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Study abroad, made simple

ACT Practice Paper 6

English | Maths | Reading | Science

Section-wise answer keys with explanations

About This Paper

This is a Yocket 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, 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: Rebuilding Coral Reefs

Coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor, yet they shelter roughly a quarter of all marine species. When unusually warm water **[1]**bleach a reef, the corals expel the algae that give them colour and food, and many die.

Restoration teams now grow small coral fragments in underwater nurseries. After several months, divers attach the fragments to damaged reefs **[2]**with the aid of using cement or cable ties. The work is slow**[3]**; however, some nursery-grown corals have already survived heatwaves that killed their wild neighbours. Scientists hope to breed corals that tolerate heat, but **[4]**they're methods are still experimental. **[5]**

1.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** are bleaching
- **C.** bleached
- **D.** bleaches

2.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** using
- **C.** with the help of using
- **D.** by the means of using

3.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** , however some
- **C.** ; however some
- **D.** . However, some,

4.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** its
- **C.** there
- **D.** their

5. Which choice best concludes the passage?

- **A.** Cement is a mixture of limestone and clay.
- **B.** Divers need special training before attaching coral fragments.
- **C.** Many tourists visit reefs to snorkel.
- **D.** Restoration cannot replace a cooler ocean, but it can keep reefs alive long enough for other efforts to take effect.

Passage II: A New School

On my first morning at the new school, I stood in the corridor holding my timetable. **[6]** A girl with a green rucksack noticed me and **[7]**asks where I was going.

Her name was Meena, and she walked me to Room 22 without being asked twice. Looking back, **[8]**its funny how one question can change a whole morning. **[9]**Nevertheless, by lunchtime I knew where the canteen, library, and science block were. **[10]**

6. Which choice best conveys the narrator's confusion?

- **A.** The school had about six hundred students.
- **B.** My timetable was printed on yellow paper.
- **C.** The corridor floor was polished grey tile.
- **D.** The room numbers blurred together, and every corridor seemed to lead back to the same noticeboard.

7.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** will ask
- **C.** has asked
- **D.** asked

8.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** its'
- **C.** it is a
- **D.** it's

9.

- **A.** NO CHANGE
- **B.** Instead, by lunchtime
- **C.** By lunchtime
- **D.** In contrast, by lunchtime

10. Which choice best ends the passage?

- **A.** Meena has two older sisters.
- **B.** The next morning, I stopped at the same corridor, and this time I walked past without looking at the doors.
- **C.** The school canteen served rice, curry, and fruit.
- **D.** The science block was built in 1998.

Passage III: Recording Endangered Languages

Linguists estimate that about seven thousand languages are spoken today, yet a small number of them **[11]**dominates daily life for most people. Many of the rest have only a few hundred speakers. Documenting a language means recording its words, grammar, **[12]**and, stories from native speakers.

[13]Once archived, researchers can study a language long after its last speaker has died. Some communities now **[14]**take an active and proactive role in teaching their children the ancestral language. **[15]**

11.

A. NO CHANGE
B. has dominated
C. is dominating
D. dominate

12.

A. NO CHANGE
B. and stories
C. and; stories
D. and: stories

13.

A. NO CHANGE
B. Archived, researchers
C. Once archiving, researchers
D. Once recordings are archived, researchers

14.

A. NO CHANGE
B. take a role that is both active and also proactive in
C. take an active role in
D. play an actively proactive role in

15. Which choice most effectively concludes the passage?

A. Each recording keeps a record of how one community names its rivers, foods, and family ties.
B. Some languages use symbols instead of letters.
C. Linguists often work in universities.
D. Seven thousand is a large number of languages.

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	**D**	The subject *warm water* is singular and the sentence is in the present tense, so *bleaches* is needed.
2	**B**	*Using* is the shortest correct form. The other choices add empty words.
3	**A**	A semicolon before *however* and a comma after it correctly join the two complete clauses.
4	**D**	*Their* is the plural possessive for *scientists*. *They're* means *they are*.
5	**D**	It sums up the limits and the value of restoration. The others add unrelated details.
6	**D**	It shows how lost the narrator feels. The others are neutral details.
7	**D**	The narrative is in the past tense, so *asked* is needed.
8	**D**	*It's* is the contraction of *it is*. *Its* is a possessive.
9	**C**	Nothing in the sentence contrasts with the earlier one, so no contrast transition is needed.
10	**B**	It returns to the opening corridor and shows how much has changed.
11	**D**	*A small number of them* is plural in meaning, so the verb is *dominate*.
12	**B**	No comma, semicolon, or colon is needed between *and* and the last item.
13	**D**	The recordings are archived, not the researchers. The other choices create a dangling modifier.
14	**C**	*Active* and *proactive* mean the same thing here, so one word is enough.
15	**A**	It ends on the value of documenting a language. The others add unrelated facts.

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 the value of $3 + 4 \times (6 - 2)^2 \div 8$?

A. 9
B. 11
C. 14
D. 19

2. What is the value of x if $4(x - 2) = 2x + 6$?

A. 5
B. 6
C. 7
D. 10

3. A town's population falls from 8,000 to 6,800. What is the percent decrease?

A. 12%
B. 15%
C. 17.6%
D. 85%

4. A rectangle has a perimeter of 36 cm, and its length is twice its width. What is its area?

A. 36 cm^2
B. 54 cm^2
C. 72 cm^2
D. 144 cm^2

5. The mean of four numbers is 15. A fifth number, 25, is added. What is the new mean?

A. 15
B. 16
C. 17
D. 20

6. What is the slope of the line $3x + 2y = 12$?

A. $-3/2$
B. $-2/3$
C. $2/3$
D. $3/2$

7. How many different 3-letter arrangements can be made from 5 distinct letters, using each letter at most once?

A. 10
B. 60
C. 120
D. 125

8. A circle has a circumference of 20π cm. What is its area?

A. 20π cm^2
B. 40π cm^2
C. 100π cm^2
D. 400π cm^2

9. If $2x + 3y = 12$ and $x - y = 1$, what is the value of $x + y$?

A. 3
B. 4
C. 5
D. 6

10. What is the maximum value of $y = -x^2 + 4x + 1$?

A. 1
B. 4
C. 5
D. 9

11. In a class of 30 students, 18 play football, 12 play tennis, and 6 play both. What is the probability that a student chosen at random plays neither?

A. 1/6
B. 1/5
C. 2/5
D. 3/5

12. In a 30°-60°-90° triangle, the hypotenuse is 12 cm. What is the length of the longer leg?

A. $6\sqrt{2}$ cm
B. $12\sqrt{3}$ cm
C. 6 cm
D. $6\sqrt{3}$ cm

13. A sample of 80 g of a substance has a half-life of 5 years. How much remains after 15 years?

A. 5 g
B. 10 g
C. 20 g
D. 40 g

14. Two trains are 300 km apart and travel toward each other at 60 km/h and 40 km/h. How long until they meet?

A. 3 hours
B. 5 hours
C. 6 hours
D. 7.5 hours

15. A triangle has two sides of length 10 cm with a 30° angle between them. What is its area?

A. 12.5 cm^2
B. 25 cm^2
C. 43.3 cm^2
D. 50 cm^2

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	**B**	Brackets first: $(6 - 2)^2 = 16$. Then $4 \times 16 \div 8 = 8$, and $3 + 8 = 11$.
2	**C**	Expand: $4x - 8 = 2x + 6$, so $2x = 14$ and $x = 7$.
3	**B**	The fall is 1,200, and $1{,}200 \div 8{,}000 = 0.15$, or 15%. Choice B divides by the new population.
4	**C**	With width w and length 2w, $6w = 36$, so $w = 6$ and the length is 12. The area is $6 \times 12 = 72$.
5	**C**	The first four total 60. With 25 added the total is 85, and $85 \div 5 = 17$.
6	**A**	Rewrite as $y = -(3/2)x + 6$. The slope is $-3/2$.
7	**B**	The number of arrangements is $5 \times 4 \times 3 = 60$. Choice A counts groups where order does not matter.
8	**C**	$2\pi r = 20\pi$ gives $r = 10$. The area is $\pi r^2 = 100\pi$.
9	**C**	Substitute $x = y + 1$: $2y + 2 + 3y = 12$, so $y = 2$ and $x = 3$. Then $x + y = 5$.
10	**C**	The vertex is at $x = 2$, where $y = -4 + 8 + 1 = 5$. The parabola opens downwards, so 5 is the maximum.
11	**B**	Students playing at least one sport = $18 + 12 - 6 = 24$. So 6 play neither, and $6/30 = 1/5$.
12	**D**	The shorter leg is half the hypotenuse, 6 cm. The longer leg is the shorter leg times $\sqrt{3}$, so $6\sqrt{3}$.
13	**B**	15 years is 3 half-lives: $80 \to 40 \to 20 \to 10$.
14	**A**	They close the gap at 100 km/h, so $300 \div 100 = 3$ hours.
15	**B**	Area $= (1/2)(10)(10) \sin 30° = 50 \times 0.5 = 25$.

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: Walls That Speak (Humanities)

Walk through almost any large city and you will find a wall that has become a canvas. Murals are not new: painters decorated caves, temples, and palaces long before spray cans existed. What distinguishes the modern street mural is its audience. Instead of a ticket-holding visitor, its viewer is anyone who happens to walk past.

That open audience shapes the work. Mural artists often consult residents before they begin, because a painting that stands in a neighbourhood for years becomes part of how its people see their home. In some cities, murals commemorate local heroes or historic events; in others, they brighten blank walls beside busy roads, or draw attention to political causes.

The art form has its critics. Some property owners object to paintings made without permission, and some residents resent images that they feel misrepresent their community. Supporters answer that the best murals grow from conversation rather than imposition, and that a wall painted with consent can transform a neglected street. Whatever one thinks, a mural makes a distinctive claim: that art belongs not in a hushed gallery, but in the middle of daily life.

1. According to the passage, what distinguishes the modern street mural?

- **A.** It is always made without permission.
- **B.** It is displayed in galleries.
- **C.** It is painted only with spray cans.
- **D.** Its viewer is anyone who happens to walk past.

2. Why do mural artists often consult residents before they begin?

- **A.** Residents pay for the paint.
- **B.** Cities require a vote.
- **C.** A mural becomes part of how locals see their home.
- **D.** Residents decide which political causes to support.

3. Which criticism of murals does the passage mention?

- **A.** They are always political.
- **B.** They fade too quickly.
- **C.** They cost more than gallery art.
- **D.** Some are painted without the owner's permission.

4. The response of the supporters suggests that the best murals:

- **A.** grow from conversation with the community.
- **B.** are painted overnight.
- **C.** avoid local subjects.
- **D.** are chosen by the city council.

5. The final sentence suggests that murals:

- **A.** are less valuable than gallery art.
- **B.** place art in everyday public life rather than in formal galleries.
- **C.** are painted only by professionals.
- **D.** should be removed from busy roads.

Passage II: Seeing With Sound (Natural Science)

A bat hunting at night cannot rely on its eyes. Instead, it produces a rapid series of high-pitched calls, often too high for humans to hear, and listens for the echoes that bounce back from nearby objects. From the delay and the pitch of each echo, the bat builds a picture of its surroundings, including the size, distance, and even the texture of a moth in mid-flight.

This system, called echolocation, is remarkably precise. In laboratory tests, some bats have detected wires only a fraction of a millimetre wide. When a bat closes in on prey, it speeds up its calls into a rapid buzz, which gives it a more detailed update on the target's position just when it needs one most.

Echolocation also creates a contest. Some moths have evolved ears that detect bat calls and respond by diving or flying erratically. A few species go further: certain tiger moths produce clicks of their own that appear to jam the bat's signal. The result is an evolutionary arms race in which hunter and prey continually refine their tools.

6. According to the passage, a bat learns the size and distance of a moth from:

- **A.** the delay and pitch of the echoes.
- **B.** the bat's eyesight.
- **C.** the sound of the moth's wings.
- **D.** the moth's colour.

7. Why does a bat speed up its calls as it closes in on prey?

- **A.** To warn other bats
- **B.** To save energy
- **C.** To scare the prey away
- **D.** To get more detailed updates on the prey's position

8. According to the passage, some moths respond to bat calls by:

- **A.** hiding underground.
- **B.** flying only in daylight.
- **C.** making the bat's calls louder.
- **D.** diving or flying erratically.

9. The author calls the relationship between bats and moths an arms race because:

- **A.** both groups are growing larger.
- **B.** each side keeps improving its tools in response to the other.
- **C.** moths hunt bats at night.
- **D.** bats and moths live in the same caves.

10. As used in the second paragraph, “precise” most nearly means:

- **A.** exact.
- **B.** simple.
- **C.** loud.
- **D.** unusual.

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	**D**	The first paragraph says the modern mural is defined by its audience, which is any passer-by.
2	**C**	The second paragraph gives this reason directly.
3	**D**	The third paragraph says some property owners object to paintings made without permission.
4	**A**	Supporters say the best murals grow from conversation rather than imposition.
5	**B**	It says art belongs in the middle of daily life, not in a hushed gallery.
6	**A**	The first paragraph says the bat builds its picture from the delay and pitch of each echo.
7	**D**	The second paragraph says the buzz gives a more detailed update just when the bat needs one.
8	**D**	The third paragraph says some moths dive or fly erratically.
9	**B**	The final sentence says hunter and prey continually refine their tools.
10	**A**	The detail about detecting very thin wires shows that echolocation is exact.

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: Building an Electromagnet

Students made electromagnets by wrapping insulated wire around an iron nail and connecting the wire to a battery. They measured the strength of each magnet by counting the paper clips it could lift.

Experiment 1: The students used a 3 V battery and changed the number of turns of wire. The results appear in Table 1.

Experiment 2: The students used 30 turns of wire and changed the battery voltage. The results appear in Table 2.

Table 1

Turns of wire	Paper clips lifted
10	3
20	7
30	11
40	15

Table 2

Battery voltage (V)	Paper clips lifted
1.5	4
3.0	11
4.5	17
6.0	22

1. In Experiment 1, as the number of turns increased, the number of paper clips lifted:

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

2. In Experiment 1, how many more paper clips did the magnet lift with 40 turns than with 10 turns?

- **A.** 15
- **B.** 4
- **C.** 12
- **D.** 18

3. Which variable was kept the same in Experiment 2?

- **A.** The battery voltage
- **B.** The number of turns of wire
- **C.** The strength of the magnet
- **D.** The number of paper clips lifted

4. Based on Table 2, a 5.0 V battery with 30 turns would most likely lift about:

- **A.** 24 paper clips
- **B.** 30 paper clips
- **C.** 19 paper clips
- **D.** 14 paper clips

5. Based on both experiments, which setup would most likely lift the most paper clips?

- **A.** 10 turns with a 6 V battery
- **B.** 40 turns with a 6 V battery
- **C.** 30 turns with a 6 V battery
- **D.** 40 turns with a 3 V battery

Passage II: Bacteria on Agar Plates

Students spread equal amounts of a bacterial sample on agar plates and counted the colonies that grew after 24 hours.

Experiment 1: The students kept the plates at different temperatures. The results appear in Table 3.

Experiment 2: The students kept the plates at 37 °C and added a disinfectant at different concentrations. The results appear in Table 4.

Table 3

Temperature (°C)	Colonies
5	2
15	18
25	64
37	120
50	9

Table 4

Disinfectant (%)	Colonies
0	120
1	80
2	42
5	6

6. According to Experiment 1, which temperature produced the most colonies?

- **A.** 50 °C
- **B.** 5 °C
- **C.** 37 °C
- **D.** 25 °C

7. In Experiment 1, as the temperature rose from 37 °C to 50 °C, the number of colonies:

- **A.** decreased.
- **B.** doubled.
- **C.** increased.
- **D.** stayed the same.

8. In Experiment 2, as the concentration of disinfectant increased, the number of colonies:

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

9. In Experiment 2, how many fewer colonies grew with 2% disinfectant than with none?

- **A.** 42
- **B.** 78
- **C.** 80
- **D.** 120

10. Which statement is best supported by both experiments?

A. Growth increased steadily up to 50 °C.
B. Temperature had no effect on the number of colonies.
C. Growth was greatest near 37 °C, and disinfectant reduced growth at that temperature.
D. Disinfectant increased growth at 37 °C.

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	**A**	The number rises from 3 to 15 as the turns rise from 10 to 40.
2	**C**	15 minus 3 is 12.
3	**B**	Every trial used 30 turns. Voltage was changed, and the paper clips measured the strength.
4	**C**	5.0 V lies between 4.5 V (17 clips) and 6.0 V (22 clips), so the count is between 17 and 22.
5	**B**	More turns and higher voltage both increase strength, so combining 40 turns with 6 V should lift the most.
6	**C**	Table 3 shows 120 colonies at 37 °C, the highest value.
7	**A**	The count falls from 120 to 9.
8	**C**	The count falls from 120 to 6.
9	**B**	120 minus 42 is 78.
10	**C**	Table 3 shows the peak at 37 °C, and Table 4 shows fewer colonies at 37 °C as disinfectant increased.

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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