



San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges and ECC Sample English Placement Test - ACCUPLACER COMPANION

The following questions will familiarize you with the kinds of questions you will be asked to answer when you take the English placement test. There are a total of 70 questions, and you will have 80 minutes to complete the test.

Your score on the test – along with some information about your background – is used to inform you and the college about the level of English classes you should take first. There is no passing score on the test, so there is no way for you to fail it. When you have taken the test, you will get a card telling you what English class(es) you should take.

The test is designed for native speakers of English. If English is not your first language, this test may give you an incorrect English level. If you read and write about the same as a native speaker of English, you should take this test. If you don't read and write about the same as a native speaker of English, you should take the ESL (English as a Second Language) test. If you are not sure, take the ESL test.

READING COMPREHENSION

Directions for question 1 *The following passage will test how well you understand certain passages. Answer these questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.*

1. In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, "It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it." If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: the next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, "I'll listen carefully; I'll repeat each person's name to be sure I've got it, and I will remember." You'll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory

- A. always operates at peak efficiency.
- B. breaks down under great strain.
- C. improves if it is used often.
- D. becomes unreliable if it tires.

Directions for questions 2 – 3 *In this group of questions, two or three underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Read each group of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.*

2. The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in fifteen years.

Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It restates the idea found in the first.
- B. It states an effect.
- C. It gives an example.
- D. It analyzes the statement made in the first.

3. Social Studies classes focus on the complexity of our social environment.

The subject combines the study of history and the social sciences and promotes skills in citizenship.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It gives an example.
- B. It makes a contrast
- C. It proposes a solution.
- D. It states an effect.

SENTENCE SKILLS

Directions for questions 1 – 2 *Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. Choice (A) is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose answer (A).*

1. The baby was obviously getting too hot, then Sam did what he could to cool her.

- A. hot, then Sam did
- B. hot. Sam did
- C. hot; Sam, therefore, did
- D. hot; Sam, trying to do

2. Knocked sideways, the statue looked as if it would fall.

- A. Knocked sideways, the statue looked
- B. The statue was knocked sideways, looked
- C. The statue looked knocked sideways
- D. The statue, looking knocked sideways,

Directions for questions 3 – 4. *In the following questions, you are going to be asked to rewrite the sentence in your head. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the sentence given you.*

3. In his songs, Gordon Lightfoot makes melody and lyrics intricately intertwine.

Rewrite, beginning with

Melody and lyrics...

Your new sentence will include

- A. Gordon Lightfoot has
- B. make Gordon Lightfoot's
- C. in Gordon Lightfoot's
- D. does Gordon Lightfoot

4. It is easy to carry solid objects without spilling them, but the same cannot be said of liquids.

Rewrite, beginning with

Unlike liquids,

The next words will be

- A. it is easy to
- B. we can easily
- C. solid objects can easily be
- D. solid objects are easy to be