

Assessment Services
Santa Rosa Junior College

English Placement Test
Study Guide & Cut-Off Scores

Writing Sample

The English Placement Test begins with an essay assignment. You will have 45 minutes to plan and write your essay on the topic specified at the time of the test. Do not write on a topic other than the one specified; an essay on a topic of your own choice is not acceptable. The topic will be on some issue of general interest, drawing on your critical reading and academic writing skills.

You should have enough time to read and analyze the assigned topic carefully and to organize your thoughts before you begin writing. You may make notes in the space provided in the essay booklet.

Scoring Your Essay: The SRJC English faculty who evaluate your essay will expect you to write a well-organized essay, one in which you develop your ideas clearly and logically. Sentence and paragraph structure, usage, and grammar also contribute to your final essay score. Each essay is read and scored holistically by two different faculty members using a scoring guide that helps to define degrees of writing proficiency. The two readers' scores are combined to give your reported score, which will fall between 2 (low) and 12 (high). A score of 0 is given to essays not written on the assigned topic.

Remember: The readers will be looking for the following:

1. Addresses the topic and responds to all aspects of the task.
2. Demonstrates a critical understanding of the passage in developing a response.
3. Reveals some depth of thinking.
4. Coherently organized and developed, with a main idea supported by appropriate reasons, examples and details.
5. Command of sentence structure and language.
6. Grammatical accuracy.

Multiple Choice Test

The multiple choice test is comprised of 65 questions administered in two separate components:

1. Reading Comprehension (30 minutes, 35 questions): Sample Passage

The study of history provides many benefits. First, we learn from the past. We may repeat mistakes, but, at least, we have the opportunity to avoid them. Second, history teaches us what questions to ask about the present. Contrary to some people's view, the study of history is not the memorization of names, dates, and places. It is the thoughtful examination of the forces that have shaped the courses of human life. We can examine events from the past and then draw **inferences** about current events. History teaches us about likely outcomes.

Another benefit of the study of history is the broad range of human experience which is covered. War and peace are certainly covered as are national and international affairs. However, matters of culture (art, literature, and music) are also included in historical study. Human nature is an important part of history: emotions like passion, greed, and insecurity have influenced the shaping of world affairs. Anyone who thinks that the study of history is boring has not really studied history.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - A. Studying history helps us to live in today's world.
 - B. Studying history is not just memorization.
 - C. The role of education is to help students deal with real life.
 - D. Students should study both national and international history.
2. In the first paragraph, **inferences** means
 - A. graphs
 - B. articles
 - C. conclusions
 - D. circumferences
3. Which method of teaching history would the author of this passage support?
 - A. Applying historical events to modern society
 - B. Using flash cards to remember specific facts.
 - C. Weekly quizzes on dates and events.
 - D. Student competitions for most books memorized.

Answers: (1.) A (2.) C (3.) A

2. Sentence Structure & Grammar (20 minutes, 30 questions): Sample Questions

Part 1: In this section, each question contains 4 sentences. Choose the one that is best.

Example:

- A. One of the musicians who is Eric has been looking for a practice room.
- B. Eric, one of the musicians, are looking for a practice room.
- C. Eric who is one of the musicians who are looking for a practice room.
- D. Eric, one of the musicians, is looking for a practice room.

Answer: “D” is the only choice that makes sense and is grammatically correct.

Part 2: In this section, you are given a sentence which has words left out. Fill in the blank space and complete the sentence by choosing the correct answer from the choices given.

Example: The workers left early and _____ home.

- A) gone B) went C) have dinner D) drives

Answer: “B” is the only answer that makes sense and is grammatically correct.

Part 3: In this section, you are first given two sentences. Then you are given four choices of how these two sentences can be combined. Choose the best answer.

Example: The traffic was heavy. I was late to work.

- A. I was late to work because the traffic was heavy.
- B. I was late to work, so the traffic was heavy.
- C. The traffic was heavy, I was late to work.
- D. The traffic was heavy: and then I was late to work.

Answer: “A” is the only sentence that makes sense and is grammatically correct.

English Placement Test Cut – Off Scores and Course Descriptions

<u>Cut-Off Scores</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Course Description</u>
125-195	ENGL 1A <i>(Transfers – CSU; UC.)</i>	Reading and Composition
109-124	ENGL 100	College Reading and Writing
94-108	ENGL 302	Improvement of College Reading and Writing
78-93	ENGL 305 or 306	Development of College Reading and Writing, or Development of College Reading and Writing - Accelerated
60-77	CSKLS 313	Foundations of College Reading and Writing
0-59	CSKLS 318	Introduction to Reading and Writing