



LOEP PRACTICE TEST

The Community College of Aurora is committed to your success as a student. This test is your first step to a successful college career.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the LOEP?

LOEP stands for Levels of English Proficiency. It is a test that you take on the computer. It will help you to show us your basic skill level in listening, reading and grammar.

What is the ESL WritePlacer?

This is an additional LOEP test that asks you to write an essay on the computer. You can take it the same day as the LOEP, but most students choose to take it on a different day.

Why do I need to take LOEP?

Your LOEP scores will help you and your academic advisor decide what classes you will take as you begin your study at CCA. Your results will be shown on a computer printout for you after you finish your test.

Can I fail this test?

This is not a pass or fail test. The scores will tell you what level of English classes will be best for you.

How long will this test take?

Each student is different, but plan on between two and three hours for the LOEP. If you are also taking the WritePlacer, you are given 90 minutes to write your essay.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TESTS

ESL: Reading Skills

You will read some sentences and then answer 20 questions about the reading. The reading will be about many different topics. You may read about the arts, science, or history. Some parts have 1 question and some have 2 questions. There will be four choices of answers, but only one answer is correct. There are two sample questions at the beginning of the "Reading Skills" section to give you some practice.

ESL: Language Use

This test has 20 questions. It measures your understanding of English grammar in sentences. There are two types of questions: fill-in the blank and combining two sentences. The sentences are about many different subjects. Some questions are about basic and important idioms. Adverbs (such as before, after, during) and prepositions (such as from, to, at) are also used.

ESL: Listening Test

This test also has 20 questions. It measures your ability to listen to and understand one or more people speaking in English. The conversations take place at work, home or at school. There are spoken conversations or lectures that are followed by a spoken question. Several answer choices will then be spoken and shown in writing. You have the ability to listen again to each conversation, the question, and all of the answer choices by clicking on the yellow "play" button that you will see on the screen.

ESL WritePlacer:

You will be given a topic to write about. Write several paragraphs about the topic and remember to only write about the topic. You will have 90 minutes to write your paragraphs. **Make sure you write between 300 - 600 words**. There is a word counter and a timer that you can see on the computer screen. Read the directions carefully before you begin. You may not use any books, papers or reference materials during the test. Make sure you review your writing and make any changes that will improve your essay. Your score will depend on these skills:

- **Focus:** Keep your writing on the main idea.
- **Organization:** Write clearly and tell your ideas in a logical order. Introduce your topic in the first paragraph; write topic sentences for each new paragraph and write a conclusion.
- **Development and Support:** Develop your main idea and use supporting detail.
- **Sentence Structure:** Make sure that all your sentences are complete.
- **Mechanical Rules:** Read your essay carefully when you are finished. Correct your for errors related to grammar, capital letters, commas, periods, and spelling.



PREPARING FOR THE TEST

- ❖ Relax! The LOEP English test is designed to help you succeed in school. The test will show your academic strengths and weaknesses so that an advisor can tell you what level classes can give you the help you need to improve your English skills in ways that support your future learning.
- ❖ Get plenty of rest and eat properly before you take the test. You should arrive a few minutes early so that you can find the testing center, find your seat and be ready to think in English.
- ❖ If you are not used to using a computer, there is a "Tutorial" choice" on the computer at the beginning of the test. Use this to practice before you begin the test. You can practice the following:
 - How to use the mouse and keyboard
 - How to take a multiple-choice test
 - How to take an essay test
- ❖ When you start the test, be sure you understand the directions.
- ❖ Choose the best answer and click on the blue circle next to your choice. Click "SUBMIT" at the bottom of the screen. You may need to move the mouse down to see all of the answer choices.
- ❖ A small popup box will appear on the screen after you submit your answer. You will then click on "OK" if you are sure of your answer choice or click "CANCEL" if you want to change your answer. You can change as many times as you wish.
- ❖ After you click "OK" on the popup box, you cannot go back and change your answer. Your answer is your final answer.
- ❖ If you have a problem or question during the test, raise your hand and the test administrator will help you. Although they cannot answer test questions for you, they can help with other types of problems.

Practice Tests

ESL: Reading Skills



Read each passage; then answer the question. Some parts have one question and some have two questions. Pick the best answer from the choices below the question.

Here is a sample question. Read; then choose the best answer to the question.

My cousin studied music from 1999 to 2004.

When did my cousin study music?

- After 2004
- Before 1999
- Between 1999 and 2004
- Neither in 1999 nor in 2004

The correct answer is "between 1999 and 2004"
"My cousin studied music between 1999 and 2004."

ESL: Language Use

There will be two different kinds of questions in this test. You will see a sample of each kind with the correct answer indicated below.

Sample question 1:

The sentence below has an empty space. There are four words or phrases under the sentence. Choose the word or phrase that makes a grammatically correct sentence.

They _____ the newspaper every day.

- reads
- is reading
- read
- does read

The correct answer is "read."
"They read the newspaper every day."

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Sample question 2:

Two sentences will be followed by four possible answers. Choose the answer that best combines the two sentences. The answer must be a grammatically correct sentence. It must also express the same thought as the first two sentences do.

I sang in the choir. I enjoyed it.

- In the choir singing, I enjoyed.
- In the choir to sing, I enjoyed.
- I enjoyed to sing in the choir.
- I enjoyed singing in the choir.

The correct answer is "I enjoyed singing in the choir."



ESL:Listening

- ❖ You will put on headphones and you may need to adjust the volume.
- ❖ There is only one best answer to each question.
- ❖ First the test question is read to you. If you want to hear it again, you can listen to it only two more times, so listen carefully.

Sample question 1:

First, listen to the conversation and the question that follows. Then, choose the best answer and click on the correct button. When you are finished, press the **NEXT** button.

[You will hear a conversation or lecture when taking the actual test.]

[You will hear a question when taking the actual test.]

- She doesn't want the sweater.
- The price of the sweater was too high.
- The sweater doesn't fit her well.
- She doesn't have money for the sweater.

The sound will begin at the beginning of each test item. Do not replay any part of the test item until the whole part has been played for the first time. On the actual test, there will be a yellow "PLAY" button after each possible answer. To replay any part of the test item, you may click the "PLAY" button with the mouse.

On the actual test, please wait. The sound will begin automatically.

Sample question 2:

First, listen to the conversation and the question that follows. Then, choose the best answer and click on the button next to your answer. When you are finished, press the "NEXT" button.

[You will hear a conversation or lecture when taking the actual test.]

[You will hear a question when taking the actual test.]

- "I still don't understand how to interpret poems."
- "I'll see you inside the door to the dining hall at 6 PM"
- "Where are you going now? Are you going to class?"
- "Sure. Why don't we get together next week at the same time?"

ESL:Writing (WritePlacer)

Sample topic 1: Holidays are an important part of life all over the world. Describe your favorite holiday in your country. Explain why you like it.

Sample topic 2: Many people live with dogs, cats and other animals. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of owning a pet?

Sample topic 3: Obesity is a growing problem for children in the United States. What can parents do to help their children lose weight?

Sample topic 4: There are many activities people enjoy on the weekend. Describe what you like to do when you have free time. Explain why you enjoy these activities.