

# ENGLISH/COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT

## SAMPLE TEST AND PREPARATION GUIDE

Testing is usually offered at the Waterloo Campus, 108 University Ave. E. If you have applied to the College and have received a letter from the Admissions Office indicating that you are required to write the Mathematics, English, or Science assessment (Chemistry and/or Biology), please phone our Testing Hotline at (519) 748-5220, Ext. 2266. You can also phone the hotline if you are thinking of applying and wish to check out your academic readiness for college.

Please check the Testing Hotline or the testing website at <http://www.conestogac.on.ca/testing/pretest.jsp> to determine dates and locations when testing is available:

English – 8:45 a.m.

Mathematics – 10:45 a.m.

Science – 9:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.

Please arrive 15 minutes before tests start

It is recommended that if you need to write all 3 tests that you write a maximum of 2 per day.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**TESTING FEE - \$30 FOR 1 TEST, \$40 FOR 2 TESTS, \$50 FOR 3 TESTS**  
(Please note that the Science test is considered 1 test whether you write Biology, Chemistry, or both)

The above fees must be paid by cash or cheque in the classroom. It is possible to pay by debit or credit card if you go to the main office at the Waterloo Campus, Room 1C04.

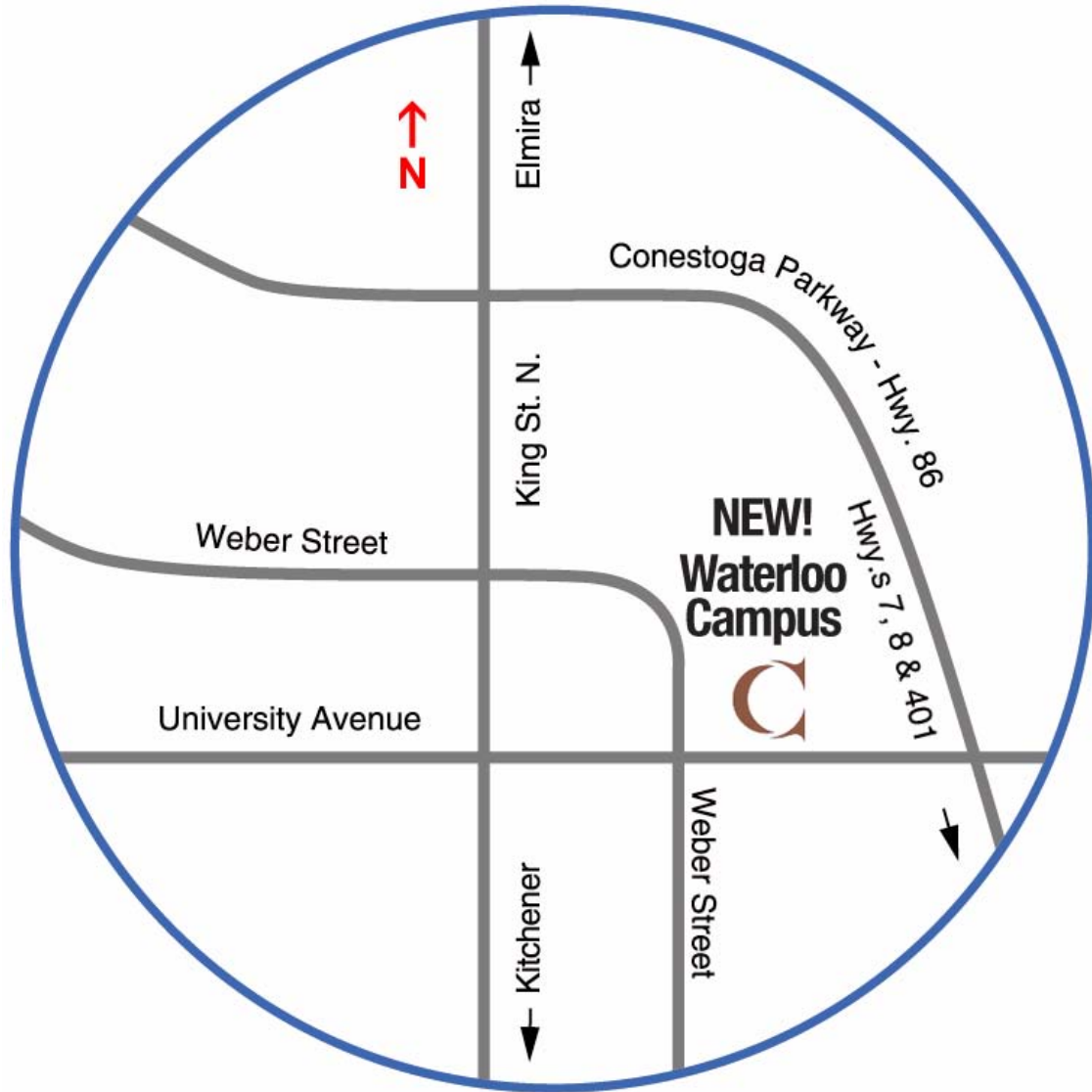
Please arrive at the campus 15 minutes prior to the test in order to pay the testing fee.

### PARKING

A paid parking system is enforced at most campuses Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost for a day pass is \$8.00. At the Waterloo Campus, the large lot off of Marsland Drive has the parking pass dispenser.

### IDENTIFICATION

All persons referred for testing must present personal identification to the test administrator (photo ID or ID with a signature on it). Failure to provide proper identification will result in the test date being rescheduled.



Waterloo Campus  
108 University Avenue East  
Waterloo, Ontario  
N2J 2W2  
(519) 885-0300

## **PREPARATION AND REVIEW BOOKLET**

This booklet is designed to help you prepare for your English, Mathematics and/or Science Skills Assessment.

### **HELPFUL HINTS**

1. Get a good night's sleep before the test and arrive early for the testing session.
2. Don't let the thought of taking a test make you too nervous. Rest assured a little nervousness is natural and even helpful.
3. Be on time! This will give you the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the test room and calm the butterflies!
4. Listen carefully and follow directions.
5. Ask questions if anything is unclear. The test administrator is there for that purpose.
6. The tests are multiple choice. 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.
7. 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.
8. If you come to a section in the test that you cannot do, don't give up. There may be parts of the test which are easier for you. Keep working.
9. Work steadily, and complete as many questions as you can.

If you are an applicant with special needs (eg. Physically disabled, blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing) and require some form of test accommodation, please contact the **DISABILITY SERVICES OFFICE** at (519) 748-5220, Ext. 3232. This office is located at our Doon Campus.

# ENGLISH/COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT

## OVERVIEW

The Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT) is a measure of your current functional level in Reading Comprehension and English Grammar Skills. This battery of achievement tests has been designed specifically for the Canadian adult, regardless of his or her previous school experience.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE CAAT TEST

Conestoga College uses the CAAT test as a pre-admission instrument to assess an applicant's readiness for College programs. Please note that the College does not issue a Statement of Equivalency as part of the test results.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

You will be asked to complete two sub-tests:

Introduction and Instructions	15 minutes
1) Reading Comprehension	40 minutes
2) English Grammar Skills	30 minutes

Instructions for the test begin at 8:45 a.m., and you will be finished by 10:15 a.m. All materials are supplied by the College. **We do not allow the use of learning aids, such as dictionaries and calculators.**

## THE READING COMPREHENSION TEST

The final goal of reading instruction is comprehension of written material. The Reading Comprehension sub-test assesses reading comprehension with three types of reading material. Textual content is similar to that found in non-fiction and general information materials. Recreational content includes material read for enjoyment, including fiction, humour, literary criticism, and poetry. Functional content is the type of material encountered in everyday life, eg. directions, forms, advertising, and labels. Test items are constructed to measure literal, inferential, and critical levels of comprehension.

## SAMPLES:

### TALL TALES

Light from the candles bounced off the dark windows and made strange shadows on the walls. After hearing Uncle Sal's stories, we all sat nervously, listening for creaking footsteps and squeaking doors. Leo was the first to speak.

"You don't really believe all those stories about the old Potter place, do you, Uncle Sal?"

"I don't know," Uncle Sal said slowly, "no one has seen Mr. Potter in town for the last five years. Some say he hasn't set foot out of the house."

- A. What time of day is it in the story?
- a) Morning
  - b) Noon
  - c) Afternoon
  - d) Evening
- B. What kind of stories did Uncle Sal tell?
- a) Peaceful
  - b) Scary
  - c) Sad
  - d) Funny

### SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY, SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

How energy is used in Ontario homes *		For an annual energy bill of \$2,000
Space heating	57-62%	\$1,140 - \$1,240
Water heating	20-21%	\$400 - \$420
Appliances	12-13%	\$240 - \$260
Lighting	4-5%	\$80 - \$100
Cooling	0-7%	\$0 - \$200

\*Many factors can affect your annual energy bill, such as size and location of your home, yearly variations in weather, efficiency of your furnace and other appliances, thermostat settings, number of occupants, and the local cost of energy.

- C. If an annual energy bill was \$1,500, approximately how much of it was for heating water?
- a) \$500
  - b) \$100
  - c) \$300
  - d) \$200
- D. Presently your annual electric bill is \$2,000. If you install an air conditioner, approx. how much more could your annual electric bill be?
- a) \$150 - \$200
  - b) \$250 - \$300
  - c) \$350 - \$400
  - d) \$450 - \$500

- E. What factor would be least likely to affect your annual electric bill?
- a) Square footage of house
  - b) Seasonal changes
  - c) Age of furnace and appliances
  - d) The North American costs of energy

**NEED A NEW BLUE BOX?**

The Region gives out free Blue Boxes from the locations listed below. If your box is broken, bring it with you to have it recycled.

**Kitchener:** Utilities Operation Centre (Stockroom), 83 Elmsdale Drive,  
(519) 741-2536; Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Waterloo:** Works Yard, 265 Lexington Ct., (519) 886-2634; Mon. - Fri., 8:30 – 4:30  
Waste Management Admin. Bldg., 925 Erb St. W., (519) 883-5100,  
Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Cambridge:** Works Yard, 1310 Bishop St., (519) 621-0740  
Mon. – Fri., 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Townships:** North Dumfries Twp. Office at R.R. #75 & Greenfield Rd.,  
(519) 621-0340; Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wellesley Twp. Office, ¼-mile east of Crosshill on RR #15,  
(519) 699-4611; Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wilmot Twp. Office, 60 Snyder’s Rd., Baden, (519) 634-8444;  
Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Blue Boxes are also available at Small Vehicle Transfer Stations in Cambridge, Waterloo, Wilmot, Wellesley, North Dumfries and Woolwich Townships. Call (519) 883-5100 for hours.

- F. If your blue box has been run over by the garbage truck, to receive a new one you should:
- a) Collect the pieces and take them to the nearest Operation Centre/Works Yard
  - b) Go to the nearest Operation Centre/Works Yard to order a new blue box
  - c) Phone (519) 883-5100 to request that a new one be sent to you
  - d) Take your damaged box to any of the Operation Centres/Works Yards on the weekend to pick up a new one.
- G. You work from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. every Monday – Friday. Where is the only location you can pick up a new blue box?
- a) Kitchener
  - b) Waterloo
  - c) Cambridge
  - d) North Dumfries Township

**What's Important**

**by Lynne Kattenhorn**

What's Important?

A man of wisdom, long ago, asserted,  
"The four things man needs most in life,  
Are Health, Love, Beauty and Wealth."  
He specified the order, his message to come through.  
Thank you Plato for your words, and your wisdom, true.  
I can agree with Health and Love, and Beauty sounds right too.  
Of Wealth, I'm not quite certain.  
You know it's often said, "'tis the root of all that's evil."  
And many hearts have bled, over money and the damage,  
To which it's cruel pursuit has led.  
All right, I will concede,  
Some wealth we may require, to care for physical need.

What's More Important?

It's got to be the lessons.  
The knowledge we have gained.  
Doesn't come without a struggle, frustration, fear and pain.  
It has to be the lessons. Of this I am quite sure.  
We've got to do the preparation, improve our attitude.  
Yes, it is the lessons, that help us to achieve,  
Everything we're meant to, everything we need.

What's Most Important?

To have a soul that's free.  
Attain a greater level,  
Of Spirituality.  
Love, Health, Beauty, Wealth.  
Inside is where they're found.  
Every wonder, mystery and reason,  
We cannot hope to understand.  
But of one thing, I am certain,  
We each must heed our Call.  
And in the Higher Order of Life  
There is a place for all.

H. According to the poet, which of the following is most important:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| a) Wealth | c) Health    |
| b) Love   | d) Knowledge |

I. "Tis the root of all that's evil" refers to

- |         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| a) Fear | c) Wealth          |
| b) Pain | d) Bleeding hearts |

## THE ENGLISH SKILLS SUBTEST

The English Skills sub-test reflects the current emphasis in language instruction on the development of sound written communication skills that form the groundwork for writing fluency. It assesses your knowledge of punctuation and capitalization, as well as your ability to apply grammatical concepts and to recognize correct and effective structure and writing style.

### SAMPLES: Choose the sentence with the correct capitalization

- A. He is a student in \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) high school
  - b) High school
  - c) High School
  - d) high School
- B. I'm taking \_\_\_\_\_
- a) geography, mathematics, law and french
  - b) Geography, Mathematics, Law and French
  - c) geography, Mathematics, law and French
  - d) geography, mathematics, law and French

### Choose the sentence with the correct punctuation.

- C. My brother carried the boxes into the \_\_\_\_\_ unpacked them.
- a) house I
  - b) house; I
  - c) house, I
  - d) house: I
- D.
- a) Although, it was raining on Saturday we decided to go to the park.
  - b) Although it was raining on Saturday we decided to go to the park.
  - c) Although it was raining, on Saturday, we decided to go to the park.
  - d) Although it was raining on Saturday, we decided to go to the park.
- E.
- a) Maria asked, "Would you like me to take care of the problem?"
  - b) Maria asked "Would you like me to take care of the problem?"
  - c) Maria asked, "Would you like me to take care of the problem"?"
  - d) Maria asked "if she should take care of the problem."
- F.
- a) The childrens toys filled the room.
  - b) The childrens' toys filled the room.
  - c) The children's toys filled the room.
  - d) The children's toy's filled the room.

**Decide which word or group of words belongs in the blank.**

- G. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ through the trees.  
a) rustles  
b) are rustling  
c) do rustle  
d) rustle
- H. The car belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) he and I  
b) him and I  
c) he and me  
d) him and me
- I. a) I found an excellent job after I graduated from college.  
b) I find an excellent job after I graduated from college.  
c) I have found an excellent job after I am graduating from college.  
d) I will have found an excellent job after I am graduated from college.
- J. That movie was one of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) excitingest that I have ever seen  
b) excitinger that I have ever seen  
c) most exciting that I have ever seen  
d) most excitable that I have ever seen

**Sentence Correctness: For each question, read all four groups of words. One group of words forms a correct, clear sentence. Each of the other choices is incorrect in one of these ways:**

- 1) It does not form a complete sentence.**
- 2) It forms two sentences that are incorrectly run together.**
- 3) It has confusing or unnecessary wording.**
- 4) It does not express what the writer intended.**
- 5) It does not express ideas well.**

**For each question, decide which sentence is written clearly and correctly.**

- K. a) She read the paragraph, explained it, and sat down.  
b) June felt surprised, worried and anger.  
c) Watching a play is more interesting than to watch a movie.  
d) The room is warm, comfortable, and has good lights.
- L. a) Since they were late for the meeting.  
b) Waiting for the bus, I ate my lunch.  
c) The player who is the best.  
d) One of the children in the playground.

- M. a) He thought he had the best seat, he was in the front row.  
b) The class was cancelled the students were pleased.  
c) Her car broke down, so she was late for the appointment.  
d) We laughed then we cried.
- N. a) The class was full, so more chairs were needed.  
b) People were rushing around, yet little was being accomplished.  
c) Although the problem had been identified, we chose to ignore it.  
d) Since we had finished the report early, we had time for a break.
- O. a) I wondered whether you were coming and if you had forgotten about the meeting.  
b) The employees were happy to receive a raise in pay, an increase in vacation time and medical benefits were improved.  
c) Good students should be organized, independent, and stay positive.  
d) Robert lost his keys, and he looked under the desk, between the filing cabinets, and his backpack was searched.
- P. Choose the answer that best combines these sentences without changing their meaning.

**Ed went to the shoe store. It is at the mall.**

- a) Ed went at the mall to the shoe store.  
b) Ed's shoe store is at the mall.  
c) Ed went to the shoe store at the mall.  
d) To the shoe store at the mall went Ed.

### **Sentence Effectiveness**

- Q. a) You will receive a complimentary free gift at no charge.  
b) Paul walked into the adjacent building next door.  
c) Karen mailed the package today.  
d) Joseph himself was there live and in person.
- R. a) Flying over the house, Nancy heard a helicopter.  
b) Full of energy, the house was cleaned in an hour.  
c) I called to ask you to wait for me on the telephone.  
d) My brother George just started high school.
- S. a) The dog was hungry and wanted more.  
b) He always enjoyed music, so he became a music teacher.  
c) Hiding under the desk, the instructor found his pen.  
d) My employer offered me a raise which pleased me.

- T. a) Even though the organizers did an outstanding job in planning the event, many people attended.  
b) Unless you are certain, you should give the incorrect answer.  
c) Because I finished the report on time, I treated myself to an ice cream cone.  
d) Since reading that book, my confidence has grown.

**ANSWERS:**

**Reading Comprehension**

- A. (d)
- B. (b)
- C. (c)
- D. (a)
- E. (d)
- F. (a)
- G. (c)
- H. (d)
- I. (c)

**English**

- A. (a)
- B. (d)
- C. (b)
- D. (d)
- E. (a)
- F. (c)
- G. (a)
- H. (d)
- I. (a)
- J. (c)
- K. (a)
- L. (b)
- M. (c)
- N. (d)
- O. (a)
- P. (c)
- Q. (c)
- R. (d)
- S. (b)
- T. (c)