

## Solving Society's Problems

The world today faces a wide range of challenges. Despite the great economic and scientific progress mankind has made, many in the world are still struggling to survive. Even in developed nations, individuals and communities face problems like poverty, disease and violence. Individuals and private organizations have done much to help alleviate many of these problems. Government have also played a role in addressing issues like poverty and public health. In your opinion, who has a bigger role to play in solving today's problems: governments or individuals?

*Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the role of government and individuals in solving today's problems.*

### Perspective 1

Individuals could not possibly hope to solve problems as large as the ones we face today. Only large governments with sizable resources can help.

### Perspective 2

Governments are, by nature, composed of individuals working as a team. Governments can solve major problems because they harness the power of individuals.

### Perspective 3

The best solutions to society's problems always come from individuals, not governments. Governments lack the creativity and drive necessary to tackle major problems successfully.

### Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the role of individuals and governments as problem solvers. In your essay, be sure to:

- analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
- state and develop your own perspective on the issue
- explain the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or wholly different. Whatever the case, support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples.

## **ACT Writing Test Directions**

This is a test of your writing skills. You will have **forty (40)** minutes to read the prompt, plan your response, and write an essay in English. Before you begin working, read all material in this test booklet carefully to understand exactly what you are being asked to do.

You will write your essay on the lined pages in the **answer document** provided. Your writing on those pages will be scored. You may use the unlined pages in this test booklet to plan your essay. Your work on these pages will not be scored.

Your essay will be evaluated based on the evidence it provides of your ability to:

- analyze and evaluate multiple perspectives on a complex issue
- state and develop your own perspective on the issue
- explain and support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed examples
- clearly and logically organize your ideas in an essay
- effectively communicate your ideas in standard written English

Lay your pencil down immediately when time is called.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.**

## Planning Your Essay

*Your work on these prewriting pages will not be scored.*

Use the space below and on the back cover to generate ideas and plan your essay. You may wish to consider the following as you think critically about the task:

Strengths and weaknesses of the three given perspectives

- What insights do they offer, and what do they fail to consider?
- Why might they be persuasive to others, or why might they fail to persuade?

Your own knowledge, experience, and values

- What is your perspective on this issue, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
- How will you support your perspective in your essay?