



PLACEMENT TESTING TIPS & SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Required for Admission to Testing:

1. Driver's License or a picture identification card
2. Social Security Number

Placement test appointments may be made by contacting the following locations by phone or e-mail as indicated below.

Lee County Campus, (919) 718-7300 or 1-800-682-8353(NC only) ext. 7300
Or by e-mail smcneill@cccc.edu

Chatham County Campus, (910) 542-6495
Or by e-mail cbradford@cccc.edu

Harnett County Campus, (910) 893-9101
Or by e-mail at cpage@cccc.edu



SAT, ACT, Asset or Compass Score Substitution

SAT, ACT, Asset or Compass scores may be accepted for placement into all programs. Please have your scores sent to our Admissions Office, or have them included as part of your high school transcript. Appropriate scores that are less than five years old may be used in lieu of placement testing. Students who have already completed a degree may also be exempt from taking the placement test.

If you have questions concerning your SAT, ACT, Asset or Compass scores, or exemption from placement testing, please contact Sue McNeill at the Lee County Campus at (919) 718-7471 or 1-800-682-8353 (in NC only) at ext. 7471. Or by E-mail at smcneill@cccc.edu

The Purpose

The Computerized Placement Tests (CPTs) were developed by the College Board to provide information on your Reading, Sentence Skills, and Arithmetic skill level. Minimum skills are necessary for success in college. By assessing your ability levels in these areas, we can determine which of our English, Mathematics, and Reading Courses are most appropriate for you. **All applicants must test unless they have satisfactory SAT, ACT, Asset or Compass scores and/or transcripts (when applicable) documenting proper degrees, allowing testing exemption.** *All BLET applicants are required to take the Reading placement test.*

Types of Tests

Four tests are available: The Reading Comprehension test measures your ability to understand what you read. The Sentence Skills test measures your understanding of how sentences are put together and what makes a sentence complete. There are two Math tests: Arithmetic Skills and Elementary Algebra. All four tests consist of multiple-choice questions.

Most degree and diploma programs offered at CCCC require algebra. The only programs that do not require Algebra are BLET, Cosmetology, Medical Assisting, and Motorcycle Mechanics.

Preparations for Testing

If you wish to prepare for the placement tests, it is suggested that you review the SAT or ACT study guides, and/or the GED study review book. These study guides are usually

available at various libraries and bookstores. The CCCC bookstore has the GED study review book for sale for approximately \$18.

There are no accommodations for children, so please do not bring them when you come to test. Decide on the best time for you to take the test and make your appointment. You should be healthy and at your best when testing. Do not come if you are sick. A little nervousness before testing is good, but try to relax before the test begins. Please do not wear perfume/cologne to the testing session. The perfume/cologne may cause someone to have an allergic reaction. Other tips are: follow all instructions, concentrate on your work, avoid distractions and answer each question when presented. You cannot return to a question.

Adaptive Testing

You may take as long as you need to complete a test. Each test is untimed and adaptive. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based upon your responses to prior questions. This technique “zeroes-in” on just the right questions to ask you without being too easy or too difficult. The greater your demonstrated skill level, the more challenging the questions that will be presented to you.

Guessing

You should understand that this test adapts to your knowledge. Questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. Because the test works this way **you must answer every question when it is first given. You cannot skip any question or come back later to change an answer.**

If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices that do not seem reasonable, then pick one (1) of the remaining choices.

What to Take with You on the Test Day

On the day of the test, you will be required to provide your social security number and a **picture identification card** (driver’s license). All materials needed during the test will be provided for you by CCCC. There is no cost for first-time testing.

Test Administration

You will need approximately two (2) hours to complete the tests and to speak with an admissions counselor.

The tests are administered on a personal computer. But you will not need prior knowledge of computers to take the test. You will read the instructions and questions on

the computer screen and will select your answers using the computer keyboard or mouse. You will have scrap paper for working Arithmetic problems. **Relax!** The Test Administrator will be available to answer any questions and to assist you. The testing format is very simple.

Retest Policy

Students who score within ten (10) points (approximately one standard error of measurement) of a successful placement test score will be allowed one retest before taking the prescribed developmental course. Some intensive studying should be done before taking the retest because there will be no other retest until the student enrolls in a developmental course.

How the Test Works

The background information screen will ask you for your name (Last, First, Middle Initial), Student ID and Date of Birth and other information. Please enter your Social Security Number and leave the Student ID blank. It is especially important that this information be entered correctly. If you make an error while typing you may utilize the BACKSPACE Key to erase the error. The computer will then present a series of introductory screens followed by a tutorial that will explain how to record your answers as you work. Finally a series of screens will introduce you to the tests themselves. A message will display when the tests are about to start. Every test will be preceded by several sample questions that will familiarize you with the types of questions in that particular test. These sample questions are not scored. When you have completed these, you will continue with the actual test questions.

Score Reporting

When you have completed all the tests, you will receive a printed report of your scores called your “Academic Placement Assessment” which will be required for registration and entrance into classes. (***Please keep up with this report***)

This report will list the courses in Reading, Sentence Skills and Arithmetic that you will take for your major, as well as any refresher (guided studies) courses to prepare you for the Reading, Sentence Skills and Arithmetic in your major.

Special Arrangements for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability (permanent or temporary) that will affect your taking the tests under standard conditions, you should inform the Special Populations Coordinator, David C.Oates, on the Lee County Campus at (919) 718-7273 or (800) 682-8353 ext. 7273 or by e-mail at doates@cccc.edu before taking the test. Reasonable accommodations will be provided.

Test Regulations

Textbooks, notebooks, dictionaries, calculators, or other papers of any kind are not allowed in the testing room. Other students will be testing at the same time, and you may not talk to each other for any reason. Talking with anyone other than the Test Coordinator may result in cancellation of your scores. (Because each test taker will have a different test, it is unlikely that anyone can help anyone else.) Following the test

period, no test material or notes may be removed from the room. All scrap paper must be disposed of in the trash bins.

Descriptions and Examples of the Tests

Reading Comprehension

This test is designed to measure how well you understand what you read. You will choose how some of the sentences are related, and you will answer questions that refer to reading passages of various lengths. You will be asked to interpret and draw conclusions from what you have read. This section contains 20 questions.

Question 1: (Narrative Question):

Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

There are two types of pottery that I do. There is production pottery-mugs, tableware, the kinds of things that sell easily. These pay for my time to do the other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.

The author of this passage implies that:

- (A) Artists have a tendency to waste valuable time
- (B) Creativity and mass-production are incompatible
- (C) Most people do not appreciate good art
- (D) Pottery is not produced by creative artists

Question 2: (Sentence Relationships Questions)

Two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the questions or the best completion of the statement.

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 relates 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.

Sentence Skills

Two kinds of questions are given in this test. Sentence correction questions ask that you substitute a word or a phrase for an underlined portion of a sentence. Construction shift

questions asks that a sentence be rewritten in a specific way without changing the meaning. You will be presented a total of 20 questions for this section.

Question 1: (Sentence Correction Question)

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next summer.

- (A) planning
- (B) are planning
- (C) with a plan
- (D) plans

Question 2: (Construction Shift Question)

Rewrite the sentence in your head, following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the sentence given to you.

Being a female jockey, she was often interviewed. Rewrite, beginning with She was often interviewed...

The next words will be

- (A) on account of she was
- (B) by her being
- (C) because she was
- (D) being as she was

Arithmetic

The Arithmetic test measures your skills in three primary categories. The first is operations with whole numbers and fractions. This includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. The second category involves operations with decimals and percents. It includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as well as percent problems, decimal recognition, fraction and percent equivalencies, and estimation problems. The last category involves applications and problem solving. Questions include rate, percent, and measurement problems, geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts. A total of 16 questions will be asked.

Question 1:

All of the following are ways to write 20 percent of N EXCEPT:

- (A) 0.20N
- (B) 20/100
- (C) 1/5
- (D) 20N

Question 2:

Which of the following is closest to $\sqrt{10.5}$?

- (A) 3
- (B) 4

- (C) 5
- (D) 8

Question 3:

Three people who work full time are to work together on a project, but their total time on the project is to be equivalent to that of only one person working full time. If one of the people is budgeted for $\frac{1}{2}$ of this time to the project and a second person for $\frac{1}{3}$ of her time, what part of the third worker's time should be budgeted to this project?

- (A) $\frac{1}{3}$
- (B) $\frac{1}{4}$
- (C) $\frac{1}{6}$
- (D) $\frac{1}{8}$

Elementary Algebra

There also are three categories in the Elementary Algebra test. First, operations with integers and rational numbers, includes computation with integers and negative rationales, the use of absolute values, and ordering. The second category is operations with algebraic expressions. This section tests your skills with the evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Both of these categories include questions about multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring. The third category tests skills in equation solving systems of linear equations, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in algebraic context, geometric reasoning, the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions, and graphing. A total of 12 questions are presented.

Question 1:

If a number is divided by 4 and then 3 is subtracted, the result is 0. What is the number?

- (A) 12
- (B) 4
- (C) 3
- (D) 2

Question 2:

$$16x - 8 =$$

- (A) $8 - x$
- (B) $8 - (2x - x)$
- (C) $8 - (2x - 1)$
- (D) $8 - (2x - 8)$

Question 3:

If $x^2 - x - 6 = 0$, then x is

- (A) -2 or 3
- (B) -1 or 6
- (C) 1 or -6
- (D) 2 or -3

Answers:

Reading

- 1. B
- 2. B

Sentence

- 1. D
- 2. C

Arithmetic

- 1. D
- 2. A
- 3. C

Elementary Algebra

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. A

Any questions regarding placement testing should be directed to Sue McNeill, Assessment Specialist at (919) 718-7471 or 1-800-682-8353 (NC only) ext. 7471. Or by e-mail at smcneill@cccc.edu

<http://www.cccc.edu>

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Required Placement Scores for Curriculum Courses Revised 5-2-02

Upon entrance to the College, all students must present documentation for academic readiness to enter entry-level English and mathematics courses. Such documentation may include the following:

- ♦ An earned degree from an accredited institution
- ♦ Transfer credit for required English and/or mathematics courses (minimum of C grade from an accredited institution)
- ♦ AP credits for required English and/or mathematics courses
- ♦ Articulated English and mathematics credits from high schools and other colleges
- ♦ Acceptable ACT scores
- ♦ Acceptable SAT scores
- ♦ Acceptable CPT/Asset/Compass placement scores

Placement Scores are valid for 5 years.

Placement Test	MAT 101 (One of the following requirements must be met)	MAT 110, 115, 120, 121, 140 (One of the following requirements must be met)	MAT 151, 155, 161, 171, 175 (One of the following requirements must be met.)	ENG 102 (One of the following requirements must be met.)	ENG 110 (One of the following requirements must be met.)	ENG 111 (One of the following requirements must be met.)
CPT Reading Comp. CPT Sentence Skills				65 (CPT Reading) and 74 (CPT Sentence Skills)	65 (CPT Reading) and 86 (CPT Sentence Skills)	80 (CPT Reading) and 86 (CPT Sentence Skills)
CPT Arithmetic CPT Elementary Algebra	31 (CPT Arithmetic) No Algebra Score Required	57 (CPT Arithmetic) and 38 (CPT Algebra)	57 (CPT Arithmetic) and 70 (CPT Algebra)			
SAT Math Score	410/450R SAT Math	410/450R SAT Math	410/450R SAT Math			
SAT Verbal Score				370/450R SAT Verbal	370/450R SAT Verbal	370/450R SAT Verbal
ACT Score	18 ACT Math	18 ACT Math	18 ACT Math	18 ACT English	18 ACT English	18 ACT English
Asset/Compass Reading				30 Asset (Reading) or 72 Compass (Reading)	30 Asset (Reading) or 72 Compass (Reading)	45 Asset (Reading) or 87 Compass (Reading)
Asset/Compass Writing				40 Asset (Writing) or 48 Compass (Writing)	44 Asset (Writing) or 71 Compass (Writing)	44 Asset (Writing) or 71 Compass (Writing)
Asset/Compass Arithmetic/Pre-Algebra	33 Asset Arithmetic or 22 Compass Pre-Algebra	41 Asset Arithmetic or 46 Compass Pre-Algebra	41 Asset Arithmetic or 46 Compass Pre-Algebra			
Asset/Compass Elementary Algebra	No Algebra Score Required	38 Asset Algebra or 29 Compass Algebra	45 Asset Algebra or 45 Compass Algebra			

Developmental Course Placement

MAT 060	0-56 CPT Arithmetic	0-40 Asset Arithmetic	0-45 Compass Arithmetic
MAT 070	0-37 CPT Algebra	0-37 Asset Algebra.	0-28 Compass Algebra
MAT 080	38-69 CPT Algebra	38-44 Asset Algebra	29-44 Compass Algebra
RED 080	0-64 CPT Reading	0-29 Asset Reading	0-71 Compass Reading
RED 090	65-79 CPT Reading	30-44 Asset Reading	72-86 Compass Reading
ENG 090/090A	0-85 CPT Writing	0-43 Asset Writing	0-70 Compass Writing

Notes

1. CCCC administers the CPT.
2. Asset and Compass scores (not developmental courses) may be transferred from other colleges.
3. 4/1/95-9/30/01 – Use SAT RScore, e.g. R450
10/1/01 to date – Use SAT Score, e.g. 450