Introduction:
The ACCUPLACER is a computerized placement test that was developed by the College Board. It is an untimed test composed of four sections: Sentence Skills, Reading Comprehension, Arithmetic, and Elementary Algebra.

Adaptive Test:
The ACCUPLACER is an adaptive test. Questions are chosen for a student on the basis of their answers to previous questions, which enables questions to be selected for their ability level. Because of the tests adaptive nature it is very important that students select an answer for every question before moving onto the next question. Once an answer has been submitted it cannot be changed. All questions are multiple choice.

Sentence Skills  20 questions-  Students will be presented with two types of questions in the Sentence Skills section of the test-

1.  *Sentence correction* - require an understanding of sentence structure- This type of question asks you to select the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence.

Example: Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

Stamp collecting **being a hobby that is** sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.

A. being a hobby that is  
B. is a hobby because it is  
C. which is a hobby  
D. is a hobby  

Correct Answer: D. is a hobby

2.  *Construction shift* - these questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Example: Rewrite the sentence following the directions given below.

If he had enough strength, Todd would move the boulder.

Rewrite, beginning with: Todd cannot move the boulder

The next words will be

A. when lacking  
B. because he  
C. although there  
D. without enough  

Correct Answer: A. when lacking

Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others deal with the relationship between coordination and subordination.
Reading Comprehension  20 questions- Students will be presented with two types of questions in the Reading Comprehension section of the test-

1. The first type of question presents students with a reading passage which is then followed by a question related to the passage. Passages vary in length from short to long. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.

Example: *Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.*

In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, “It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it.” If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, “I’ll listen carefully; I’ll repeat each person’s name to be sure I’ve got it, and I will remember.” You’ll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory

A. always operates at peak efficiency.
B. breaks down under great strain.
C. improves if it is used often.
D. becomes unreliable if it tires.

Correct Answer: C. improves if it is used often.

2. *Sentence relationships* - two sentences are presented followed by a question about the relationship between the two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

Example: *For the questions that follow, two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement. Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.*

The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in 15 years.
Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

A. It restates the idea found in the first.
B. It states an effect.
C. It gives an example.
D. It analyzes the statement made in the first.

Correct Answer: B. It states an effect.

- Arithmetic Test  17 questions

The Arithmetic section of the test measures a student’s ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. Questions are divided into three types -
1. In the first type of problem students are asked to solve problems involving operations with whole numbers and fractions: topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.

Example: *Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given.*

\[3 \frac{1}{3} - 2 \frac{2}{5} =\]

A. 1 ½  B. 1/15  C. 14/15  D. 1 1/15

Correct Answer: C. 14/15

2. In the second type of problem students are asked to solve problems involving operations with decimals and percents: topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.

Example: *Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given.*

32 is 40 percent of what number?

A. 12.8  B. 128  C. 80  D. 800

Correct Answer: C. 80

3. In the third type of problem students are asked to solve problems involving applications and problem solving: topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems, simple geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

Example: *Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given.*

Three people work together on a project. If one of the people is budgeted for one-half of the project and a second person for one-third, what part of the third worker’s time should be budgeted to this project?

A. 1/3  B. 3/5  C. 1/8  D. 1/6

Correct Answer: D. 1/6

**Elementary Algebra 12 questions**

Students who score high on the arithmetic part of the test will be presented with three types of questions in the Elementary Algebra section of the test-

1. In the first type of problem students are asked to solve problems involving operations with integers and rational numbers; includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
Example: Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch paper.

\[-3(5 - 6) - 4(2 - 3) =\]

A. -7  B. 7  C. -1  D. 1

Correct Answer: B. 7

2. In the second type of problem students are asked to solve problems involving operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.

Example: Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given.

\[6. \text{ If } x \neq 2, \text{ then } \frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x^2 - 4}\]

A. \(\frac{x - 3}{2}\)  B. \(\frac{x - 3}{x - 2}\)  C. \(\frac{x - 3}{x + 2}\)  D. \(\frac{3}{2}\)

Correct Answer: B. \(\frac{x - 3}{x - 2}\)

3. In the third type of problem students are asked to solve problems involving the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems, solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

Example: Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given.

\[(3x - 2y)^2 =\]

A. \(9x^2 - 4y^2\)  B. \(9x^2 + 4y^2\)  C. \(9x^2 + 4y^2 - 6xy\)  D. \(9x^2 + 4y^2 - 12xy\)

Correct Answer: D. \(9x^2 + 4y^2 - 12xy\)