Pass the TABE®!

Test of Adult Basic Education Study Guide and Practice Test Questions

Published by Complete TEST Preparation Inc.

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Complete Test Preparation is committed to providing students with the best study materials and practice tests available on the market. Members of our team combine years of teaching experience, with experienced writers and editors, all with advanced degrees.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback. Email us at feedback@test-preparation.ca with your comments and suggestions. We carefully review all suggestions and often incorporate reader suggestions into upcoming versions. As a Print on Demand Publisher, we update our products frequently.
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GETTING STARTED

Congratulations! By deciding to take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE®), you have taken the first step toward a great future! Of course, there is no point in taking this important examination unless you intend to do your best to earn the highest grade you possibly can. That means getting yourself organized and discovering the best approaches, methods and strategies to master the material. Yes, that will require real effort and dedication on your part, but if you are willing to focus your energy and devote the study time necessary, before you know it you will be on your way to a brighter future.

We know that taking on a new endeavour can be scary, and it is easy to feel unsure of where to begin. That’s where we come in. This study guide is designed to help you improve your test-taking skills, show you a few tricks of the trade and increase both your competency and confidence.

THE TEST OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION®

The TABE® exam is a computer based exam, composed of four sections, reading, computational mathematics, applied mathematics, and language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computational Math</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Math</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For complete details on the skills evaluated in each section, see the corresponding chapter below.

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While we seek to make our guide as comprehensive as possible, note that like all entrance exams, the TABE® Exam might be adjusted at some future point. New material might be added, or content that is no longer relevant or applicable might be removed. It is always a good idea to give the materials you receive when you register to take the TABE® a careful review.

How this study guide is organized

This study guide is divided into three sections. The first section, Self-Assessments, which will help you recognize your areas of strength and weaknesses. This will be a boon when it comes to managing your study time most efficiently; there is not much point of focusing on material you have already got firmly under control. Instead, taking the self-assessments will show you where that time could be much better spent. In this area you will begin with a few questions to quickly evaluate your understanding of material that is likely to appear on the TABE®. If you do poorly in certain areas, simply work carefully through those sections in the tutorials and then try the self-assessment again.

The second section, Tutorials, offers information in each of the content areas, as well as strategies to help you master that material. The tutorials are not intended to be a complete course, but cover general principles. If you find that you do not understand the tutorials, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction. Most Universities recommend student take introductory courses in Math, English and Science before taking the TABE®.

Third, we offer two sets of practice test questions, similar to those on the TABE® Exam. Again, we cover all modules, so make sure to check with your school!
The TABE® Study Plan

Now that you have made the decision to take the TABE®, it is time to get started. Before you do another thing, you will need to figure out a plan of attack. The very best study tip is to start early! The longer the time period you devote to regular study practice, the more likely you will retain the material and be able to access it quickly. If you thought that 1x20 is the same as 2x10, guess what? It really is not, when it comes to study time. Reviewing material for just an hour per day over the course of 20 days is far better than studying for two hours a day for only 10 days. The more often you revisit a particular piece of information, the better you will know it. Not only will your grasp and understanding be better, but your ability to reach into your brain and quickly and efficiently pull out the tidbit you need, will be greatly enhanced as well.

The great Chinese scholar and philosopher Confucius believed that true knowledge could be defined as knowing what you know and what you do not know. The first step in preparing for the TABE® Exam is to assess your strengths and weaknesses. You may already have an idea of what you know and what you do not know, but evaluating yourself using our Self-Assessment modules for each of the three areas, math, reading comprehension and essay writing, will clarify the details.

Making a Study Schedule

To make your study time the most productive, you will need to develop a study plan. The purpose of the plan is to organize all the bits of pieces of information in such a way that you will not feel overwhelmed. Rome was not built in a day, and learning everything you will need to know to pass the TABE® Exam is going to take time, too. Arranging the material you need to learn into manageable chunks is the best way to go. Each study session should make you feel as though
you have accomplished your goal, or at least are a little closer, and your goal is simply to learn what you planned to learn during that particular session. Try to organize the content in such a way that each study session builds upon previous ones. That way, you will retain the information, be better able to access it, and review the previous bits and pieces at the same time.

Self-assessment

The Best Study Tip! The very best study tip is to start early! The longer you study regularly, the more you will retain and ‘learn’ the material. Studying for 1 hour per day for 20 days is far better than studying for 2 hours for 10 days.

What don’t you know?

The first step is to assess your strengths and weaknesses. You may already have an idea of where your weaknesses are, or you can take our Self-assessment modules for each of the areas, math, reading comprehension and essay writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Component</th>
<th>Rate from 1 to 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main idea and supporting details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing inferences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent, Decimal, Fractions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Geometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making a Study Schedule

The key to a successful study plan is to divide the material you need to learn into manageable size and learn it, while at the same time reviewing the material that you already know.

Using the table above, any scores of three or below, mean you need to spend time learning, going over, and practicing this subject area. A score of four means you need to review the material, but you don’t have to spend time re-learning. A score of five and you are OK with just an occasional review before the exam.

A score of zero or one means you really do need to work on this and you should allocate the most time and give it the highest priority. Some students prefer a 5-day plan and others a 10-day plan. It also depends on how much time you have until the exam.

Here is an example of a 5-day plan based on an example from the table above:

**Reading:** 1  Study 1 hour everyday – review on last day
**Fractions:** 3  Study 1 hour for 2 days then ½ hour and then review
**Algebra:** 4  Review every second day
**Word Problems (Applied Math):** 2  Study 1 hour on the first day – then ½ hour everyday
**Basic Geometry:** 5  Review for ½ hour every other day

Using this example, Basic Geometry is good and only needs occasional review. Algebra is good and needs ‘some’ review. Fractions need a bit of work, grammar and usage needs a lot of work and Reading is very weak and need the most time. Based on this, here is a sample study plan:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>½ hour break</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Fractions</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>½ hour break</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Fractions</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Basic Geometry</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>½ hour break</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Fractions</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Basic Geometry</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Fractions</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>½ hour break</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Basic Geometry</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Word Problems</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Fractions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Word Problems</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
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</tbody>
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This section contains a self-assessment and reading tutorial. The Tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the reading questions likely to be on the TABE® exam, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete reading course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with reading comprehension questions. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Note that these questions are for skill practice only.

Tour of the TABE® Reading Content

The TABE® reading section has 50 reading questions. Below is a detailed list of the types of reading questions that generally appear on the TABE®.

- Evaluating meaning
- Drawing inferences
- Identifying main ideas and supporting detail
The questions below are not the same as you will find on the TABE® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the time limits for each section and combining sections. Below are general reading questions that cover the same areas as the TABE®. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the reading section of the TABE®.

**Reading Self-Assessment**

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the TABE® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a Self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with reading comprehension, timing is optional. The TABE® has 25 reading questions to be completed in 25 minutes. The self-assessment has 15 questions, so allow about 15 minutes to complete this assessment.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80% - 100%</td>
<td>Excellent – you have mastered the content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 79%</td>
<td>Good. You have a working knowledge. Even though you can just pass this section, you may want to review the Tutorials and do some extra practice to see if you can improve your mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% - 59%</td>
<td>Below Average. You do not understand reading questions. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the rest of the practice test questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 40%</td>
<td>Poor. You have a very limited understanding of reading questions. Please review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Self-Assessment Answer Sheet

A  B  C  D
1   o   o   o   o
2   o   o   o   o
3   o   o   o   o
4   o   o   o   o
5   o   o   o   o
6   o   o   o   o
7   o   o   o   o
8   o   o   o   o
9   o   o   o   o
10  o   o   o   o
11  o   o   o   o
12  o   o   o   o
13  o   o   o   o
14  o   o   o   o
15  o   o   o   o

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Directions: The following questions are based on several reading passages. A series of questions follow each passage. Read each passage carefully, and then answer the questions based on it. You may reread the passage as often as you wish. When you have finished answering the questions based on one passage, go right onto the next passage. Choose the best answer based on the information given and implied.

Questions 1 – 4 refer to the following passage.

Passage 1 - Who Was Anne Frank?

You may have heard mention of the word Holocaust in your History or English classes. The Holocaust took place from 1939-1945. It was an attempt by the Nazi party to purify the human race, by eliminating Jews, Gypsies, Catholics, homosexuals and others they deemed inferior to their “perfect” Aryan race. The Nazis used Concentration Camps, which were sometimes used as Death Camps, to exterminate the people they held in the camps. The saddest fact about the Holocaust was the over one million children under the age of sixteen died in a Nazi concentration camp. Just a few weeks before World War II was over, Anne Frank was one of those children to die.

Before the Nazi party began its persecution of the Jews, Anne Frank had a happy life. She was born in June of 1929. In June of 1942, for her 13th birthday, she was given a simple present which would go onto impact the lives of millions of people around the world. That gift was a small red diary that she called Kitty. This diary was to become Anne’s most treasured possession when she and her family hid from the Nazi’s in a secret annex above her father’s office building in Amsterdam.

For 25 months, Anne, her sister Margot, her parents, another family, and an elderly Jewish dentist hid from the Nazis in this tiny annex. They were never permitted to go outside and their food and supplies were brought to them...
by Miep Gies and her husband, who did not believe in the Nazi persecution of the Jews. It was a very difficult life for young Anne and she used Kitty as an outlet to describe her life in hiding.

After 2 years, Anne and her family were betrayed and arrested by the Nazis. To this day, nobody is exactly sure who betrayed the Frank family and the other annex residents. Anne, her mother, and her sister were separated from Otto Frank, Anne’s father. Then, Anne and Margot were separated from their mother. In March of 1945, Margot Frank died of starvation in a Concentration Camp. A few days later, at the age of 15, Anne Frank died of typhus. Of all the people who hid in the Annex, only Otto Frank survived the Holocaust.

Otto Frank returned to the Annex after World War II. It was there that he found Kitty, filled with Anne’s thoughts and feelings about being a persecuted Jewish girl. Otto Frank had Anne’s diary published in 1947 and it has remained continuously in print ever since. Today, the diary has been published in over 55 languages and more than 24 million copies have been sold around the world. The Diary of Anne Frank tells the story of a brave young woman who tried to see the good in all people.

1. From the context clues in the passage, what does annex mean?
   a. Attic
   b. Bedroom
   c. Basement
   d. Kitchen

2. Why do you think Anne’s diary has been published in 55 languages?
   a. So everyone could understand it.
   b. So people around the world could learn more about the horrors of the Holocaust.
   c. Because Anne was Jewish but hid in Amsterdam and died in Germany.
   d. Because Otto Frank spoke many languages.
3. From the description of Anne and Margot’s deaths in the passage, what can we assume typhus is?

   a. The same as starving to death.
   b. An infection the Germans gave to Anne.
   c. A disease Anne caught in the concentration camp.
   d. Poison gas used by the Germans to kill Anne.

4. In the third paragraph, what does outlet mean?

   a. A place to plug things into the wall
   b. A store where Miep bought cheap supplies for the Frank family
   c. A hiding space similar to an Annex
   d. A place where Anne could express her private thoughts.
**Answer Key**

1. **A**
We know that an annex is like an attic because the text states the annex was above Otto Frank’s building.

Choice B is incorrect because an office building doesn’t have bedrooms. Choice C is incorrect because a basement would be below the office building. Choice D is incorrect because there would not be a kitchen in an office building.

2. **B**
The diary has been published in 55 languages so people all over the world can learn about Anne. That is why the passage says it has been continuously in print.

Choice A is incorrect because it is too vague. Choice C is incorrect because it was published after Anne died and she did not write in all three languages. Choice D is incorrect because the passage does not give us any information about what languages Otto Frank spoke.

3. **C**
Use the process of elimination to figure this out.

Choice A cannot be the correct answer because otherwise the passage would have simply said that Anne and Margot both died of starvation. Choices B and D cannot be correct because if the Germans had done something specifically to murder Anne, the passage would have stated that directly. By the process of elimination, choice C has to be the correct answer.

4. **D**
We can figure this out using context clues. The paragraph is talking about Anne’s diary and so, outlet in this instance is a place where Anne can pour her feelings.

Choice A is incorrect answer. That is the literal meaning of the word outlet and the passage is using the figurative meaning. Choice B is incorrect because that is the secondary literal meaning of the word outlet, as in an outlet mall. Again, we are looking for figurative meaning. Choice C is incorrect because
there are no clues in the text to support that answer.
Help with Reading Comprehension

At first sight, reading comprehension tests look challenging especially if you are given long essays to answer only two to three questions. While reading, you might notice your attention wandering, or you may feel sleepy. Do not be discouraged because there are various tactics and long-range strategies that make comprehending even long, boring essays easier.

Your friends before your foes. It is always best to start with passages with familiar subjects rather than those with unfamiliar ones. This approach applies the same logic as tackling easy questions before hard ones. Skip passages that do not interest you and leave them for later.

Don’t use ‘special’ reading techniques. This is not the time for speed-reading or anything like that – just plain ordinary reading – not too slow and not too fast.

Read through the entire passage and the questions before you do anything. Many students try reading the questions first and then looking for answers in the passage thinking this approach is more efficient. What these students do not realize is that it is often hard to navigate in unfamiliar roads. If you do not familiarize yourself with the passage first, looking for answers become not only time-consuming but also dangerous because you might miss the context of the answer you are looking for. If you read the
questions first you will only confuse yourself and lose valuable time.

Familiarize yourself with Reading Comprehension questions. If you are familiar with the common types of reading questions, you are able to take note of important parts of the passage, saving time. There are six major kinds of reading questions.

• **Main Idea** - Questions that ask for the central thought or significance of the passage.

• **Specific Details** - Questions that asks for explicitly stated ideas.

• **Drawing Inferences** - Questions that ask for a logical extension of statements.

• **Tone or Attitude** - Questions that test your ability to sense the emotional state of the author.

• **Context Meaning** – Questions that ask for the meaning of a word depending on the context.

• **Technique** – Questions that ask for the method of organization or the writing style of the author.

**Read. Read. Read.** The best preparation for Reading Comprehension tests is always to read, read and read. If you are not used to reading lengthy passages, you will probably lose concentration. Increase your attention span by making a habit out of reading. Read everyday and increase the time slowly each day.

Reading comprehension tests become less daunting when you have trained yourself to read and understand fast. Always remember that it is easier to understand passages you are interested in. Do not read through passages hastily. Make mental notes of ideas you may be asked.
Computational Mathematics

This section contains a self-assessment and math tutorials. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the math questions likely to be on the TABE® exam, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete math course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with math. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Tour of the TABE® Mathematics Content

The TABE® computational mathematics section has 25 questions. Below is a detailed list of the topics likely to appear on the TABE®.

- Convert decimals, percent and fractions
- Calculate percent
• Operations using fractions, percent and fractions

• Basic Algebra

The questions in the self-assessment are not the same as you will find on the TABE® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly, the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes also can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the time limits for each section, and combining sections. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and changes from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the computational mathematics section of the TABE®.

Mathematics Self-Assessment

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

• Identify your strengths and weaknesses.

• Develop your personalized study plan (above)

• Get accustomed to the TABE® format

• Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!

• Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a Self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with mathematics, timing yourself is optional. The TABE® has 25 questions, to be answered in 15 minutes, so you have less than a minute for each question. Keep this in mind when managing your time. Some questions you will be able to do very quickly, say, in thirty seconds, and others will take more than a minute.
This self-assessment has 30 questions, so allow about 20 minutes to complete.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80% - 100%</td>
<td>Excellent – you have mastered the content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 79%</td>
<td>Good. You have a working knowledge. Even though you can just pass this section, you may want to review the Tutorials and do some extra practice to see if you can improve your mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% - 59%</td>
<td>Below Average. You do not understand the computational math content. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the rest of the practice test questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 40%</td>
<td>Poor. You have a very limited understanding of computational math. Please review the Tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Answer Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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Math Self-Assessment

Decimals, Fractions and Percent

1. 15 is what percent of 200?
   a. 7.50%
   b. 15%
   c. 20%
   d. 17.50%

2. A boy has 5 red balls, 3 white balls and 2 yellow balls. What percent of the balls are yellow?
   a. 2%
   b. 8%
   c. 20%
   d. 12%

3. Add 10% of 300 to 50% of 20
   a. 50%
   b. 40%
   c. 60%
   d. 45%

4. Convert 75% to a fraction.
   a. 2/100
   b. 85/100
   c. 3/4
   d. 4/7
5. Convert 90% to a fraction
   a. 1/10
   b. 9/9
   c. 10/100
   d. 9/10

6. Multiply 3 by 25% of 40
   a. 75
   b. 30
   c. 68
   d. 35

7. Convert 0.28 to a fraction.
   a. 7/25
   b. 3.25
   c. 8/25
   d. 5/28

8. Convert 0.45 to a fraction
   a. 7/20
   b. 7/45
   c. 9/20
   d. 3/20

9. Convert 1/5 to percent.
   a. 10%
   b. 5%
   c. 20%
   d. 25%
Answer Key

1. A
   \[ \frac{15}{200} = \frac{X}{100} = 1500 = 200X = 15 = 2X = 7.5\% \]

2. C
   Total no. of balls = 10, no. of yellow balls = 2, answer = \( \frac{2}{10} \)
   \[ X \times 100 = 20\% \]

3. B
   10% of 300 = 30 and 50% of 20 = 10 so 30 + 10 = 40.

4. C
   75% = \( \frac{75}{100} = \frac{3}{4} \)

5. D
   90% = \( \frac{90}{100} = \frac{9}{10} \)

6. B
   25% of 40 = 10 and 10 x 3 = 30

7. A
   0.28 = \( \frac{28}{100} = \frac{7}{25} \)

8. C
   0.45 = \( \frac{45}{100} = \frac{9}{20} \)

9. C
   \( \frac{1}{5} \times 100 = 20\% \)
Fraction Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts

When you are writing an exam, time is precious, and anything you can do to answer questions faster, is a real advantage. Here are some ideas, shortcuts, tips and tricks that can speed up answering fraction problems.

Remember that a fraction is just a number which names a portion of something. For instance, instead of having a whole pie, a fraction says you have a part of a pie--such as a half of one or a fourth of one.

Two digits make up a fraction. The digit on top is known as the numerator. The digit on the bottom is known as the denominator. To remember which is which, just remember that “denominator” and “down” both start with a “d.” And the “downstairs” number is the denominator. So for instance, in ½, the numerator is the 1 and the denominator (or “downstairs”) number is the 2.

☐ It’s easy to add two fractions if they have the same
denominator. Just add the digits on top and leave the bottom one the same: $\frac{1}{10} + \frac{6}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$.

- It’s the same with subtracting fractions with the same denominator: $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{6}{10} = \frac{1}{10}$.

- Adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators is a little more complicated. First, you have to get the problem so that they do have the same denominators. One of the easiest ways to do this is to multiply the denominators: For $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{2}$ multiply 5 by 2. Now you have a denominator of 10. But now you have to change the top numbers too. Since you multiplied the 5 in $\frac{2}{5}$ by 2, you also multiply the 2 by 2, to get 4. So the first number is now $\frac{4}{10}$. Since you multiplied the second number times 5, you also multiply its top number by 5, to get a final fraction of $\frac{5}{10}$. Now you can add 5 and 4 together to get a final sum of $\frac{9}{10}$.

- Sometimes you’ll be asked to reduce a fraction to its simplest form. This means getting it to where the only common factor of the numerator and denominator is 1. Think of it this way: Numerators and denominators are brothers that must be treated the same. If you do something to one, you must do it to the other, or it’s just not fair. For instance, if you divide your numerator by 2, then you should also divide the denominator by the same. Let’s take an example: The fraction $\frac{2}{10}$. This is not reduced to its simplest terms because there is a number that will divide evenly into both: the number 2. We want to make it so that the only number that will divide evenly into both is 1. What can we divide into 2 to get 1? The number 2, of course! Now to be “fair,” we have to do the same thing to the denominator: Divide 2 into 10 and you get 5. So our new, reduced fraction is $\frac{1}{5}$.

- In some ways, multiplying fractions is the easiest of all: Just multiply the two top numbers and then multiply the two bottom numbers. For instance, with this problem:
2/5 X 2/3 you multiply 2 by 2 and get a top number of 4; then multiply 5 by 3 and get a bottom number of 15. Your answer is 4/15.

Dividing fractions is a bit more involved, but still not too hard. You once again multiply, but only AFTER you have turned the second fraction upside-down. To divide 7/8 by ½, turn the ½ into 2/1, then multiply the top numbers and multiply the bottom numbers: 7/8 X 2/1 gives us 14 on top and 8 on the bottom.
This section contains a self-assessment and applied mathematics tutorials. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the self-assessment contains general questions similar to the applied math questions likely to be on the TABE® exam, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete applied math course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with applied math. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Tour of the TABE® Applied Mathematics Content

The TABE® applied mathematics section has 25 questions. Below is a detailed list of the mathematics topics likely to appear on the TABE®. Make sure that you understand these topics at the very minimum.

• Solve word problems based on the computational math content areas

• Interpreting graphs

• Basic geometry
The questions in the self-assessment are not the same as you will find on the TABE® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly, the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes also can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in each section, changes to the time limits for each section, and combining sections. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and changes from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the mathematics section of the TABE®.

**Applied Mathematics Self-Assessment**

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the TABE® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with applied mathematics, timing yourself is optional. The TABE® has 25 questions, to be answered in 25 minutes. This self-assessment has 20 questions, so allow about 20 minutes to complete.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.
<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% - 59%</td>
<td>Below Average. You do not understand the applied math content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 40%</td>
<td>Poor. You have a very limited understanding of applied math.</td>
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Applied Math Answer Sheet

A  B  C  D

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1. The total expense of building a fence around a square-shaped field is $2000 at a rate of $5 per meter. What is the length of one side?
   a. 80 meters  
   b. 100 meters  
   c. 40 meters  
   d. 320 meters

2. There are some oranges in a basket. By adding 8/5 of the total to the basket the new total became 130. How many oranges were in the basket?
   a. 50  
   b. 60  
   c. 40  
   d. 35

3. Write 41.061 to the nearest 10th.
   a. 41.1  
   b. 41.06  
   c. 41  
   d. 41.6

4. The following numbers represent the ages of people on a bus – 3, 6, 27, 13, 6, 8, 12, 20, 5, 10. Calculate their mean of their ages.
   a. 11  
   b. 6  
   c. 9  
   d. 110
**Answer Key**

1. **B**
   Total expense is $2000 and we are informed that $5 is spent per meter. Combining these two information, we know that the total length of the fence is $2000/5 = 400$ meters.

   The fence is built around a square-shaped field. If one side of the square is “a,” the perimeter of the square is “4a.” Here, the perimeter is equal to 400 meters. So,

   $$400 = 4a$$

   $$100 = a \rightarrow$$ this means that one side of the square is equal to 100 meters

2. **A**
   Suppose oranges in the basket before = x
   Then: $X + 8x/5 = 130$
   $5x + 8x = 650$ (multiply both sides by 5)
   $13x = 650, \ x = 650/13$
   $X = 50$

3. **A**
   The number is 41.061. The last digit 1, which is less than 5, and so it’s discarded. The next digit, 6, is greater than 5 and so is removed and 1 is added to the next digit to the left. Answer = 41.1

4. **A**
   First add all the numbers $3 + 6 + 27 + 13 + 6 + 8 + 12 + 20 + 5 + 10 = 110$. Then divide by 10 (the number of data provided) = $110/10 = 11$
How to Solve Word Problems

Most students find math word problems difficult. Solving word problems is much easier if you have a systematic approach which we outline below.

Here is the biggest tip for studying word problems.

Practice regularly and systematically. Sounds simple and easy right? Yes it is, and yes it really does work.

Word problems are a way of thinking and require you to translate a real world problem into mathematical terms.

Some math instructors go so far as to say that learning how to think mathematically is the main reason for teaching word problems.

So what do we mean by practice regularly and systematically? Studying word problems and math in general requires a logical and mathematical frame of mind. The only way you can get this is by practicing regularly, which means everyday.

It is critical that you practice word problems everyday for the 5 days before the exam as a bare minimum.

If you practice and miss a day, you have lost the mathematical frame of mind and the benefit of your previous practice is pretty much gone. Anyone who has done math will agree – you have to practice everyday.

Everything is important. The other critical point about word problems is that all the information given in the problem has some purpose. There is no unnecessary information! Word problems are typically around 50 words in 1 to 3 sentences. If the sometimes complicated relationships are to be explained in that short an explanation, every word has to count. Make sure that you use every piece of information.

Here are 9 simple steps to solving word problems.

Step 1 – Read through the problem at least three times. The first reading should be a quick scan, and the next two read-
Types of Word Problems

Word problems can be classified into 12 types. Below are examples of each type with a complete solution. Some types of word problems can be solved quickly using multiple choice strategies and some cannot. Always look for ways to estimate the answer and then eliminate choices.

1. Age

A girl is 10 years older than her brother. By next year, she will be twice the age of her brother. What are their ages now?

a. 25, 15
b. 19, 9
c. 21, 11
d. 29, 19

Solution: B

We will assume that the girl’s age is “a” and her brother’s is “b.” This means that based on the information in the first sentence,

\[ a = 10 + b \]

Next year, she will be twice her brother’s age, which gives

\[ a + 1 = 2(b + 1) \]

We need to solve for one unknown factor and then use the answer to solve for the other. To do this we substitute the value of “a” from the first equation into the second equation. This gives

\[ 10 + b + 1 = 2b + 2 \]
\[ 11 + b = 2b + 2 \]
\[ 11 – 2 = 2b – b \]
\[ b = 9 \]

9 = b this means that her brother is 9 years old. Solving for
Proportion

If the two or more ratio quantities encompass all the quantities in a particular situation, for example two apples and three oranges in a fruit basket containing no other types of fruit, it could be said that “the whole” contains five parts, made up of two parts apples and three parts oranges. Here, or 40% of the whole are apples or 60% of the whole are oranges. This comparison of a specific quantity to “the whole” is sometimes called a proportion. Proportions are sometimes expressed as percentages as demonstrated above.

Perimeter, Area and Volume

Perimeter and Area (2-dimensional shapes)

Perimeter of a shape determines the length around that shape, while the area includes the space inside the shape.

**Rectangle:**

\[ P = 2a + 2b \]
\[ A = ab \]

**Square**

\[ P = 4a \]
\[ A = a^2 \]

**Parallelogram**

\[ P = 2a + 2b \]
\[ A = ah = bh \]

**Rhombus**
Language

This section contains a self-assessment and English tutorials. The tutorials are designed to familiarize general principles and the Self-Assessment contains general questions similar to the English questions likely to be on the TABE® exam, but are not intended to be identical to the exam questions. The tutorials are not designed to be a complete English course, and it is assumed that students have some familiarity with English. If you do not understand parts of the tutorial, or find the tutorial difficult, it is recommended that you seek out additional instruction.

Tour of the TABE® Language Content

The TABE® English section has 25 questions. Below is a detailed list of the English topics likely to appear on the TABE®.

- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Sentence structure
- Paragraph structure
- Vocabulary
- Spelling

The questions in the self-assessment are not the same as you will find on the TABE® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Mostly, the changes consist of substituting new questions for old, but the changes also can be new question formats or styles, changes to the number of questions in
each section, changes to the time limits for each section, and combining sections. So while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and changes from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the English section of the TABE®.

**English Self-Assessment**

The purpose of the self-assessment is:

- Identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop your personalized study plan (above)
- Get accustomed to the TABE® format
- Extra practice – the self-assessments are almost a full 3rd practice test!
- Provide a baseline score for preparing your study schedule.

Since this is a self-assessment, and depending on how confident you are with English, timing yourself is optional. The TABE® has 25 questions, to be answered in 25 minutes. This self-assessment has 45 questions, so allow about 45 minutes to complete.

Once complete, use the table below to assess your understanding of the content, and prepare your study schedule described in chapter 1.
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<tr>
<td>40% - 59%</td>
<td>Below Average. You do not understand the Language content. Review the tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the rest of the practice test questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 40%</td>
<td>Poor. You have a very limited understanding of English. Please review the Tutorials, and retake this quiz again in a few days, before proceeding to the practice test questions.</td>
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English Answer Sheet

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Directions: For questions 1 - 5, choose the correct punctuation mark.

1. Sit up straight _____
   a. ;
   b. ?
   c. .
   d. :

2. They asked what time the department store would open _____
   a. ?
   b. .
   c. ,
   d. ;

3. Who do you think will win the contest _____
   a. .
   b. !
   c. ?
   d. ,

4. Four extra guests are coming to dinner _____
   a. .
   b. ?
   c. !
   d. ;
Answer Key

1. C
A period or an exclamation mark is used to end an imperative sentence, that is, at the end of a direction or a command.

2. B
A period is used to end an indirect question. An indirect question is always a part of a declarative sentence and it does not require an answer.

3. C
A question mark is used to end an interrogative sentence, that is, at the end of a direct question which requires an answer.

4. B
Use a question mark to end a statement that is intended as a question.
Capitalization

Although many of the rules for capitalization are pretty straightforward, there are several tricky points that are important to review.

Starting a Sentence

Everyone knows that you need to capitalize the first letter of the first word in a sentence, but is it really all that easy to figure out where one sentence starts and another stops? Take these three examples:

That was the moment it really sunk in: There would be no hockey this year.

It was April and that could mean only one thing: baseball.

We played for hours before heading home; everyone felt tired and happy.

In the first example, the first letter after the colon is capitalized while in the second example it is not. That is because everything after the first example’s colon is a complete sentence, while after example two’s colon there is only one word. In example three you have what could be a complete sentence (“everyone felt tired and happy”), but which is not because it follows a semicolon, making it just another clause instead.

Within a sentence you can have an additional complete sentence if the sentence follows a colon. However, if what could be a complete sentence follows a semicolon, it is a clause and does not get capitalized.

Remember that the same rules apply for quotation marks
The questions below are not the same as you will find on the TABE® - that would be too easy! And nobody knows what the questions will be and they change all the time. Below are general questions that cover the same subject areas as the TABE®. So, while the format and exact wording of the questions may differ slightly, and change from year to year, if you can answer the questions below, you will have no problem with the TABE®.

For the best results, take these Practice Test Questions as if it were the real exam. Set aside time when you will not be disturbed, and a location that is quiet and free of distractions. Read the instructions carefully, read each question carefully, and answer to the best of your ability. Use the bubble answer sheets provided. When you have completed the Practice Questions, check your answer against the Answer Key and read the explanation provided.

Do not attempt more than one set of practice test questions in one day. After completing the first practice test, wait two or three days before attempting the second set of questions.
Reading

A B C D E A B C D E
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Computational Mathematics

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Practice Test Questions Set 2

The practice test portion presents questions that are representative of the type of question you should expect to find on the TABE®. However, they are not intended to match exactly what is on the TABE®.

For the best results, take this Practice Test as if it were the real exam. Set aside time when you will not be disturbed, and a location that is quiet and free of distractions. Read the instructions carefully, read each question carefully, and answer to the best of your ability.

Use the bubble answer sheets provided. When you have completed the Practice Test, check your answer against the Answer Key and read the explanation provided.
Computational Mathematics

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### Applied Mathematics

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CONGRATULATIONS! You have made it this far because you have applied yourself diligently to practicing for the exam and no doubt improved your potential score considerably! Getting into a good school is a huge step in a journey that might be challenging at times but will be many times more rewarding and fulfilling. That is why being prepared is so important.

Study then Practice and then Succeed!

Good Luck!