



MIGHTY OAK
TEST PREP

Practice ACT Essay Number FIVE

Copyright 2016
Mighty Oak Test Prep
4111 E Madison #71
Seattle, WA 98112
All rights reserved.
mightyoaktestprep.com

ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc, which was not involved with the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

Minimum Wage

The “Income Gap” – the difference in earnings between the highest-paid and lowest-paid Americans – is at its highest level in decades. Some states have recently increased the minimum wage in an attempt to narrow this gap, and some politicians are suggesting a nationwide rise in the minimum wage. Supporters assert that this increase is necessary to ensure the average American has enough money to survive. Opponents of the measure, however, assert that the natural laws of supply and demand should set the minimum wage and that raising the minimum wage will make it more expensive for employers to hire workers. This will force employers to either hire fewer employees (leading to increased unemployment) or to raise the prices of their products (causing inflation, in which everything costs more, negating the effects of the higher wages). Overall, is minimum wage a good idea or a bad idea? Do workers ultimately benefit or suffer from minimum wage laws? As the gap between our richest and poorest widens, it becomes increasingly important to find a solution.

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the impact of minimum wage laws.

Perspective One

An increased minimum wage is common sense and is a great first step in helping to ensure all Americans have a minimum standard of living.

Perspective Two

Increasing the minimum wage is likely to result in little real benefit to workers. Increased pay means higher costs for businesses, which will be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices, negating any increase in income.

Perspective Three

If you work hard and create value for your employer, you will be rewarded. Minimum wage laws discourage people from working hard because you get paid a minimum amount whether you work hard or not.

Essay Task

Write a coherent, unified essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives given on the impact of minimum wage laws. 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.

Plan Your Essay Here

*Writing on this page will not be used to determine your score
(but don't be tempted to just go to the next page and start writing – planning is crucial!)*

Use the space below to plan your essay and come up with ideas. Here are some things to think about:

Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the three provided perspectives

- do they make useful points? What are they forgetting to think about?
- why might they be convincing or unconvincing to other people?

Personal experiences, beliefs, and knowledge

- what is your personal position on this topic? What are the strong and weak points of your position?
- how will you compellingly argue for this position in your essay?

