



**Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
TABE (Test for Adult Basic Education) Survey Testing Facts**

Is an appointment necessary for testing?Yes

Phone: 800-362-3322, ext. 2313 or the local phone number, (608) 822-2313 to schedule your test.

Students with disabilities, who need accommodations, should contact the office of the Support Services/Intake Specialist, Building 100, Room 108, 800-362-3322, ext. 2631, or local phone number, (608) 822-2631, TTY/TDD (608) 822-2072, or e-mail lgarvey@swtc.edu

What kind of test is it?

The TABE is a computerized, timed test. If you are unfamiliar with computers, arrangements can be made to take the test with test book, pencil and answer sheets.

Do I need to bring anything for testing?No

Pencils, scratch paper, and calculators are furnished for testing. If you would like to bring your own calculator, you may do so.

When will I find out what my test scores are?

Tests are scored immediately upon completion.

TABE Sample Test Questions

Areas of testing are Reading, Language, Math Computation, and Applied Math. The Apprenticeship programs only require you to test in the areas of Applied Math, Math Computation, and Reading.

The following pages contain questions similar to those found in the test. If you find many of these questions difficult, you may wish to contact the Academic Skills Center at SWTC, ext. 2185, to receive help in preparing for the TABE.

TEST 1 – READING

The house was quiet. Everyone was asleep except Beth. She was thinking about tomorrow and her first day on the new job.

Why couldn't Beth sleep?

- f. The house was too quiet.
- g. She wanted to talk to someone.
- h. She was thinking about her new job.
- j. There were other people in the house.

Answer: h

The following is an editorial written by the editor of Food Magazine. Use it to answer the questions below it.

People are finally becoming concerned about the decline of their physical and emotional health. Today many people realize that by increasing their consumption of natural foods, rather than processed foods, they will feel better.

Leading dietitians have advocated eating the “natural way” for years and continue to emphasize the numerous advantages of eating natural foods. Natural foods are far more nutritious and contain many more vitamins than processed foods. It has been proved that natural foods contain few, if any, added chemicals or preservatives. Natural foods are not only good for you, but taste good too.

The next time you shop, buy bread made of whole-grain flour rather than bleached flour, or buy honey to use as a sweetener rather than sugar. Be sure to buy fresh fruits and vegetable whenever you have the opportunity. Take care of yourself and start eating the “natural way” today.

1. The writer of the editorial is
 - a. critical of shoppers
 - b. indignant at reports from dietitians
 - c. concerned that people should improve their health
 - d. convinced that most people will switch to natural foods

2. Which of the following is true about this editorial?
 - f. It is slanted in favor of natural foods.
 - g. It states only facts about natural foods.
 - h. It is a fair presentation of arguments for and against natural foods.
 - j. It presents inconsistent information about benefits of natural foods.

3. In comparison with other foods, the writer believes natural foods are
 - a. tastier
 - b. cheaper
 - c. more healthful
 - d. better preserved

4. Which one of the following is a fact stated in this editorial?
 - f. Natural foods contain few preservatives.
 - g. Whole-grain flour is better than bleached flour.
 - h. You will feel better if you eat natural foods.
 - j. You should buy fresh fruits and vegetables when you shop.

Answers: 1=c 2=f 3=a 4=f

Read this “Help Wanted” ad



DEMONSTRATOR & SALESPERSON
Min. age 18. Work some eves. &
wkends. Transp. Provide. Computer
knowledge desirable. Some benefits.
Sal. Negot. Commissions. For details
call Teri days at 555-9931

1. According to the ad, the employer will provide the new employee with
 - a. meals
 - b. transportation
 - c. a year-end bonus
 - d. a retirement plan

2. Which of these is probably the type of work the applicant would be hired to do?
 - f. programming a computer
 - g. processing credit applications
 - h. operating and selling a product
 - j. functioning as cashier and bookkeeper

Answers: 1=b 2=h

These questions pertain to using references sources. Read each item and then choose the best answer.

1. When you write a report, you should name your source if
 - a. the exact idea came from another person
 - b. your opinion is given in your conclusion
 - c. the facts are considered common knowledge
 - d. your report is longer than five pages

2. Which of these would be the most helpful if you were writing the final draft of a report:
 - f. an atlas
 - g. a dictionary
 - h. a card catalog
 - j. an encyclopedia

3. You can find up-to-date statistical information about most large cities in
 - a. a thesaurus
 - b. a world atlas
 - c. a current almanac
 - d. an unabridged dictionary

Answers: 1=a 2=g 3=c

TEST 2 – MATH COMPUTATION

1. $58.17 + 26.428 =$
- f. 32.245
g. 74.698
h. 84.598
j. 322.35
k. None of these
2. $3.8 - 1.274$
- a. 0.2526
b. 2.426
c. 2.526
d. 2.626
e. None of these
3.
$$\begin{array}{r} 0.82 \\ \times 0.34 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
- f. 0.02788
g. 2.788
h. 27.88
j. 0.2788
k. None of these
4. $18 \div 2 \frac{1}{4}$
- a. $\frac{1}{8}$
b. $\frac{1}{2}$
c. 8
d. $40 \frac{1}{2}$
e. None of these
5. $\frac{7}{8} \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{3}$
- f. $1 \frac{2}{5}$
g. $2 \frac{5}{8}$
h. $\frac{7}{32}$
j. $\frac{11}{96}$
k. None of these
6. $^{-}14 \times ^{-}3 =$
- a. 42
b. $^{-}17$
c. $^{-}42$
d. 17
e. None of these
7. 40% of 15 =
- f. 6
g. 3
h. 12
j. 9
k. None of these
8. $7 \frac{1}{2}\%$ of ? = \$1.50
- a. \$20
b. \$2
c. \$200
d. \$0.20
e. None of these

Answers: 1=h 2=c 3=j 4=c 5=h 6=a 7=f 8=a

TEST 3 – APPLIED MATH

1. A piece of cord 4 feet 9 inches long was divided into 3 equal parts. How long was each part?
a. 1 foot 3 inches b. 1 foot 7 inches c. 2 feet 3 inches d. 14 feet 3 inches
2. Which number sentence is true?
f. $0.0027 < 0.027$ g. $0.027 < 0.0027$ h. $0.27 < 0.027$ j. $2.7 < 0.27$
3. Which of these means $6n - 4 = 20$?
a. 6 less than 4 times a number is 20 b. 4 less than 6 times a number is 20
c. 6 times 4 less than a number is 20 d. 4 more than 6 times a number is 20
4. A computer takes 0.004 seconds to solve a problem. How many problems can be solved in 6.8 seconds?
f. 0.0272 g. 1.7 h. 170.0 j. 1700.0
5. Which of these numbers has a square root that is a whole number?
a. 18 b. 20 c. 36 d. 44

This table shows different water conservation methods. Study the table and answer the next 4 questions using the information from the table.

	Normal Use	Conservation
Shower	Leave water running 24 gal.	Wet down, soap up, rinse off 4 gal
Washing Hands	Leave tap running 2 gal	Fill basin 1 gal
Bath	Use full tub 36 gal	Use minimal amount of water 12 gal
Washing Dishes	Leave tap running 30 gal	Wash & rinse in pan or sink 5 gal

6. The water used when taking a bath for conservation is what percent of that used normally?
a. 25% b. 33.3% c. 45% d. 66.7%
7. The water used for a normal shower is what percent of that used for a normal bath?
f. 25% g. 33.3% h. 45% j. 66.7%
8. Which of these is equal to the amount of water used in a normal shower?
(1 gallon – 3.785 liters)
a. 6.34 liters b. 9.084 liters c. 27.785 liters d. 90.84 liters
9. If you switched from taking daily normal baths to daily water-conserving showers, approximately how much water could you save in a year?
f. between 11,500 and 12,000 gallons g. between 7000 and 7500 gallons
h. between 1400 and 1500 gallons j. between 14,500 and 15,000 gallons
10. A newspaper reported that the population of Texas in 1980 was about 14,000,000. The actual population in 1980 was 14,229,193. To what place value was 14,229,193 rounded to get 14,000,000?
a. to the millions place b. to the thousands place c. to the ten-millions place d. to the hundred-thousands place

Answers: 1=b 2=f 3=b 4=j 5=c 6=b 7=j 8=d 9=f 10=a

TEST 4 – LANGUAGE

For Numbers 1 thru 3 which punctuation mark, if any, is needed in the sentence?

1. “Yes these plans seem to meet our specifications,” said the planning commissioner to the architect.

- a , b “ c : d ? e None

2. I wonder, Nell said, “if dogs have a homing instinct.”

- f : g , h “ j ? k None

3. I read the book from cover to cover without stopping it took me six hours.

- a : b ; c ; d “ e None

Choose the sentence that is correctly written.

4. a. A decimal point was misplaced the error was serious.
b. Misplacing a decimal point can cause a serious error.
c. In misplacing a decimal point to cause a serious error.
d. Whoever misplaces a decimal point and causes a serious error.
5. f. The drab-looking restaurant served gourmet meals.
g. The meals were gourmet the restaurant looked drab.
h. Serving gourmet meals in the drab-looking restaurant.
j. In the drab-looking restaurant which serves gourmet meals.

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

6. The cost of the meal gave Ursula and _ a shock.

- a. I b. me c. mine d. myself

7. Sally is the artist _____ fine talents were rewarded.

- a. who b. that c. what d. whose

Choose the sentence that best combines those sentences into one.

8. Cora pushed the elevator button.

Cora waited for the elevator to return to the lobby.

- a. Cora pushed the button and it returned to the lobby.
b. Cora pushed the button, and Cora waited for the elevator to return to the lobby.
c. Cora pushed the elevator button, and then she also waited to return to the lobby.
d. Cora pushed the button and waited for the elevator to return to the lobby.

Choose the sentence that does *not* belong in the paragraph.

9. 1. Managing a home can be a challenging task requiring many skills. 2. The traditional roles of mother as homemaker and father as breadwinner are changing. 3. Budgeting income and making household purchases require careful planning. 4. Preparing meals involves time and money management as well as cooking skills.

- a. Sentence 1 b. Sentence 2 c. Sentence 3 d. Sentence 4

Answers: 1=a 2=h 3=c 4=b 5=f 6=b 7=d 8=d 9=b