Accomplished subject matter professionals develop all LearningExpress online learning content. Although many of the tutorial lessons are skill-focused, the different types of assessments built into the learning system are developed in a manner that evaluates the continuum of cognitive abilities as classified by Bloom’s taxonomy (i.e., knowledge, comprehension, application/analysis and synthesis/evaluation).

LearningExpress’s online learning resources are learner-centered. Based on empirical data available in the field of learning and cognition, student learning is enhanced when supplemented by learning aids that reinforce the student’s grasp of the content and strengthen self-assessment skills. When users focus more clearly, engage more actively, and feel more confident that they can succeed, they are likely to do better in their academic and/or career work. In addition, for users to become independent, life-long learners, they must learn to take full responsibility for their learning, and LearningExpress resources are aimed at promoting and supporting this goal.
Directed practice in self-assessment gives users the opportunity to develop metacognitive skills (i.e., to become more skilled in thinking carefully about their own thinking and learning).

The approach taken by LearningExpress about its learning resources is both formative and summative in nature. As such, their purpose is to improve the quality of learning as well as to provide evidence of learning. LearningExpress’s learning resources are primarily aimed at providing users at all levels with information on what, how much, and how well they are learning, to help them better prepare to succeed. In addition, according to the principles of good summative assessments, every attempt is made to use tests and other scored evaluations that are reliable, valid and free of bias.

#2 How well are the questions in EBSCO LearningExpress aligned to the actual SAT®, ACT®, and other official tests?

LearningExpress is highly experienced in the development of content-valid practice tests and related preparation tutorials. All materials developed undergo stringent quality assurance and are based on a sound foundation of development methodology. LearningExpress has been developing these learning resources since 1999.

The development method used to create the ACT® and SAT® practice tests and preparation tutorials was designed to ensure the content validity of these resources. The goal of that process is to produce practice assessments that are modeled directly on the official test specifications, including the test dimensions of item type, item distribution, stimulus type, stimulus reading and interest levels, test-taking experience and reported score categories. These same official specifications set the framework for our test preparation tutorials, designed to be used as stand-alone resources or in conjunction with the practice tests to optimize preparation for the official ACT® or SAT® tests.

The LearningExpress development staff researched the specifications of the ACT® and SAT® tests so that our suite of practice exams for each could be built on the same blueprints used for the operational tests. The LearningExpress ACT® and SAT® practice examinations were developed according to official test blueprints that specified the content of each of the different subject areas that comprise each test — the knowledge and skills tested, the type of questions used to test that content, and the distribution and number of questions in each subject area. The format of each of the subject area examinations was followed closely to give an authentic practice experience.

Our test development editors are extensively trained in item (question) and test construction methods. Trained item writers develop questions and answers. Item writers are selected for their expert content knowledge in their specific ACT® and SAT® test areas as well as their expertise in item and test development methodology.

Each item was reviewed by the test construction editors for psychometric quality, content matching, and test blueprint requirements. Once an entire examination was developed, edited and reviewed by content editors, content experts in the field carefully reviewed questions, answer explanations and score reports to ensure fidelity to the official tests. The distribution and level of questions were checked against the official test blueprints. Each examination was then professionally edited and proofread according to a set of LearningExpress standards before it was released.

The benefit of authenticity in format, content, and timing is only one facet of LearningExpress’s practice tests. In addition to an overall score, the test taker also receives diagnostic scores in the different skills assessed by a subject area’s questions. The ability to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness in the particular skills tested on the ACT® and SAT® is a powerful preparation tool and, used together with the preparation tutorials, allows the test taker to focus their studies where most needed to score their best on the official tests.

#3 What kind of statistics are available?

While no official efficacy studies are available, there are many anecdotal testimonies by subscribing institutional users. Here are links to several success stories:


“LearningExpress equipped our students with the tools to learn and solidify [their] test-taking strategies … In most categories, our scores doubled, and 100% of our students improved their performance on ACT practice exams.”

—Kay Wejrowski, Retired Library Media Specialist and National Honor Society Advisor, Swan Valley High School, MI

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