

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (EAP)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAM (ELL)

ESL ENGLISH

Practice test



CENTENNIAL
COLLEGE

This booklet contains information about booking your English for Academic Purposes (EAP) / English Language Learning Program (ELL) skills assessment appointment, tips on taking multiple-choice exam, reading comprehension practice exam with answers.

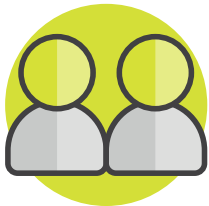
When you feel you are ready to take the english skills assessment, you may make an appointment by:



Going online at
myappform.centennialcollege.ca/oat



Calling **416-289-5300**



Or in person with the **Assessment Centre**
(Room D201 – Progress Campus)

Students write this placement test before the beginning of their first semester of studies. Centennial College does not allow rewrites. Be sure you are well prepared!

IMPORTANT

If you have a learning or medical condition, you may request special accommodations. **Please contact the Centre for Accessible Learning and Counselling Services (CALCS) at 416-289-5000 ext. 53850 or email calcs@centennialcollege.ca.** Students will meet with a CALCS Counsellor to discuss their concerns and make alternative arrangements for their skills assessments if special accommodations are approved.



On the date of your exam, please arrive on time. You will be required to show government issued photo ID.

Examples of acceptable photo ID are:

- **One of the following:** valid passport, driver's licence, age of majority cards, Canadian citizenship card, permanent resident card, provincial photo ID card, record of landing, certificate of status Indian card, minister's permit or a Centennial College student photo ID.

Note: The photo must not be older than ten years from time of issue.

- If you do not have any of the above then you may provide non-government issued photo ID. These could include other school photo ID, transit photo ID, or employment ID, and **one of the following:** birth certificate, citizenship certificate, or social insurance card.

Note: Students arriving without acceptable ID will not be allowed to write their skills assessment. There are no exceptions to this rule.

- Students write the EAP/ELL skills assessments with pencil and paper and with a computer. Exam invigilators will provide detailed instruction. Students unfamiliar with computer technology are offered online tutorials explaining how to take an essay test.
- EAP/ELL skills assessments take approximately 2.5 hours to complete.
- The skills assessment will determine at what level you will begin your studies in the EAP or the ELL program. You will require a laptop or desktop computer with a headset and camera.
- For more information regarding the Centennial College skills assessment, please visit our website: centennialcollege.ca/skillsassessment



LISTENING

20 multiple-choice questions (un-timed)

ESL Listening is a true listening assessment allowing you to listen to all parts of the test, including the answers. You will be assessed on your ability to listen and understand one or more people speaking English – not on your ability to read English.

The conversations will take place in a variety of settings. Some examples include a computer lab, a classroom, the library, a shopping mall, a restaurant, or a workplace.

First, you will listen to the conversation and the question that follows. Then, you will be asked to choose the best answer to the question that was asked. If the audio was unclear or if verification is needed, you will have the option of replaying each recording up to two times for a total of three listens.

To access practice material, visit <https://www.esl-lab.com>

ESL reading skills

The ESL reading skills test measures your ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages. It contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact versus opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view and applying the author's logic to another situation).

ESL reading skills sample questions

Read the information below, then choose the best answer.

1. Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs.

From this passage, a reader can most reasonably conclude that the author believes that

- a. people spend too much time watching television
- b. not every country needs to have television
- c. television can unify people from around the world
- d. television is as important as schools

2. People have different ways of learning. Some are better at making mental pictures of new ideas. Others are more comfortable with writing lists of things to memorize. Certain people can learn best when listening to music, while others need silence to concentrate.

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

- a. Mental pictures help many to learn.
- b. Some people prefer lists to making mental pictures.
- c. To learn well you need to be comfortable
- d. Different individuals have different ways of acquiring information.

3. If you hold a piece of copper wire over the flame of a wooden match, heat will be conducted by the copper wire to your fingers, and you will be forced to drop the wire. You will, however, still be able to hold the match because wood is a poor conductor of heat.

Which of the following is implied in the passage above?

- a. Copper is a good conductor of heat.
 - b. Wood and copper conduct heat equally.
 - c. Wood is an excellent conductor of heat.
 - d. Matches should be made of copper.
4. Many people own different pets. Dogs, cats, birds, and fish are common household pets. Others pets are considered to be exotic animals. These include snakes, lizards, and hedgehogs.

According to the passage, snakes are

- a. uncommon pets
 - b. likely to be found in a household with dogs
 - c. found only in zoos
 - d. not allowed in people's homes
5. Cesar Chavez was an influential leader for farmworkers. He fought for their rights and better working conditions. Chavez led many strikes that angered farm owners. Eventually he succeeded in getting increased wages and better living situations for farmworkers.

The passage indicates that Chavez changed lives by

- a. helping to end the farmworkers' strikes
- b. fighting for the rights of farm owners
- c. working on the farms every day
- d. improving the conditions for farmworkers

6. When cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was a boy in elementary school, other boys teased him for being small and not very good at sports, and his art teacher told him he had no talent for drawing. He had few friends and was too shy to talk to a red-haired girl he admired. Later in life, Schulz used his childhood experiences in his comic strip *Peanuts*: the strip's main character, the sad and lonely Charlie Brown, represents Schulz as a little boy. *Peanuts* was unique at the time because it contained no adult characters. Readers fell in love with Charlie Brown, and *Peanuts* eventually became one of the most popular comic strips of all time.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- a. *Peanuts* was the world's most widely read comic strip.
 - b. Schulz was a very famous cartoonist.
 - c. Schulz turned the pain of his youth into success as an adult.
 - d. The comic strip *Peanuts* featured children as its only characters.
7. Money has been used for thousands of years in nearly every culture as a means of exchange. However, today, the use of cash is becoming less and less common in modern societies all over the world. Every year, a higher percentage of purchases are made online, and even in stores customers are now using credit cards more often than cash. Many people today do all of their banking on the Internet rather than going to the bank in person.

The author of the passage probably assumes that

- a. cash will become virtually obsolete in the near future
- b. using cash will become popular again
- c. paying with credit cards all the time is dangerous
- d. societies that do business online will struggle

8. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

According to the passage, it is wrong to

- a. use first aid on an accident victim without medical training
 - b. attempt to help an accident victim without permission
 - c. help a victim before an ambulance arrives
 - d. call for an ambulance instead of helping the victim
9. Dr. Ellen Ochoa is an inventor and is also the first female Hispanic astronaut. Her inventions include technology to help robots inspect equipment in space to maintain safety and quality control on spacecraft. Before retiring, she logged more than 1,000 hours in space across several space missions.

According to the passage, Dr. Ochoa is the first

- a. Hispanic person to travel into space
- b. inventor to travel into space
- c. woman to travel into space
- d. Hispanic woman to travel into space

10. Dogs and cats make very different types of pets. Before deciding whether to buy or adopt a dog or a cat, prospective owners need to carefully consider their own lifestyles and personalities. Dogs may make more affectionate companions, but they require more care and attention. They must be taken out several times a day and should not be left alone for more than a few hours. Larger dogs require significant exercise to remain fit and healthy. Cats are usually more independent in nature and interact less with their owners. Also, a cat can be left on its own all day, or even for several days, as long as it has food and clean water to drink.

From this passage a reader can conclude that

- a. owning a cat requires less work than owning a dog
- b. people who are away from home during the day should not own a cat
- c. people who like to play with their pets should own a cat
- d. owning a cat is more responsibility than owning a dog

Your essay will be marked on:

ORGANIZATION

The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas

FOCUS

The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view

VOCABULARY

The effectiveness of your use of vocabulary

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

The effectiveness of your sentence structure

MECHANICAL CONVENTIONS

The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

Additional study materials can be found online at:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice>

Accuplacer test results are used to help place you in classes that match your skill level. We recommend reviewing WritePlacer ESL Guide with Sample Essays.

For tips and advice on how to improve your writing skills, go to:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-writeplacer-esl-sample-essays.pdf>

Information for students

WritePlacer ESL gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can develop and express your ideas in writing. On the next screen, a brief statement will be presented, followed by an assignment that relates to the statement. You should respond to the assignment by writing an essay in which you develop your point of view. You should support your position with appropriate reasoning and examples. The position you take will not influence your score.

Your essay will be given a holistic score that represents how clearly and effectively you expressed your position. The following four characteristics of writing will be considered.

WORD USE:

The extent to which you are able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.

SENTENCE USE:

The extent to which you are able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.

GRAMMAR:

The extent to which you are able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

The extent to which you are able to focus on the assigned topic and to develop ideas clearly.

Sample prompt

PASSAGE PROMPT:

A woman recently received an inheritance of \$25 million from an unknown, distant relative. She cannot decide what to do: spend it, save it, or give most of it away.

ASSIGNMENT:

If you suddenly received a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

ESL reading skills questions and answers

- 1) c
- 2) d
- 3) a
- 4) a
- 5) d
- 6) c
- 7) a
- 8) b
- 9) d
- 10) a

General test taking tips and strategies for alleviating exam anxiety



Get enough sleep

the night before the skills assessment.



Allow yourself time

to find the Assessment Centre by arriving early.



Know what items

you can and cannot bring with you.



To avoid experiencing test anxiety,

approach the test with a positive attitude. Negative self-talk can ruin your ability to do well on a skills assessment.



Listen carefully

to all pre-test instructions prior to starting your skills assessment.



Carefully read all skills

assessment questions and instructions presented.



Ask questions

if you do not understand what is required.



Utilize materials

given during the test such as scratch paper.



Deal with test anxiety

by preparing in advance, taking your time, and pacing yourself throughout the skills assessment.



During the skills assessment,

read the entire question and all choices before attempting to answer.



The math skills assessment

is a multiple-choice test. For multiple choice questions, eliminate the choices that you know are incorrect first. Then attempt to find and choose the answer.



If you are unsure

of the answer, make an educated guess.



Usually your first choice

of the answer is the right one. Do not second guess yourself.

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