Academic Upgrading
Academic Services

Study Guide for
English Placement Test

Updated: June 2016
Important Information

Review the following information before preparing for the test.

The English Placement Test

The English Placement Test is an assessment designed for Academic Upgrading placement purposes only. This assessment determines entrance into Literature and Composition I (English Language Arts 20-1 equivalent) or Literature and Composition II (English Language Arts 30-1 equivalent). No section of the test may be used for admission to any SAIT program other than Academic Upgrading. The English Placement Test is not accepted for admission to any other institution, nor does the test determine English language proficiency.

- Students write the test on campus at Testing Services (room MC 221, Stan Grad Centre). Testing Services hours of operation are available on www.sait.ca/testing.
- Students must book the test in advance using instructions provided by Academic Upgrading. To receive instructions for booking the test or to arrange invigilation of the test outside Calgary, contact Academic Upgrading (upgrading@sait.ca).
- If you are not sure whether the English Placement Test will meet your needs, contact Academic Upgrading (upgrading@sait.ca or 403-210-5756).

The English Placement Test is composed of the following:

Grammar and Reading Comprehension: 45 multiple choice questions
- to be completed in 75 minutes

Literature Comprehension: 20 multiple choice questions
- to be completed in 45 minutes

Essay: 5 paragraph essay
- The essay is to be attempted after completing the above Grammar and Reading Comprehension and Literature Comprehension components.
- The essay is to be completed in 120 minutes (2 hours).
- An essay rubric is included on the final page of this guide for your reference.

You may not use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials for any portion of the test. All students must write the test in order, starting with Grammar/Reading Comprehension, then Literature Comprehension, and finally the Essay. Students typically write the entire exam on one day, although you may choose to schedule the multiple choice components on one day and the essay on another.
To meet the basic English Language Arts admission requirement for the daytime Academic Upgrading program:

A mark of 50-69% overall (an average of the multiple choice and essay components) is required to pass and meet the basic English Language Arts admission requirement for the daytime Academic Upgrading program.

To place into COMM 181 (Literature and Composition I) *English 20-1 equivalent*:

A mark of 50-69% overall (an average of the multiple choice and essay components) is required to pass and be placed into COMM 181 (Literature and Composition I) which is equivalent to English Language Arts 20-1.

To place into COMM 182 (Literature and Composition II) *English 30-1 equivalent*:

A mark of 70-100% overall (an average of the multiple choice and essay components) is required to be placed into COMM 182 (Literature and Composition II) which is equivalent to English Language Arts 30-1.

**Note:** No part of this exam can be used to determine English Language proficiency at SAIT.

### SAIT Academic Upgrading Course Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMM 181</th>
<th>COMM 182</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature and Composition I</td>
<td>Literature and Composition II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts 20-1 equivalent</td>
<td>English Language Arts 30-1 equivalent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAIT also offers a non-credit, 18-hour evening course called **COMN 100** which reviews concepts including sentence structure, grammar and punctuation, essay structure, proofreading techniques, presentation skills, and citation guidelines. At the end of the course a final assessment is used to determine placement into SAIT Academic Upgrading Literature and Composition courses (high school equivalency courses). For more information about the cost, scheduling, and suitability of this non-credit course contact:

- [upgrading@sait.ca](mailto:upgrading@sait.ca)
- 403-210-5756
English Placement Test Study Resources

Accessing SAIT’s Electronic and Print Resources
Community users, like you, can view, scan, and photocopy electronic and print sources if they show their photo ID to a librarian at SAIT’s information desk. If they wish to check out a source, they can obtain a TAL card from SAIT’s information desk.

Grammar Resources
You may be tested on the following topics: parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, interjections, and articles); types of clauses (dependent and independent); punctuation (apostrophes, commas, semicolons, colons, question marks, and periods); fragments, run-ons, comma splices, spelling, capitalization, etc. The following resources will help prepare you for the grammar portion of the test:

Electronic


http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm

http://www.chompchomp.com/exercises.htm


https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/
Print


Writing Resources

You will be asked to read a text and write a five-paragraph essay on a designated topic that pertains to the text, using textual evidence from the text. Your essay will be graded with the essay rubric, which is attached to the end of this document (see Appendix A). The following resources will help prepare you for the essay portion of the test:

Electronic


http://www.sandhills.edu/academic-departments/english/essaybasics/5_paragraph_essay.html

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/paragraphs/

http://arts.uottawa.ca/writingcentre/en/hypergrammar/writing-paragraphs
The Writing Lab and the OWL Purdue. *The writing process*. Purdue University, 2015. Web 15 May 2015. [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/1/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/1/)

**Print**


**Reading Resources**

You will be asked to read several different styles of texts and answer a few questions to demonstrate your understanding of the texts. The following resources will help prepare you for the reading portion of the test:

**Electronic**


**Print**


**Citing Resources**

You may be asked to demonstrate your understanding of quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, plagiarism, direct vs. indirect speech, etc. The following resources will help prepare you for this portion of the test:

**Electronic**

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/

Jennifer ESL. *Reported speech (intro) - English grammar*. YouTube. 22 May 2009. Web 15 May 2015. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HBEw6cY17g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HBEw6cY17g)


**Print**


Appendix A: Essay Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unsatisfactory (0-4)</th>
<th>Minimal Pass (5)</th>
<th>Satisfactory (6-7)</th>
<th>Good (7-8)</th>
<th>Excellent (9-10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content x2 (20)</td>
<td>o no title</td>
<td>o irrelevant title</td>
<td>o basic title</td>
<td>o relevant title</td>
<td>o sophisticated title</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o none to 1 of the paragraphs contains clear ideas</td>
<td>o 2 of the paragraphs contain clear ideas</td>
<td>o 3 of the paragraphs contain clear ideas</td>
<td>o 4 of the paragraphs contain clear ideas</td>
<td>o all of the paragraphs contain clear ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o no analysis in paragraphs (i.e., summarizes the literary text)</td>
<td>o minimal analysis in paragraphs</td>
<td>o basic analysis in paragraphs</td>
<td>o good analysis in paragraphs</td>
<td>o sophisticated analysis in paragraphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction (10)</td>
<td>o irrelevant hook</td>
<td>o basic hook</td>
<td>o good hook</td>
<td>o engaging hook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o thesis is missing three or more of the elements in the fifth column</td>
<td>o thesis is missing one of the elements in the fifth column</td>
<td>o thesis is missing one of the elements in the fifth column</td>
<td>o thesis is specific, contains a position that justifies discussion, answers the question how or why, and previews 3 main points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o addresses the topic questions inadequately</td>
<td>o addresses the topic questions adequately</td>
<td>o addresses the topic questions adequately</td>
<td>o addresses the topic questions very well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body (10)</td>
<td>o no textual evidence in paragraphs</td>
<td>o minimal textual evidence in paragraphs</td>
<td>o relevant textual evidence in paragraphs</td>
<td>o strong textual evidence in paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o no transitions in paragraphs</td>
<td>o problematic transitions (i.e., poor word choice) in paragraphs</td>
<td>o some transitions in paragraphs</td>
<td>o good transitions in paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o none of the paragraphs is properly structured with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding comment</td>
<td>o 1 of the paragraphs is properly structured with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding comment</td>
<td>o 2 of the paragraphs are properly structured with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding comment</td>
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<td>o 1 of the paragraphs is properly structured with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding comment</td>
<td>o 2 of the paragraphs are properly structured with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding comment</td>
<td>o 3 of the paragraphs are properly structured with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding comment</td>
<td>o excellent transitions in paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o 10 or more major errors</td>
<td>o 8 or more major errors that affect understanding</td>
<td>o 5 or more errors in grammar and spelling</td>
<td>o 3 or 4 minor errors in punctuation and capitalization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o most sentences are unclear or awkward</td>
<td>o several sentences are unclear</td>
<td>o sometimes errors affect understanding</td>
<td>o errors do no affect comprehension</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Conclusion (10)</td>
<td>o no summary</td>
<td>o summarizes the main ideas using the same words and sentence structure</td>
<td>o summarizes the main ideas clearly</td>
<td>o summarizes the main points in a subtle and sophisticated way</td>
<td></td>
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<td>o no closing remark</td>
<td>o summarizes the main ideas using the same words and sentence structure</td>
<td>o summarizes the main ideas clearly</td>
<td>o thought-provoking closing remark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language x5 (50)</td>
<td>o 10 or more major errors</td>
<td>o 8 or more major errors that affect understanding</td>
<td>o 5 or more errors in grammar and spelling</td>
<td>o 3 or 4 minor errors in punctuation and capitalization</td>
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TOTAL /100