

### What is the *College Ability Test*?

The *College Ability Test* is the same test that ATS has used for more than 25 years. Test results list data and rank comparisons that help identify special aptitudes which can be further developed. Students take the test level appropriate for their grade: current 4th and 5th graders take the “intermediate” level, and current 6th–9th graders take the “advanced” level.

### If I have taken the test before, do I have to take it again?

If you are currently in grade 6 or above and last tested in the 4th or 5th grade, you will need to test again to take the “advanced” level exam this year. Because classes are filled top score down, **ATS recommends all students take the test every year** (but you are not required to do so). ATS will accept your highest scores from the appropriate level of the exam, so there is no risk in retesting!

### How much does it cost to take the test?

There is a \$15 processing fee (payable to “ATS”). This fee covers the scoring of your exam and the mailing of your test results directly to your home. If you cannot afford the processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Fee Waiver*.

### What if I miss the test at school?

Testing is also available on the Sac State campus (for a fee of \$15 per student) on the following Saturday mornings:

- February 11
- February 25
- March 3
- March 17

## About the *ATS Qualifying Exam* (College Ability Test)

The *College Ability Test* is a 40-minute, multiple-choice exam. There are two parts to the exam: a verbal section and a quantitative section. Each section has 50 questions, with 20 minutes allotted to complete each part. **The test is designed for older students, so you are not expected to know all of the answers or prepare for the test in any way.** The test helps assess your aptitude for learning— remember, the test results do not affect your school grades, so there is no risk in taking it.

### • Verbal Section

The verbal section tests your knowledge of the meaning of words and your ability to identify relationships between pairs of words. You will be asked to find the pair of words that go together in the same way as the first two words.

#### Example

**gym : exercise ::**

- a) cafeteria : eat
- b) mall : sell
- c) car : sit
- d) auditorium : clap

#### Solution

To solve analogy questions, put the primary pair of words into a sentence which explains their relationship (“You go to a gym to exercise.”). Next, substitute the answer choices into your sentence until you create a sentence that makes sense. The correct answer is A: “Gym” is related to “exercise” as “cafeteria” is related to “eat.”

### • Quantitative Section

The quantitative section tests how well you work with numbers. Each question has two parts (Column A and Column B). You must determine if the value presented in Column A is greater than the value presented in Column B, if the parts are equal, or if there is not enough information to decide.

#### Example

##### Column A

Value of 3 nickels  
and 1 dime

##### Column B

Value of 2 dimes  
and 1 nickel

- A if the part in Column A is greater
- B if the part in Column B is greater
- C if the two parts are equal
- D if not enough information is given for you to decide

#### Solution

The example is asking you to add. Since a nickel is 5 cents and a dime is 10 cents, in Column A,  $5+5+5+10$  is equal to 25. This is the same answer as  $10+10+5$  in Column B. Therefore, the answer to the question is C.

To find out if testing is offered at your school, please contact the ATS Office by:

email: ats@csus.edu  
phone: (916) 278-7032  
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