

Sheridan Mature Student English Test

(Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills and Writing Skills)

ACCUPLACER | Reading Comprehension – 30 minutes (20 questions)

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.

ACCUPLACER | Sentence Skills – 30 minutes (20 questions)

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.

Writing skills | Essay – 1 hour and 5 minutes

The essay gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can develop and express your ideas in writing.

You will first read a short passage and an assignment question that are focused on an important issue. You will then plan and write a multi-paragraph essay (300-600 words) in which you develop your own point of view on this issue. You should support your position with appropriate reasoning and examples. The position you take will not influence your score.

The essay will be given a holistic score (“pass” or “upgrading recommended”) that represents how clearly and effectively you can express your position. The following six characteristics of writing will be considered.

- **Purpose and Focus** – The extent to which you present information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.
- **Organization and Structure** – The extent to which you order and connect ideas.
- **Development and Support** – The extent to which you develop and support ideas.
- **Sentence Variety and Style** – The extent to which you craft sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice and structure.
- **Mechanical Conventions** – The extent to which you express ideas using standard written English.
- **Critical Thinking** – The extent to which you communicate a point of view and demonstrate reasoned relationships among ideas.

For **sample practice questions** please visit the Accuplacer website <https://www.accuplacer.org> or click here: <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-sample-questions-for-students.pdf>