

Sheridan College Assessment Centre

**Mature Student  
Assessment  
Information Booklet**

**Sheridan** | Office of  
the Registrar

<http://assessment.sheridancollege.ca>



## What is the Mature Student Assessment?

Applicants who do not possess a secondary school diploma or equivalent and who are 19 years of age before the starting date of their program may be required by the Sheridan Admissions Office to demonstrate their ability to work at the postsecondary level by taking a Mature Student Assessment.

The Mature Student Assessment is a set of tests used to measure the applicant's skills in English, Science and/or Mathematics for the purpose of admission to the selected Sheridan program.

## What is the Assessment Fee?

The fee for the Mature Student Assessment is \$35.

You can pay for your test at the Assessment Centre - with debit only.

## How can I book an appointment to write the test?

If this is your first time using Sheridan's online booking system, you will need to register here:

**<https://sheridanc.mywconline.com/register.php>**

Once you have registered, you can book your exam by logging in here: **<https://sheridanc.mywconline.com/>**

## Where and when can I take the Mature Student Assessment?

You can take the assessment at any Sheridan Assessment Centre:

**Davis Campus** (Brampton)  
7899 McLaughlin Road  
Room B117  
Brampton, ON L6Y 5H9

905-459-7533, ext. 5288  
[davisac@sheridancollege.ca](mailto:davisac@sheridancollege.ca)

**Skills Training Centre** (Oakville)  
407 Iroquois Shore Road  
Room B10  
Oakville, ON L6H 1M3

905-845-9430, ext. 8100  
[stcac@sheridancollege.ca](mailto:stcac@sheridancollege.ca)

**Hazel McCallion Campus**  
(Mississauga)  
4180 Duke of York Boulevard  
Room A246  
Mississauga, ON L5B 0G5

905-845-9430, ext. 2476  
[hmcac@sheridancollege.ca](mailto:hmcac@sheridancollege.ca)

If you are a student with a disability and **require accommodation in the assessment process**, you **must** be registered with Accessible Learning Services., please visit:

<http://accessiblelearningservices.sheridancollege.ca>

## What to bring?

- Valid Photo ID
- Letter from Admissions outlining the required assessment components
- Proof of fee payment (receipt) from the Office of the Registrar
- Pens, pencils, eraser

Do not bring calculators or other electronic devices including cell phones, or printed materials such as dictionaries or notes.

## How can I find out the results of my test?

To view your assessment results, please allow 2-3 business days for marking and:

1. Log in to your AccessSheridan account at <https://access.sheridaninstitute.ca>
2. Follow the link to [myStudent Centre](#)
3. Under the Admissions heading, click on Application Status
4. Once on the Application Status Page click the **View Summary of Assessment Results**

### Assessment Samples

This booklet contains samples of the types of questions you could expect to find in your Assessment. The sample questions reflect the format of the assessment items, but not the degree of difficulty of all the questions in the Assessment.

## Helpful hints

1. Get a good night's sleep before the test and arrive early for the assessment session.
2. Don't let the thought of writing an assessment make you too nervous, although a little nervousness is natural and even helpful.
3. When the Assessment Centre Specialist is explaining the process, listen carefully and follow all the directions.
4. Ask questions if anything is unclear. The Assessment Centre Specialist is there for that purpose.
5. The assessment is multiple-choice, except for the essay portion and the high tech math. You will be required to choose the best answer to a question from several choices. You may mark an answer even if you are not perfectly sure it is right.
6. If one question is too hard, leave it and go on to the next. You can always come back and try it again if there is time.
7. If you come to a section in the assessment that you cannot do, don't give up. There may be parts of the assessment further on which are easier for you. Keep working.
8. Work steadily and complete as many questions as you can.
9. To help you succeed, we highly recommend that you review material related to areas covered in the Mature Student Assessment (e.g. Reading Comprehension, English grammar skills and Math skills.) Inquire at your Public Library or a local bookstore about texts that provide a review of these areas.

### **ACCUPLACER - Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills and Writing Skills**

For complete information on and for **sample practice questions** please visit the Accuplacer website <https://www.accuplacer.org>

#### **ACCUPLACER - Reading Comprehension 30 minutes**

The Reading Comprehension test, comprised of 20 questions, measures your ability to understand what you read, to identify main ideas and to make inferences. You need to distinguish between direct statements and secondary or supporting ideas.

In an ACCUPLACER placement test, there are 20 questions of two primary types in Reading Comprehension.

- The first type of question consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required, including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

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

*For the questions that follow, two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement. Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.*

2. The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in 15 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.

Correct answers: 1(C), 2 (B)

### **ACCUPLACER - Sentence Skills 30 minutes**

The Sentence Skills test, comprised of 20 questions, measures your understanding of sentence structure — what makes a sentence complete and clear. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, and others with the relationships between two sentences



In an ACCUPLACER® placement test, there are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

The first type is sentence correction questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase for the underlined portion of the sentence.

The second type is construction shift questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination

*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.*

1. Stamp collecting being a hobby that is sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.
  - A. being a hobby that is
  - B. is a hobby because it is
  - C. which is a hobby
  - D. is a hobby

*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 original sentence.*

2. 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

Correct answers: 1 (D), 2 (C)

### **ACCUPLACER - Writing skills: Essay 65 minutes**

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success.

Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be 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:

- Focus — the clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- Organization—the clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- Development and Support—the extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
- Sentence Structure — the effectiveness of your sentence structure
- Mechanical Conventions —the extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

### **Sample Topic**

*Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.*

Some schools require each student to participate in an organized school sport chosen by the student. People at these schools argue that athletics is an important part of the educational experience and that there should be a rule requiring participation. Others argue that students should be free to decide whether or not they wish to

participate in organized school sports. Write an essay for a classroom instructor in which you take a position on whether participation in organized school athletics should be required. Be sure to defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples. Your essay must be 300–600 words in length.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES - ENGLISH

You may find the following websites useful while preparing for your English test:

Accuplacer

<https://www.accuplacer.org>

Literacy Education Online (LEO)

<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/>

Essay punch

<http://www.essaypunch.com/>

Purdue University online writing lab

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Grammar Bytes

<http://www.chompchomp.com/>

## Math Skills Assessment

A battery of assessments is used as an admission instrument to assess an applicant's readiness for our programs. The type of Math assessment varies according to the applicant's choice of program. We do not issue a Statement of Equivalency as part of the assessment results.

### CAAT-D math sample:

48 questions; time limit – 40 minutes

- more complex decimals, fractions, percentages
- more complex algebra including estimation
- integers (positive and negative functions)
- geometry
- word problems using all above

1. Multiply 0.06 by 0.021  
(a) 0.0126 (b) 0.0000126 (c) 0.00126 (d) 0.126  
(e) None of these
2. Divide 4.2 by 0.07  
(a) 1.333 (b) 60 (c) 6 (d) 600 (e) None of these
3.  $9 - 3(2 + 6) \div 6 - 2 \times 5 =$   
(a) -2 (b) 3 (c) 5 (d) -5 (e) None of these
4. The decimal equivalent of  $\frac{9}{40}$  is:  
(a) 4.44 (b) 2.25 (c) 0.225 (d) 0.0225 (e) None of these
5. Express 0.275 as a common fraction in lowest terms:  
(a)  $\frac{11}{40}$  (b)  $\frac{11}{80}$  (c)  $\frac{22}{80}$  (d)  $\frac{11}{25}$  (e) None of these
6. Express  $\frac{2}{5}$  as a percent:

- (a) .4% (b) 20% (c) 4% (d) 2% (e) None of these
7. 60% of \$10.60  
(a) \$1.63 (b) \$6.36 (c) \$63.60 (d) \$16.31 (e) None of these
8. 24 is what percent of 40?  
(a) 60% (b) 3.75% (c) 6% (d) 37.5% (e) None of these
9. 0.85 is 25% of what sum?  
(a) 3.4 (b) 34 (c) 21.25 (d) 2.125 (e) None of these
10. 36 is what percent of 30?  
(a) 83.3% (b) 90% (c) 120% (d) 72% (e) None of these
11. 6 is 15% of what number?  
(a) 90 (b) 0.9 (c) 2.5 (d) 40 (e) None of these
12. The population of Snowtown was 4,500 in 1990. In 1994 it had decreased to 3,600. Find the percent decrease in population during those four years.  
  
(a) 80% (b) 90% (c) 16.2% (d) 20% (e) None of these
13. You receive a grade of 75 % on a test of 60 questions. How many questions did you answer correctly?  
(a) 45 (b) 8 (c) 12 (d) 50 (e) None of these
14. Sandra's monthly salary is \$3,200. If deductions for taxes from her monthly paycheck are \$800, what percent of her salary goes to these deductions?  
(a) 25% (b) 25.6% (c) 40% (d) 4% (e) None of these
15. The cost of an article including 15% for taxes is \$138.00. What is the cost of the article without taxes?  
(a) \$120.00 (b) \$117.30 (c) \$20.70 (d) \$92.00 (e) None of these

16. The average of the following group of numbers 43, 29, 51, 36, 33, 42, 32 is:  
 (a) 36 (b) 33 (c) 38 (d) 43 (e) None of these
17. Brian had marks of 80, 94, 70, 68 and 83 on five tests. His average score is between  
 (a) 65 and 70 (b) 70 and 75 (c) 75 and 80  
 (d) 80 and 85 (e) None of these
18.  $6.42 \times 10^4$  is equivalent to:  
 (a) 64,200 (b) 642 (c) 0.000642 (d) 642,000  
 (e) None of these
19.  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{5}{8} + \frac{7}{10} =$   
 (a)  $\frac{14}{18}$  (b)  $\frac{13}{22}$  (c) 1.325 (d) 1.575 (e) None of these
20.  $3\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{3}{4} + 5\frac{3}{10} =$   
 (a)  $12\frac{7}{16}$  (b)  $13\frac{11}{20}$  (c)  $\frac{46}{33}$  (d)  $12\frac{9}{80}$  (e) None of these
21.  $7\frac{1}{8} - 3\frac{1}{6} =$   
 (a)  $4\frac{1}{48}$  (b)  $4\frac{1}{2}$  (c)  $3\frac{23}{24}$  (d)  $3\frac{0}{2}$  (e) None of these
22.  $7 - 4\frac{2}{5} =$   
 (a)  $3\frac{3}{5}$  (b)  $-2\frac{3}{5}$  (c)  $-3\frac{3}{5}$  (d)  $2\frac{3}{5}$  (e) None of these
23.  $31.7 + 6 + 2.81 + 0.254 =$   
 (a) 35.264 (b) 858 (c) 14.52 (d) 40.764 (e) None of these
24. Subtract 5.485 from 12

(a) -17.485 (b) 17.485 (c) -6.515 (d) 6.515 (e) None of these

25. Dividing by 10 000 is the same as multiplying by

(a) 0.01 (b)  $\frac{1}{10000}$  (c)  $\frac{1}{1000}$  (d) 0.001 (e) None of these

26. Ginny baked a delicious apple pie. John ate  $\frac{1}{4}$  of it. Then Aldo ate  $\frac{1}{2}$  of what was left. How much pie was left after Aldo ate his piece?

(a)  $\frac{1}{4}$  (b)  $\frac{1}{8}$  (c)  $\frac{1}{2}$  (d)  $\frac{3}{8}$  (e) None of these

27. It takes a bus  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hours to travel from Toronto to Parry Sound if the bus averages 88 Km/hr. How far is it from Toronto to Parry Sound?

(a) 286,000 m (b) 2.86 km (c) 27 km (d) 286 cm  
(e) None of these

28. Find the missing term:  $\frac{4}{7} = \frac{28}{?}$

(a) 49 (b) 16 (c) 56 (d) 42 (e) None of these

29. If  $\frac{a}{10} = 0.57$ , then  $a$  is equal to

(a) 57 (b) .057 (c)  $5\frac{7}{10}$  (d) 0.057 (e) None of these

30. Express the following product in lowest terms:

$$3\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{7} \times 8$$

(a)  $3\frac{3}{7}$  (b)  $\frac{24}{28}$  (c)  $\frac{13}{7}$  (d)  $\frac{6}{7}$  (e) None of these

31. The value of  $-3(-4)^2$  is:

- (a) 48 (b) 49 (c) -48 (d) 144 (e) None of these
32. How many fifths are there in 4.8?
- (a) 24 (b) 0.96 (c) 1.04 (d) 9.6 (e) None of these
33. Find the value of  $y - 6y^2$ , when  $y = \frac{1}{3}$
- (a)  $-\frac{2}{3}$  (b)  $-\frac{1}{3}$  (c) 1 (d)  $-4\frac{2}{3}$  (e) None of these
34. When  $M = -2$  and  $P = 4$ , find the value of  $\frac{3P-M}{3MP}$
- (a) 0 (b)  $-\frac{7}{12}$  (c)  $-\frac{5}{12}$  (d)  $-\frac{3}{4}$  (e) None of these
35. A student's total budget was \$15,000. How much more money was allocated to tuition than room and board?
- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Tuition            | 64 % |
| Room and board     | 26 % |
| Books and supplies | 4 %  |
| Other              | 6 %  |
- (a) \$9,600 (b) \$3,900 (c) \$5,700 (d) \$8,100 (e) None of these

**BUSINESS MATH SAMPLE: All of the above plus the following**

50 questions; time limit – 60 minutes

- decimals
- fractions
- percentages
- ratios



-algebra

-word problems using all above

36.  $22r - 15s - 3r + 3s =$

(a)  $15rs$  (b)  $22r - 15s$  (c)  $7rs$  (d)  $19r - 12s$  (e) None of these

37.  $\frac{a^6}{a^2} =$

(a)  $a^4$  (b)  $a^3$  (c)  $a^8$  (d)  $a^{-8}$  (e) None of these

38.  $(3xy^2)^3 =$

(a)  $3x^3 y^6$  (b)  $xy$  (c)  $27x^3 y^6$  (d)  $9x^2 y^6$  (e) None of these

**OCMA SAMPLE: All of the above plus the following**

45 questions; time limit – 60 minutes

- decimals

- percent

- fractions

- ratios

- basic algebra

- graphing

- word problems using all above

39.  $4 + 2[6 - (-5)3] =$

(a)  $-14$  (b)  $-54$  (c)  $126$  (d)  $46$  (e) None of these

40.  $\frac{10^3}{10^{-2}} =$

(a)  $10$  (b)  $10^{-4}$  (c)  $10^{-1}$  (d)  $10^{-5}$  (e) None of these

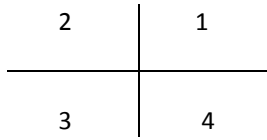
41. The expanded form of  $(3r - 4)^2$  is:

- (a)  $9r^2 - 12r + 16$  (b)  $9r^2 - 24r - 16$  (c)  $9r^2 + 16$  (d)  $9r^2 - 16$   
 (e) None of these

42. If  $T = \frac{1}{3}rm^2$ , then  $r =$

- (a)  $\frac{m^2}{3T}$  (b)  $\frac{3\sqrt{T}}{m}$  (c)  $3T - m^2$  (d)  $\frac{T}{3m^2}$   
 (e) None of these

43. What numbered region does the point (18, -36) fit into:



- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) None of these

**HIGH TECH MATH SAMPLE:**  
**All of the above plus the following**

46 questions; time limit – 60 minutes

- some basic operations of decimals, fractions and percent
- complex algebra including factoring, square roots
- geometry
- trigonometry
- word problems using all above

44. Simplify:  $\sqrt{10^2 - 6^2}$

- (a) 8 (b)  $\sqrt{136}$  (c) 64 (d) 2 (e) None of these

45. Express  $y - 4[y - 3(y - 2)] - 5$  in simplest form

- (a)  $19 + 9y$  (b)  $-7y - 29$  (c)  $-2y^2 + 14y - 29$  (d)  $9y - 29$   
 (e) None of these

46. Combine fractions and reduce

$$\frac{5b}{4a} + \frac{b}{3a} - \frac{3b}{a}$$

- (a)  $\frac{3b}{8a}$  (b)  $\frac{17b}{12a}$  (c)  $-\frac{17ab}{12a^2}$  (d)  $-\frac{17b}{12a}$  (e) None of these

47. Combine fractions

$$\frac{2m}{t} + \frac{5}{mt}$$

- (a)  $\frac{7}{t}$  (b)  $\frac{2m^2+5}{mt}$  (c)  $2m^2t + 5t$  (d)  $\frac{2m-5t}{t+mt}$

(e) None of these

48. Which is equal to  $x^2 - 2x - 3$

- (a)  $(x - 3)(x + 1)$  (b)  $(x + 3)(x - 1)$  (c)  $(x - 3)(x - 1)$   
(d)  $(x + 3)(x + 1)$  (e) None of these

49.  $(3 - y)(3 + y) =$

- (a)  $9 - y^2$  (b)  $9 + y^2$  (c)  $9 + 6y + y^2$  (d)  $9 - 6y + y^2$   
(e) None of these

50. Find the circumference of a circle with a diameter of 10:

- (a)  $10\pi$  (b)  $25\pi$  (c)  $100\pi$  (d)  $5\pi$  (e) None of these

51. How many 4cm by 4cm tiles are needed to cover an area which measures 20 cm by 28 cm

- (a) 48 (b) 35 (c) 140 (d) 560 (e) None of these

52. A piece of wire, 536 cm long is cut into two parts such that the longer part is 3 times as long as the

shorter part. What are the lengths, in cm, of the two parts?

- (a) 134 cm and 402 cm (b) 144 cm and 392 cm  
(c) 128 cm and 408 cm (d) 124 cm and 412 cm  
(e) None of these

### **Answer Key**

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. a 6. e 7. B 8. a 9. a  
10. c 11. d 12. d 13. a 14. a 15. a 16. c 17. c  
18. a 19. d 20. b 21. c 22. d 23. d 24. d 25. b 26. D  
27. a 28. A 29. c 30. e 31. c 32. a 33. b 34. b  
35. c 36. d 37. a 38. c 39. d 40. e 41. e 42. e  
43. d 44. a 45. d 46. d 47. b 48. a 49. a  
50. a 51. b 52. a

*Thank you to the Math Department at Humber College for permission to use their math sample questions.*

### **HELPFUL RESOURCES - MATH**

To prepare for the assessments, you will need to study or review senior-level (Grades 11 and 12) high school course material in the subjects of your tests. You may also refer to GED Practice Books.

You may find the following websites helpful as well:

<http://www.khanacademy.org/>

<http://www.mathleague.com/>

<http://www.aaamath.com/>

<http://www.purplemath.com/>

<http://www.themathpage.com/>

<http://jamesbrennan.org/algebra/index.html>

## SCIENCE ASSESSMENT SAMPLE:

Your test will include 50 multiple choice questions in 25 minutes on basic principles of biology, chemistry and physics.

### Biology

1. A cell would be unable to synthesize enzymes if it lacked –
  - a) ribosomes
  - b) centrioles
  - c) Golgi bodies
  - d) endoplasmic reticulum
2. A person can be nourished by injecting glucose into the veins because glucose is in a form that can
  - a) be digested and utilized in the blood
  - b) react without energy input
  - c) be maintained in dynamic equilibrium with cell contents
  - d) pass out of the capillaries and be utilized by cells

### Physics

3. Light travels –
  - a) from the eye of the observer to the object
  - b) from the object to the eye of the observer
  - c) none of these
4. If a gas is cooled in a close container, its molecules
  - a) move faster
  - b) stay further apart
  - c) collide more often with the walls of the container
  - d) move more slowly

### Chemistry

5. Which of the following changes is a chemical change:
  - a) The crushing of stones
  - b) The formation of clouds
  - c) The separation of cream from milk
  - d) The lighting of a cigarette

6. The nucleus of an atom contains 10 neutrons and 9 protons. The first two shells contain a total of 9 electrons.

- a) the atomic number of this atom is 9
- b) the mass number is 28
- c) the atom is called potassium
- d) all of the above
- e) none of the above

Correct answers: 1(a) 2(d) 3 (b) 4(d) 5(d) 6(a)

## HELPFUL RESOURCES - SCIENCE

When preparing for the Science Assessment, you may find the following study guides helpful in reviewing their knowledge. These study guides are usually available at bookstores and libraries. However, please note that the **resources are to serve as guides only and that they do not represent an exact match with the test content.**

- *GED Study Guides.* These study guides are published by various publishers.
- *Master the GED Science. 2nd edition.* This study guide is published by Arco. ISBN 768910005
- *Biology Grade 11. A Personal Tutor in a Book and Biology Grade 12. A Personal Tutor in a Book.* These study guides are published by The Academic Edge Ltd. ISBN 978-1-55202-029-6 (Grade 11) and ISBN 978-1-55202-030-2 (Grade 12).
- *Biology 11 University Preparation. The Key Study Guide.* This study guide is published by Castle Rock Research Corp. ISBN 1-55371-939-5.

