



# ACER *Scholarship Tests*

## **ACER Scholarship Tests - Written Expression**

Two topics for writing will be set to allow you to use different styles of writing. They are presented as two separate tests. About one and a half A4 pages of ruled paper will be provided for each test, but you are not asked to make the pieces of writing any special length, and quality is more important than length. This part of the test is concerned with your ability to express your thoughts and feelings in writing. What you have to say and the way you say it will be assessed.

In assessing written expression markers at ACER consider the following elements:

### **Thought and Content**

The quality of what is said in the piece of writing.

- What is made of and developed from the task
- The kinds of thoughts and ideas presented in response to the task

### **Structure and Organisation**

The quality of the structure and organisation developed to respond to the topic

- The shape and form of the writing piece
- The sequence and cohesion of the writing piece

### **Expression, Style and Mechanics**

The quality of the language used to organise and present what is said.

- The effectiveness and appropriateness of the language
- The expressiveness and fluency of the language
- The control of the 'mechanics' of English (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure)

The stimulus material you are given must be the basis of your writing. You will be penalised if you seem to be presenting a piece of writing that is not developed from the stimulus. Respond to the stimulus in the way that is most interesting to you, and which best displays your ability to write and express yourself.

The stimulus may be a picture, a statement or a combination of the two. The stimulus may allow you to:

- tell a real or imaginary story
- describe a situation, incident or scene
- outline or explain something and/or
- express a point of view or present an argument

Some topics might suggest that you write a story, others might suggest a conversation, a discussion or reflection. Whichever style you choose, be aware that it is clear, expressive, engaging and interesting writing that is being sought. Read the topics carefully. Spend some time thinking about each of the topics. If you finish before time is up, go over your work and make any alterations you feel may improve your writing.



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### **ACER Scholarship Tests - Humanities - Comprehension and Interpretation**

This test asks you to answer questions related to written and visual material. The material may be drawn from subject areas such as English, Art, History, Geography and Social Studies. No special knowledge in these areas is assumed - all the information you need is printed on the paper. This means that if you do not know or understand some of the information, you may be able to work out what it means from the stimulus material. The test does not require recall of information nor is it directly related to knowledge of particular school subjects. Candidates are required to think critically and make judgements about different types of texts, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, diagrams and maps.

The test contains a number of units with several questions in each unit. Overall there will be between 40 and 45 multiple-choice questions, each with four alternative answers, marked A, B, C, and D.

To become more familiar with the style of questions and the strategies for responding it is suggested that you refer to 'A Parent's Guide to Scholarship Tests', published by ACER Press and also try questions in our online or downloadable sample materials.



## **ACER Scholarship Tests - Mathematics (Mathematics and Science at Levels 2 and 3)**

This test attempts to measure mathematical and scientific abilities rather than school achievement in these areas. The material used for the questions is selected from a wide variety of sources, and may differ from standard school-based curriculum materials.

### **Mathematics skills tested (Levels 1, 2 and 3)**

The focus is on mathematical/quantitative problem solving, including:

- analysis and interpretation of mathematical/quantitative information,
- evaluation and selection of key information,
- reorganisation and transformation of information,
- identification of relationships,
- synthesis,
- application to solving problems, and
- evaluation of solutions.

### **Scientific skills tested (Levels 2 and 3 only)**

The focus is scientific critical thinking, including:

- analysis and interpretation of scientific information,
- comprehension of concepts presented,
- identification of relationships,
- hypothesising,
- generalising,
- application of logic and scientific method,
- drawing logical inferences,
- evaluation of information, evidence, experimental arrangements and conclusions.

The test consists of between 32 and 36 multiple-choice questions. For Level 1 candidates, all the questions are on aspects of mathematics. For Level 2 and Level 3 candidates, half the questions are on mathematics topics and half on science topics.

To become more familiar with the style of questions and the strategies for responding it is suggested that you refer to 'A Parent's Guide to Scholarship Tests', published by ACER Press and also try questions in our online or downloadable sample materials.