

ACER Scholarship Tests

ACER Scholarship Tests - Written Expression

Two topics for writing will be set to allow you to use different styles of writing. They are presented as two separate tests. About one and a half A4 pages of ruled paper will be provided for each test, but you are not asked to make the pieces of writing any special length, and quality is more important than length. This part of the test is concerned with your ability to express your thoughts and feelings in writing. What you have to say and the way you say it will be assessed.

In assessing written expression markers at ACER consider the following elements:

Thought and Content

The quality of what is said in the piece of writing.

- What is made of and developed from the task
- The kinds of thoughts and ideas presented in response to the task

Structure and Organisation

The quality of the structure and organisation developed to respond to the topic

- The shape and form of the writing piece
- The sequence and cohesion of the writing piece

Expression, Style and Mechanics

The quality of the language used to organise and present what is said.

- The effectiveness and appropriateness of the language
- The expressiveness and fluency of the language
- The control of the 'mechanics' of English (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure)

The stimulus material you are given must be the basis of your writing. You will be penalised if you seem to be presenting a piece of writing that is not developed from the stimulus. Respond to the stimulus in the way that is most interesting to you, and which best displays your ability to write and express yourself.

The stimulus may be a picture, a statement or a combination of the two. The stimulus may allow you to:

- tell a real or imaginary story
- describe a situation, incident or scene
- outline or explain something and/or
- express a point of view or present an argument

Some topics might suggest that you write a story, others might suggest a conversation, a discussion or reflection. Whichever style you choose, be aware that it is clear, expressive, engaging and interesting writing that is being sought. Read the topics carefully. Spend some time thinking about each of the topics. If you finish before time is up, go over your work and make any alterations you feel may improve your writing.