

LORENZO WALKER
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

LWIT

TABE STUDY GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION

What are the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE)?

Designed specifically for adult populations, the TABE is a standardized test that assesses student mastery of basic educational skills in reading, math and language skills and helps LWIT to evaluate your ability to understand the curriculum.

Why do I have to take the TABE?

The Florida Department of Education requires (Rule 6A-6.014, FAC) students who are enrolling in a post-secondary vocational certificate program to take an academic skills test such as the TABE. If you have an associate's or bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college, you are exempt from taking the TABE.

How much does it cost to take the TABE?

There is no cost to take the initial TABE for application into a program. There is, however a \$30 application fee to submit an application to a program. If you have to retest, there will be an \$8 retesting fee.

How long will the TABE take?

Plan on 2 – 2 ½ hours. Thirty-five minutes for a locator test and 90 minutes for the actual test which will be administered through computerized testing.

What is the locator test?

With a subtest of each section, the locator test ensures that students are given the level of test that will best match their skills.

How many levels of the TABE are there?

There are 4 levels: E, M, D, and A. The levels range in difficulty with Level A being the most difficult.

What score do I need to get?

It depends on the program. Check with the appropriate advisor.

When will I get my scores?

The TABE is scored immediately.

What happens if I don't get the score I need?

Students not meeting the basic skills requirements will have the opportunity to receive appropriate instruction in order to achieve the required TABE levels prior to completion of their program. There is no charge for remediation instruction. Ask your advisor for details.

How long before I can retest?

You must wait a minimum of six weeks before retesting and have a recommendation to retest from the remediation instructor. You will only need to retest on the sections in which you scored low.

What is on the TABE?

There are three sections of the TABE: Reading, Math and Language. There are 100 questions on the TABE.

READING

You will have 25 minutes to complete 25 questions. This section will assess reading comprehension as it relates to reading diagrams, maps, charts, tables, forms and documents. Students will answer questions about content and meaning and draw conclusions based upon what they read.

Skill set	# of ?s
Interpret Graphic Information- Interpretation of information displayed in drawings, photographs, maps, graphs or charts.	4
Words in Context- The meaning of words depends on the context in which they appear, i.e. pitcher means two different things based upon context.	4
Recall Information -Remembering information to use later.	4-5
Construct Meaning -From what you read, you can figure out the main point, compare facts or draw conclusions about the information – in other words you get a meaning from what you read.	8
Evaluate/Extend Meaning -When reading a story or article you evaluate or form an opinion about what you read.	4-5

MATH

There are 50 questions in two sections.

For **Math Computation**, you will have 15 minutes to complete 25 questions relating to addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Integers and percents are also covered. No calculators are allowed for this section.

Skill Set	# of ?s
Multiplying and Dividing Whole Numbers	0-8
Decimals - A number that represents a part of a whole/another way of writing a fraction ($1/10 = .1$)	4
Fractions -A number that represents a part of a whole that has been divided into equal parts (ex. $2/3 = 2$ of 3 parts)	4
Integers –Positive and negative numbers. Fractions and decimals are not integers.	5
Percents – The percent symbol (%) means per hundred or divided by 100 ($16\% = 16/100$ or 16 per hundred)	4
Algebraic Operations - In algebra, letters are used to represent numbers.	0-8

The **Applied Math** section will have 25 questions that deal with real world application of math concepts (word problems). You will have 25 minutes to complete the questions and you may use a calculator (provided) on the applied math section.

Skill Set	# of ?s
Numeric Operations - Basic addition and subtraction	3-4
Computation in Context/Problem Solving - Solution of real life problems.	2-3
Estimation - Process of finding the approximate answer rather than an exact one.	3
Measurement - Use of rulers, scales, thermometers and clocks to find information.	3-4
Geometry - Determines the relationship, properties and measurement of all types of shapes, points, lines, angles, plane figures and solid figures.	3
Data Interpretation - Interpretation of information from graphs, charts, tables and diagrams	3-4

Statistics and Probability – A probability (or chance) tells how likely it is that an event will occur.	1-2
Pre-Algebra and Algebra- The process of finding the value of the letter or variable through addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.	4

LANGUAGE: You will have 25 minutes to complete 25 questions. The section will address correct word usage, sentence formation, capitalization, punctuation and paragraph development.

Skill Set	# of ?s
Usage - Usage refers to the way we use words in speaking and writing.	4-5
Sentence Formation - Formation of sentences requires a completed idea with a subject and verb.	4
Paragraph Development - A paragraph is a group of sentences that are written about a single thought or idea. It generally has a main or thesis statement followed by other sentences that support the main idea.	4
Capitalization - This section covers the rules for capitalization.	4
Punctuation- Covers the proper use of periods, question marks, exclamation points, commas and quotation marks.	4-5
Writing Conventions - Covers the rules and customs used in writing such as proper use of apostrophe, quotation marks and format of addresses and letters.	4

STUDYING FOR THE TABE

There are many resources, print or online, available to you as you prepare or refresh your skills for the TABE. You can also visit the following websites for general test preparation and skill development:

Printed resources

Visit any Collier County Public Library and check out a **TABE study guide** or **GED preparation book**. While the GED is not the exact same structure as the TABE, GED test guides are more readily available and will provide good sample tests on which to practice. Free with library card.

The LWIT bookstore sells study guides for the TABE for under \$15.

Purchase a TABE preparation book from any book seller (although our suggestion is that you pursue less expensive alternatives first!)

On-line resources

Use your discretion when seeking online options for studying for the TABE. There are many sites that will gladly charge you a fee for “TABE” preparation but closer study shows they use the same resources for a variety of tests. This information for a fee is less useful because it is generic and not tailored to the TABE. You can find many useful sites for free that will be of as much help if not more than these fee based sites.

All sections

Visit the Collier County Public Library website at www.collier-lib.org (you must have a library card to use this option). The library has purchased access to a test preparation which they provide to library patrons at no cost. This site has a GED preparation study guide and sample tests for your use.

1. Click on Library databases tab at top of webpage.
2. Select “Gale Group”
3. Enter library card # where requested
4. Select “Testing & Education Reference Center”
5. Select “Test Preparation”
6. Select “General Education Development (GED) Battery
7. Review the online GED preparation guide and take sample test

www.march2success.com

Math section help

www.aaamath.com
www.mathpower.com
www.webmath.com

Language section help

<http://eslus.com/eslcenter.htm>
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/index.html>

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

The Florida Department of Education has created worksheets that correspond with many of the sections of the TABE. You can find sample pre- and post-tests at the following address:

http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/programs/vpi_ck.asp
www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/TABE_book4web.pdf

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GENERAL TEST TAKING TIPS

1. Practice your timing. You will only have 15 to 25 minutes (depending on the test section) to complete 25 questions. When you work practice tests, set a timer and see how many questions you can complete in 15/25 minutes.
2. Skip it! If you have a problem with a certain type of question, skip it (but be sure to mark it on the computer so you can come back to it!). Spend the time on the questions you know you can answer rather than too much time on the ones you can't. It would be a shame if you could answer question 24 and 25 easily but you never get a chance because you run out of time!
3. Don't second guess yourself! Many times the best answer (and the correct one) is the first one we choose.
4. Pace yourself. Don't rush but keep working at it.
5. Relax and take a deep breath. Do the best you can but don't psych yourself out!
6. Narrow your answers down, eliminate the obvious wrong answers and, if you still don't know for sure, make the best guess you can.
7. No single answer is critical to you passing the TABE. It is possible to miss, for example, every question in a subcategory and still pass the section.
8. Eat a good meal before the test.

EXPLANATION OF SCORES

At the end of the test, your test will be scored immediately. The following is a sample of what your test results might contain:

Sample A:

Test Results										
Content Area	Level	Number of Questions			Scale Score	Grade Equivalent	National Percentile	Normal Curve Equivalent	National Stanine	% Objectives Mastery
		Total	Correct	Attempted						
Applied Mathematics	D	25	23	25	678	12.9+	99	96	9	78
Language	D	25	19	25	555	8.4	75	64	6	50
Math Computation	D	25	17	25	536	7.4	68	60	6	50
Reading	D	25	18	19	555	8.2	69	60	6	80
Total Mathematics*		50	40	50	607	11.8	93	81	8	
Total Battery**		100	77	94	572	9.8	83	70	7	

Content Area: The TABE covers four content areas: Applied Mathematics, Language, Math Computation and Reading.

Level: In this example the student took Level D.

Number of Questions:

Total: This is the total number of questions in each section. All sections have 25 questions.

Correct: Number of correct answers. In other words, this student answered correctly 23 of the 25 questions in Applied Mathematics.

Attempted: Number of questions attempted. This student attempted to answer all 25 questions in each section except for reading where s/he attempted only 19 questions.

Scale Score: LWIT does not use this section to evaluate your TABE scores.

Grade equivalent: Scores on each section are equated to school grade level. With a score of 8.4 in language, this student's score is equivalent to 8th grade, 4th month. 12.9 or 12th grade, 9th month is the highest score possible on the TABE. The Florida Department of Education set standards for each programs for the level TABE scores should be by the time a student exits a program.

National Percentile In language, this student scored in the 75th percentile which means s/he scored higher than 75% of other testers in the U.S.

Normal Curve Equivalent: LWIT does not use this section to evaluate your scores.

National Stanine: LWIT does not use this section to evaluate your scores.

Percentage of Objectives Mastered: LWIT does not use this section to evaluate your scores.

Sample B:

Performance on Objectives			Non-Mastery <input type="checkbox"/>	Partial-Mastery <input type="checkbox"/>	Mastery <input type="checkbox"/>
Objective	Number of Questions			Percent Correct	Mastery Level
	Total	Correct	Attempted		
Applied Mathematics					
D86 - Number and Number Operations	8	5	8	63	<input type="checkbox"/>
D87 - Computation in Context	4	2	4	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
D88 - Estimation	5	3	5	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
D89 - Measurement	6	4	6	67	<input type="checkbox"/>
D90 - Geometry and Spatial Sense	6	2	6	33	<input type="checkbox"/>
D91 - Data Analysis	7	6	7	86	<input type="checkbox"/>
D92 - Statistics and Probability	4	3	4	75	<input type="checkbox"/>
D93 - Patterns, Functions, Algebra	6	2	6	33	<input type="checkbox"/>
D94 - Problem Solving and Reasoning	4	3	4	75	<input type="checkbox"/>
Average				60	
Math Computation					
D111 - Multiply Whole Numbers	5	1	5	20	<input type="checkbox"/>
D112 - Divide Whole Numbers	5	2	5	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
D113 - Decimals	8	3	8	38	<input type="checkbox"/>
D114 - Fractions	8	3	8	38	<input type="checkbox"/>
D115 - Integers	9	5	9	56	<input type="checkbox"/>
D116 - Percents	5	3	5	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Average				42	

Objectives:

Each section has certain objectives to master.

Number of Questions:

Shows the total amount of questions in each objective and how many questions are answered correctly and how many were attempted. For example, if you look at the Applied Mathematics section and the Number and Number Operations objective, this student attempted all eight questions and answered 5 of 8 questions correctly.

Mastery levels:

Non-Mastery - Student has answered less than 65% of the items within an objective correctly – remediation in these areas is needed.

Partial-Mastery - Student has answered 65-74% of the objective items correctly – some review may be helpful.

Mastery - Student has answered 75% or more correct within an objective.

Percent:

Percent answered correctly

In this example, under Math Computation, the student would need remediation in Multiply Whole Numbers, Divide Whole Numbers, Decimals and Fractions. Review would be recommended for Integers and Percents.