

CCSF **ENGLISH** PLACEMENT TEST

Sample Questions

PART I: VOCABULARY (10 minutes): Choose the best definition for each bolded vocabulary item.

Sample 1 **Flexible** means (A) firm to the touch (B) easily bent (C) shapeless (D) smooth.

Sample 2 A **contagious** disease is (A) dangerous (B) preventable (C) treatable (D) infectious.

Answers: Sample 1: (B) **easily bent** is the best definition of **flexible**.
Sample 2: (D) **infectious** is the best definition of **contagious**.

PART II: READING COMPREHENSION (40 minutes): You are asked to read passages on a wide variety of subjects and to answer questions about main idea, inference, meaning or words in context, tone, or purpose. For each question, decide on the basis of the passage which one of the choices best answers the question:

Sample passage:

The African elephant population has declined rapidly over the past twenty-five years. During this time, farmers have cleared and planted land where elephants once fed, and they chase off or kill elephants that raid their crops. Also, ivory hunting, which is now illegal but which still persists, has reduced the elephant herds dramatically.

Sample 1

The best title for this passage is

- A *The African Elephant*
- B *Living in Africa*
- C *The Decline of the African Elephant*
- D *Elephant Life-Cycles*

The correct answer is **C**.

Sample 2

“Declined” in line 1 means

- A increased.
- B decreased
- C remained the same.
- D disappeared.

The correct answer is **B**.

PART III: WRITING (40 minutes) – The writing test has three parts:

Identifying Errors:

Read each sentence below and decide if any underlined portion contains an error in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, word choice, grammar, or sentence structure. If there is an error, note the letter printed underneath the line, and mark that letter on your answer sheet. If there is no error in any part of the sentence, mark **D** for no error.

CCSF **ESL** PLACEMENT TEST

Sample Questions

Part 1: Aural (Listening) Comprehension Test

This is a test of your ability to understand spoken English. On this tape recording, you will hear sentences that are not written down in the test booklet. You will hear each sentence only one time. Read the three answers in your booklet and select the one answer that you believe is correct.

Example: You will hear: "The camera on the desk is expensive."

- You will read:
- a) The camera is expensive.
 - b) The desk is expensive.
 - c) The camera and the desk are expensive.

The correct answer is **a) The camera is expensive.**

Part 2: Grammar

Each item represents a short conversation between two people. Part of each conversation is unfinished. Choose the word or group of words that completes the conversation correctly.

Example: "What is the name of your new restaurant?" a) calls
"It _____ *Café Lidia*." b) is called
c) calling
d) called

The correct answer is **b) is called.**

Part 3: Writing Ability

Each item is an unfinished statement. Choose the word or group of words that completes the statement correctly.

Example: John wanted to go swimming and _____.

- a) going fishing
- b) fishing
- c) go fish
- d) fish

The correct answer is **b) fishing.**

The items in this part of the test are complete statements. However, one of the underlined words or phrases in each statement is **not correct**. Find the **wrong** word or phrase.

Example: The students which wanted to take extra classes had to get approval from their teachers. **A B C D**

The wrong word is **A, which.**

Sample Questions for the ARITHMETIC TEST

Please review the sample questions to help you decide which math placement test to begin with.

If you answer **7 or fewer** questions correctly, begin with the ARITHMETIC TEST.

If you answer **8 or more** questions correctly, begin with the ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA TEST.

1. A student wants to schedule his time to study for his English, math, and chemistry exams. He plans to spend $\frac{1}{3}$ of his time studying English and $\frac{1}{6}$ of his time studying math. What portion of time remains for him to study for his chemistry exam?

- A. $\frac{1}{2}$
- B. $\frac{1}{4}$
- C. $\frac{1}{6}$
- D. $\frac{1}{9}$

2. John drove his new car to Los Angeles, which is 320 miles from his house. He used 12 gallons of gas. He wants to know how many miles he traveled per gallon of gas. Which one of the following expressions must he use?

- A. $12 \div 320$
- B. $320 \div 12$
- C. $\frac{12}{320}$
- D. 12×320

3. Mr. Jones sold his house for \$1,000,000 this year. The sale price is 40% more than the original purchase price. Which price is closest to the original purchase price?

- A. \$400,000
- B. \$600,000
- C. \$625,000
- D. \$715,000

4. $5\frac{1}{9} - 2\frac{1}{6} =$

- A. $2\frac{4}{9}$
- B. $2\frac{17}{18}$
- C. $3\frac{1}{18}$
- D. $3\frac{1}{3}$

5. $1.3 \overline{)793}$

In the problem above, the quotient is closest to which of the following?

- A. 6
- B. 60
- C. 600
- D. 6000

6. Last week Patricia earned \$280. She set aside 15 percent of this money to buy books that cost \$12 each. What is the greatest number of books that she could buy?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 42

7. If 7% of a number is 21, what is the number?

- A. 1.47
- B. 14.7
- C. 30
- D. 300

8. All of the following are ways to write 25 percent of N, except:

- A. $0.25N$ B. $\frac{25N}{100}$ C. $\frac{N}{4}$ D. $25N$

9. $\frac{9}{20} =$

- A. 0.045
- B. 2.22
- C. 0.45
- D. 4.5

10. $8.86 \times 5.6 =$

- A. 49.616
- B. 49.936
- C. 469.16
- D. 496.16

11. Which of the following is the least?

- A. 0.307
- B. 0.703
- C. 0.037
- D. 0.37

Sample Questions for the ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA TEST

Please review the sample questions to help you decide which math placement test to begin with.

If you answer **5 or fewer** questions correctly, begin with the ARITHMETIC TEST.

If you answer **6 or more** questions correctly, begin with the ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA TEST.

- If $x = -4$, $y = 3$, and $z = -1$, find the value of $3x + 2(y - z)$
A. -4 B. -5 C. -8 D. -20 E. -40
- Solve for x : $4(x - 5) = 1 - 3x$
A. $-\frac{19}{7}$ B. $\frac{6}{7}$ C. $\frac{10}{3}$ D. 3 E. 21
- Subtract: $\frac{2}{5x} - \frac{4}{3x^2}$
A. $\frac{-14}{15x}$ B. $\frac{-2}{15x^2}$ C. $\frac{-2}{15x^3}$ D. $\frac{6x-20}{15x^2}$ E. $\frac{-2}{5x-3x^2}$
- Find the solution to the following system of equations:
 $3x + y = 4$
 $5x - 3y = -5$
A. $(1, 1)$ B. $(1, 5)$ C. $(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{5}{2})$ D. $(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ E. $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{2})$
- Multiply and express the answer in lowest terms: $\frac{x^2 + 3x - 10}{6x^3} \cdot \frac{3x^2}{(x-2)}$
A. $\frac{x+5}{2x}$ B. $\frac{x+5}{3x}$ C. $\frac{(x-5)(x+2)}{2x(x-2)}$ D. $\frac{(x+5)(x+2)}{2x(x-2)}$ E. $\frac{(3x-10)(3+6x)}{-24}$
- Simplify: $\sqrt{48x^5}$
A. $4\sqrt{3x^5}$ B. $16\sqrt{3x^5}$ C. $4x^2\sqrt{3x}$ D. $16x^2\sqrt{3x}$ E. $16x^4\sqrt{3x}$
- Simplify: $(81x^{-8}y^{12})^{\frac{1}{4}}$
A. $-3x^2y^3$ B. $\frac{3y^3}{x^{-2}}$ C. $\frac{3y^3}{x^2}$ D. $\frac{81y^3}{x^2}$ E. $\frac{81y^3}{4x^2}$
- Let $f(x) = x^2 - 3x + 1$. Evaluate $f(a + 3)$
A. $a^2 - 3a + 1$ B. $a^2 + 3a + 1$ C. $a^2 + 3a + 2$ D. $a^2 - 3a + 4$ E. $(x^2 - 3x + 1)(a + 3)$
- Susan has 2 more than 4 times as many books as her roommate has. Together they have 42 books. Which of the following equations could be used to determine the number of books Susan has?
A. $4(x + 2) = 42$
B. $x + 4(x + 2) = 42$
C. $4x + 2 = 42$
D. $4x + 2 + x = 42$

10. Henry paints X feet of fence in 6 hours. If he continues to paint at the same average rate, how many more feet of fence will he paint in the next 5 hours?

A. $\frac{6x}{5}$

B. $\frac{5x}{6}$

C. $\frac{x+5}{6}$

D. $\frac{x}{6} + 5$