 15

13 to 15 correct: strong. **9 to 12:** review the missed topics. **Below 9:** revisit the basics before your next paper.

Section 2

Maths

15 questions | Suggested time: 17 minutes | Solve each problem and choose the best answer. A calculator is allowed. Figures are not necessarily drawn to scale.

1. What is 15% of 240?

A. 24
B. 30
C. 36
D. 40

2. What is the value of x if $3x - 7 = 20$?

A. 3
B. 7
C. 9
D. 13

3. A jacket costs $80. It is reduced by 25%, and the shop then takes a further 10% off the reduced price. What is the final price?

A. $48
B. $52
C. $54
D. $56

4. What is the slope of the line through the points (2, 5) and (6, 13)?

A. 1/2
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4

5. The mean of five numbers is 13. Four of the numbers are 8, 10, 14, and 16. What is the fifth number?

A. 13
B. 15
C. 17
D. 19

6. Which expression is equivalent to $(x + 4)(x - 3)$?

A. $x^2 - 12$
B. $x^2 + x - 12$
C. $x^2 - x - 12$
D. $x^2 + 7x - 12$

7. What is the sum of the solutions to $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$?

A. -5
B. 1
C. 5
D. 6

8. A right triangle has legs of length 9 cm and 12 cm. What is its perimeter?

A. 30 cm
B. 36 cm
C. 42 cm
D. 54 cm

9. A circle has an area of 49π square units. What is its circumference?

A. 7π
B. 14π
C. 49π
D. 98π

10. A bag holds 4 red, 6 blue, and 5 green marbles. One marble is drawn at random. What is the probability that it is not blue?

A. 2/5
B. 3/5
C. 2/3
D. 4/9

11. If $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x + 1$, what is $f(-2)$?

A. −1
B. 3
C. 15
D. 21

12. If $x + y = 10$ and $x - y = 4$, what is the value of xy?

A. 12
B. 18
C. 21
D. 24

13. What is the value of $(2^5 \cdot 2^3) / 2^4$?

A. 4
B. 8
C. 16
D. 32

14. A cyclist rides 120 km at 60 km/h, then 120 km at 40 km/h. What is her average speed for the whole journey?

A. 45 km/h
B. 48 km/h
C. 50 km/h
D. 52 km/h

15. In a right triangle, θ is an acute angle and $\sin\theta = 5/13$. What is $\cos\theta$?

A. 5/12
B. 8/13
C. 12/13
D. 13/12

Answer Key: Section 2, Maths

Mark your paper, then count your correct answers. Read the explanation for every question you missed or guessed.

Q	Answer	Why it is correct
1	**C**	0.15 × 240 = 36.
2	**C**	3x = 27, so x = 9.
3	**C**	25% off $80 gives $60. 10% off $60 gives $54. Choice B treats the two discounts as one 35% reduction, which is wrong because the second discount applies to a smaller price.
4	**B**	Slope = (13 − 5) / (6 − 2) = 8/4 = 2.
5	**C**	The total must be 5 × 13 = 65. The four known numbers add to 48, so the fifth is 65 − 48 = 17.
6	**B**	Expand: $x^2 - 3x + 4x - 12 = x^2 + x - 12$.
7	**C**	Factorise: (x − 2)(x − 3) = 0, so the solutions are 2 and 3. Their sum is 5.
8	**B**	Hypotenuse = √(81 + 144) = 15. Perimeter = 9 + 12 + 15 = 36 cm. Choice D is the area.
9	**B**	$\pi r^2 = 49\pi$ gives r = 7. Circumference = 2πr = 14π.
10	**B**	There are 15 marbles and 9 are not blue, so the probability is 9/15 = 3/5. Choice A is the probability of drawing blue.
11	**C**	f(−2) = 2(4) − 3(−2) + 1 = 8 + 6 + 1 = 15.
12	**C**	Add the equations: 2x = 14, so x = 7 and y = 3. Then xy = 21.
13	**C**	Add the exponents in the numerator and subtract the denominator's: $2^4 = 16$.
14	**B**	Time = 120/60 + 120/40 = 2 + 3 = 5 hours. Average speed = 240/5 = 48 km/h. Choice C wrongly averages the two speeds.
15	**C**	Opposite = 5 and hypotenuse = 13, so adjacent = √(169 − 25) = 12. Therefore cos θ = 12/13.

Your score: _____ / 15

13 to 15 correct: strong. **9 to 12:** review the missed topics. **Below 9:** revisit the basics before your next paper.

Section 3

Reading

10 questions | Suggested time: 11 minutes | Read each passage and choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied.

Passage I: Time Banks, Trading Hours Instead of Money (Social Science)

In a time bank, members exchange services using hours instead of money. A member who spends an hour teaching a neighbour to use a spreadsheet earns one time credit. That credit can later buy an hour of help from anyone else in the network, whether the help involves repairing a bicycle, translating a letter, or sitting with a child. Every hour counts equally, regardless of the skill involved.

The idea took hold in the 1980s, when the American lawyer and professor Edgar Cahn proposed it as a response to cuts in public welfare spending. Cahn argued that communities were rich in unused abilities, and that conventional economics ignored them because no wages were attached. Time banks, he believed, could make that hidden work visible and valuable.

Supporters point to benefits beyond practical help. Members often report meeting people they would not otherwise have met, and retired members in particular describe a renewed sense of purpose. Critics, however, note that time banks work best at a small scale. Coordinating hundreds of exchanges takes organisers, and organisers need funding. Others question whether treating every hour as equal is fair, since an hour of legal advice is worth more on the open market than an hour of dog walking. Defenders reply that this is precisely the point: the system rewards effort and willingness rather than market price.

1. Which choice best summarises the passage?

- **A.** Time banks are an unsuccessful experiment that has been abandoned.
- **B.** Time banks let people trade services for hours, offering social benefits alongside practical limits.
- **C.** Time banks were designed to replace national welfare systems.
- **D.** Time banks pay members more than traditional jobs.

2. According to the passage, a member earns one time credit by:

- **A.** paying a membership fee.
- **B.** spending an hour helping another member.
- **C.** organising a time bank event.
- **D.** donating money to the network.

3. The passage states that Edgar Cahn proposed time banks in response to:

- **A.** rising prices.
- **B.** cuts to public welfare spending.
- **C.** a shortage of volunteers.
- **D.** the growth of online trading.

4. Based on the passage, which of the following is a main criticism of time banks?

- **A.** They exclude retired people.
- **B.** They are difficult to expand without funding and organisers.
- **C.** They require members to pay taxes.
- **D.** They accept only skilled professionals.

5. In the last sentence, the phrase “precisely the point” suggests that the equal value of every hour is:

A. a mistake that organisers hope to fix.
B. a deliberate and central feature of the system.
C. rarely followed in practice.
D. mainly of interest to lawyers.

Passage II: The Last Ferry (Prose Fiction)

Nadia reached the jetty at ten to six, but the ferry's engine was already turning over, a low, impatient growl that carried across the water. She had run the length of the quay with her suitcase banging against her knee, and now she stood bent double, unable to speak. The deckhand, a thin boy of about sixteen, was coiling a rope and pretending not to see her.

“Last one tonight,” he said at last, without looking up. “Next is tomorrow morning.”

“I know,” she gasped. “That's why I ran.”

He glanced at the suitcase, then at her face, and something in his expression softened. He dropped the rope and held out a hand. “Come on, then. Captain won't wait long, but he won't leave you either, not if I'm standing here.”

She stepped across the narrow gap, and the deck swayed beneath her. Behind them, the island's lights were coming on one by one, and she felt, absurdly, that each one was a door closing. Her mother had stayed on the island for forty years. Nadia had stayed for eighteen of them. Now the water between her and the jetty widened, grey and unhurried, and she realised she had not once looked back at the house.

She did not look back now either. She took out her ticket, smoothed it flat against her knee, and read the destination again, as if it might change.

6. In the first paragraph, Nadia's state when she reaches the jetty is best described as:

A. calm and prepared.
B. breathless and hurried.
C. angry and resentful.
D. bored and distracted.

7. The deckhand's decision to hold out his hand most strongly suggests that he:

A. hopes for a tip.
B. feels sympathy for Nadia.
C. wants to delay the ferry.
D. expects Nadia to refuse.

8. The statement that each light was “a door closing” primarily conveys Nadia's feeling that:

A. the island is becoming unsafe.
B. she is leaving her old life behind.
C. the ferry is overcrowded.
D. the sunset is beautiful.

9. The passage suggests that Nadia's attitude toward leaving the island is:

A. a mixture of sadness and resolve.
B. complete excitement.
C. deep regret that she wants to reverse.
D. total indifference.

10. As used in the first paragraph, the word “impatient” most nearly suggests an engine sound that is:

A. eager to depart, as if it were waiting.
B. damaged and failing.
C. quiet and peaceful.
D. musical and cheerful.

Answer Key: Section 3, Reading

Mark your paper, then count your correct answers. Read the explanation for every question you missed or guessed.

Q	Answer	Why it is correct
1	**B**	The passage explains how time banks work, then covers the benefits and the criticisms. Only choice B covers both.
2	**B**	The first paragraph says an hour spent teaching a neighbour earns one credit.
3	**B**	The second paragraph links Cahn's proposal to cuts in public welfare spending.
4	**B**	Critics say coordinating many exchanges needs organisers, and organisers need funding.
5	**B**	Defenders say the equal-hour rule rewards effort over market price. That makes it intentional and central.
6	**B**	She has run the length of the quay and is bent double, unable to speak.
7	**B**	His expression softens before he offers his hand, which signals sympathy.
8	**B**	Lights coming on as the island recedes, each like a closing door, shows her leaving a part of her life behind.
9	**A**	The closing door image shows sadness, but she does not look back and keeps checking her ticket, which shows resolve.
10	**A**	The engine is already running and growling before she arrives, which suggests it is eager to leave.

Your score: _____ / 10

9 to 10 correct: strong. **6 to 8:** review the missed topics. **Below 6:** revisit the basics before your next paper.

Section 4

Science

10 questions | Suggested time: 10 minutes | Each passage is followed by questions. Refer to the passage and tables as needed. A calculator is allowed.

Passage I: Light and Seedling Growth

Students studied how light affects the growth of bean seedlings. In each experiment, every tray held 20 seedlings in the same type of soil. Each tray received 10 mL of water daily and 12 hours of light per day. The students measured the average seedling height after 14 days.

Experiment 1: Four trays received light of different colours, each at an intensity of 200 units. The results appear in Table 1.

Experiment 2: Four trays received red light only, at different intensities. The results appear in Table 2.

Table 1: Light colour	Average height (cm)
White	18.2
Red	21.5
Blue	12.4
Green	9.8

Table 2: Intensity (units)	Average height (cm)
50	10.3
100	15.8
200	21.5
300	21.9

1. According to Experiment 1, seedlings grew tallest under which colour of light?

A. White
B. Red
C. Blue
D. Green

2. Which variable was kept the same across all four trays in Experiment 1?

A. Light colour
B. Average seedling height
C. Light intensity
D. Final height after 14 days

3. In Experiment 2, as the light intensity increased from 50 to 200 units, the average height:

A. decreased.
B. increased.
C. stayed the same.
D. increased and then decreased.

4. Which conclusion is best supported by Table 2?

A. Height keeps rising at the same rate as intensity increases.
B. Above about 200 units, extra intensity adds little extra growth.
C. Height decreases when intensity rises above 200 units.
D. Light intensity has no effect on height.

5. A student claims that red light at 100 units produces taller seedlings than white light at 200 units. Do the results support this claim?

A. Yes, because red light always produces the tallest seedlings.
B. Yes, because 15.8 cm is greater than 9.8 cm.
C. No, because 15.8 cm is less than 18.2 cm.
D. No, because white light was not tested.

Passage II: Dissolving Sugar

Students measured how long 10 g of sugar took to dissolve completely in 100 mL of water.

Experiment 1: The students changed the water temperature and stirred at a medium speed each time. The results appear in Table 3.

Experiment 2: The students kept the water at 40 °C and changed the stirring speed. The results appear in Table 4.

Table 3: Temperature (°C)	Time to dissolve (s)
10	210
20	150
40	80
60	45
80	25

Table 4: Stirring speed	Time to dissolve (s)
None	300
Slow	130
Medium	80
Fast	55

6. In Experiment 1, as the water temperature increased, the time to dissolve:

A. increased.
B. decreased.
C. stayed constant.
D. increased and then decreased.

7. Based on Table 3, the time to dissolve at 50 °C is closest to:

A. 25 s
B. 45 s
C. 60 s
D. 100 s

8. Which stirring condition in Experiment 2 gave the shortest dissolving time?

A. None
B. Slow
C. Medium
D. Fast

9. The result for medium stirring in Experiment 2 is consistent with Experiment 1 because:

A. both experiments gave 80 s at 40 °C with medium stirring.
B. both experiments used water at 80 °C.
C. neither experiment used any stirring.
D. Experiment 1 used no stirring.

10. Based on both experiments, which change would most likely shorten the dissolving time compared with 40 °C and medium stirring?

A. Cooling the water to 20 °C and removing the stirring
B. Heating the water to 60 °C and stirring faster
C. Cooling the water to 10 °C and stirring fast
D. Keeping 40 °C and removing the stirring

Answer Key: Section 4, Science

Mark your paper, then count your correct answers. Read the explanation for every question you missed or guessed.

Q	Answer	Why it is correct
1	**B**	Table 1 shows red light at 21.5 cm, the highest value.
2	**C**	Every tray in Experiment 1 received light at 200 units. Colour was the variable being changed.
3	**B**	Heights rise from 10.3 cm to 15.8 cm to 21.5 cm across 50, 100 and 200 units.
4	**B**	Growth rises by 5.7 cm from 100 to 200 units but only by 0.4 cm from 200 to 300 units, so the benefit levels off.
5	**C**	Red light at 100 units gives 15.8 cm (Table 2). White light at 200 units gives 18.2 cm (Table 1). 15.8 is less than 18.2.
6	**B**	Time falls from 210 s at 10 °C to 25 s at 80 °C.
7	**C**	50 °C lies between 40 °C (80 s) and 60 °C (45 s), so the time falls between 45 s and 80 s. 60 s is the closest option.
8	**D**	Fast stirring gives 55 s, the lowest value in Table 4.
9	**A**	Experiment 1 used medium stirring, and Experiment 2 used 40 °C. Both give 80 s for that combination.
10	**B**	Higher temperature (Table 3) and faster stirring (Table 4) both reduce time. The other choices include a change that slows dissolving.

Your score: _____ / 10

9 to 10 correct: strong. **6 to 8:** review the missed topics. **Below 6:** revisit the basics before your next paper.

Your Next Steps

Add up your four section scores and note which section cost you the most marks. Spend your next study week on that section, then attempt a fresh paper under timed conditions.

Section	Your score	Out of
English	_____	15
Maths	_____	15
Reading	_____	10
Science	_____	10
Total	_____	**50**

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