ESL
English

practice test

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
English Language Learning (ELL)
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 on-line at http://winapp.centennialcollege.ca/oat/
- Calling 416-289-5300
- Or in person with Enrolment Services

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 learning or medical condition, you may request special accommodations. Please contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at 416-289-5000 Ext. 2627. Students will meet with a CSD Counselor 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 license, photo health card, age of majority cards, citizenship card, landed card, minister's permit or a Centennial College student photo ID. The photo must not be older than 5 years.

- 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, expired government photo ID or employment ID, and two of the following: birth certificate, social insurance card or non-photo health card.

  Please 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 3 hours to complete with one 15-minute break.

- The first parts of the skills assessment students write an essay. Essays allow 50 minutes for completion.

**ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL**

**Part 1 – Writing**

This writing assessment is used to accurately assess your fundamental writing skills. This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. Your topic will be randomly selected and you will be allowed 50 minutes to complete your essay. Dictionaries are not permitted.

Your essay will be scored based on how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic.

The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **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
Michigan Language Placement Test

Part 2 – Listening/Grammar/Vocabulary/Reading

- The second parts of the skills assessment students take a multiple-choice test in listening, vocabulary, grammar and reading. This section allows 80 minutes for completion.

The skills assessment will determine at what level you will begin your studies.
This examination is designed to measure your mastery of the English language. There are four different kinds of problems: listening comprehension, grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension. There are 100 problems. Do not make any marks in your test booklet; you will be given an answer card and a pencil.

Listening Comprehension
This is a test of how well you understand spoken English. You will hear either a question or a statement. To show that you have understood what was said, you should choose the ONE answer choice that is correct.

Grammar

In each grammar problem there is a short conversation between two people. The conversation is not complete. You should look at answer choices that follow the conversation, and then choose the ONE answer that correctly completes the conversation.

Example: “What’s your name?”
“_______name is John.”

A. I
B. ME
C. MY
D. Mine
**Vocabulary**

In each vocabulary problem there is a sentence with a word missing from the answer choices following the sentence, you should choose the ONE word that best fits into the sentence and makes it meaningful.

Example: I can’t _____you his name, because I don’t know it.

A. Talk  
B. Say  
C. Speak  
D. Tell

The correct answer is choice d, “tell.” Answer all the vocabulary problems this way.

**Reading**

In each reading comprehension problem you will read a sentence and then answer a question about it. Choose the ONE best answer to the question, using the information in the sentence you have just read.

Example: John drove me to Eleanor’s house.

Who drove? 

A. I did.  
B. John did.  
C. John and I did.  
D. Eleanor did.

The correct answer is choice b, “John did.” Answer all the reading problems this way.

Work as quickly as possible, and answer all the problems. If you are not sure of the correct answer, make a guess. Unanswered problems will be counted as incorrect.
Additional study material can be found online at:

http://www.esl-lab.com
This site provides general listening quizzes. Listening to everyday conversations with adult and children’s voices at easy, medium and difficult levels of difficulty.

http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/catalogue.html
This site contains numerous links for assisting with the development of writing style including organization, developing introductions, thesis statements and conclusions, and grammar.

**General Test Taking Tips and Strategies for Alleviating Exam Anxiety**

- Get enough sleep the night before the skills assessment.
- Plan to arrive on time and in enough time to find the Assessment Centre.
- 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.