

COMPASS SAMPLE TEST

READING, WRITING, AND MATHEMATICS – 05/01

Your success at Pima Community College is important to us. Enrolling in courses which are appropriate to your current level of knowledge is an important first step on the road to success. For this reason, you are required to complete the COMPASS basic skills assessments, which measure skills in **reading, writing, and mathematics**. A PCC writing sample is also available to measure writing composition skills.

COMPASS is not a pass/fail or entrance test. It is a **placement tool**. So relax! Your advisor will help you understand the scores and help you select classes that are best matched to your current skills and career goals.

COMPASS is **untimed** and is taken on a **computer**. If you have not used a computer before, the Assessment Center Staff will help you get started. Simple keyboarding/typing skills are all that are needed, and COMPASS lets you practice before you actually begin. Most students take all three tests in the same session which usually takes about **three hours**. You will receive immediate results for discussion with an **advisor** and for **course placement**.

COMPASS takes advantage of a revolutionary adaptive testing technology to measure your basic skills. The difficulty of the test items changes according to how you respond to the questions. For this reason, the traditional test strategy of answering the easier items first and skipping over the more difficult ones does not apply. **You will not have the opportunity to go back and rework problems.**

The following materials are provided **as an example** of the types of questions you will encounter in COMPASS and are reprinted with the permission of ACT. An **answer key** is included.

Students requesting special accommodations for assessment testing should first see one of the campus DSR Specialists.

TIPS FOR SPECIFIC COMPASS TESTS

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing Skills</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine the intended meaning of each paragraph before trying to answer items in that paragraph.2. Substitute each alternative into the appropriate underlined portion for each item and select the one that fits best with the meaning of the paragraph.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Reading Skills</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the entire passage carefully before trying to answer any items.2. Reread appropriate sections of the passage as needed to answer specific items.3. Read a few sentences before and after the appropriate sections of a passage to be sure that you understand the context.
<p style="text-align: center;">Numerical Skills and Advanced Mathematics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read each item stem carefully and examine all supporting information (e.g., tables and graphics) to be sure you understand each question.2. Solve each problem <u>before</u> you look at the alternatives.3. Find your solution among the listed alternatives.4. If your answer is not among the listed alternatives, check your work.5. Use the scratch paper and calculator that have been provided to do your calculations. This Calculator is the only one approved for use by all Assessment Centers to ensure that every student is using the same level of calculator approved by ACT.6. For some items “Not given” may be the correct alternative.	