

# **MATURE STUDENT ENGLISH/COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

## **SAMPLE TEST AND PREPARATION GUIDE**

**Testing is usually held 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 Mature Student Assessment, 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.**

**Please arrive 15 minutes before tests start**

### **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 Language. 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) Language	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 LANGUAGE SUBTEST

The Language 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 reference skills, language sensitivity, conventions and paragraph arrangement.

### SAMPLES:

- A. Where would be the *best* place to find out how to pronounce the word “recipe?”
- a) An atlas
  - b) An almanac
  - c) An encyclopedia
  - d) A dictionary
- B. Which pair of guide words would be found on the same dictionary page as *dissident*?
- a) disguise - dismiss
  - b) disqualification - distinctive
  - c) disassociate - discount
  - d) deserve - detachment

Use the dictionary entries and Pronunciation Guide below to answer the following questions..

**Re-al-ize** [ 'ri:ə,laiz/ v.] 1. To understand, start to believe something is true; 2. To gain, make money; 3. To make something become true

- C. Which definition best fits the word *realize* as it is used in this sentence:
- The woman will realize a profit from the sale of her house.
- a) Definition 1
  - b) Definition 2
  - c) Definition 3
- D. The vowel sound in the final syllable of *realize* has the same sound as the *i* in:
- a) scissors
  - b) tizzy
  - c) abide
- E. There are four sentences that express the same idea. Decide which sentence expresses the idea best.
- a) Ed went at the mall to the shoe store.
  - b) Ed’s shoe store at the mall.
  - c) Ed went to the shoe store at the mall.
  - d) To the shoe store at the mall went Ed.

In the paragraph below, certain parts have been underlined and labeled. These labels correspond to the letter of the question. Please indicate if it is an error in grammar, punctuation, capitalization or if there is no error: There is never more than one type of error in any underlined part.

**Understanding learning styles**

F.

An adult learner can greatly improve their performance by understanding and building on the

G.

strengths of his preferred learning style. A persons' preferred learning style can greatly assist

H.

in unlocking the mystery of memory. Although, it is possible for someone to have more than

I.

one learning style one style usually presents stronger than the others. The three basic learning

J.

styles include the following: Visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

K.

- F.     a) Grammar error  
       b) Punctuation error  
       c) Capitalization error  
       d) No error

- G.     a) Grammar error  
       b) Punctuation error  
       c) Capitalization error  
       d) No error

- H.     a) Grammar error  
       b) Punctuation error  
       c) Capitalization error  
       d) No error

- I.     a) Grammar error  
       b) Punctuation error  
       c) Capitalization error  
       d) No error

- J..    a) Grammar error  
       b) Punctuation error  
       c) Capitalization error  
       d) No error

- K..
- a) Grammar error
  - b) Punctuation error
  - c) Capitalization error
  - d) No error

Read the group of four sentences below. Then decide how to arrange each group of sentences into a well-organized paragraph by putting the sentences in order from first to last.

1. She phoned CAA for roadside assistance.
2. Carolyn was driving to the mall to do some shopping.
3. Three hours later, the tow truck finally appeared to take her car to the garage.
4. Suddenly her car started to sputter and then stopped.

- L. In the paragraph, which sentence should be first?
- a) sentence 1
  - b) sentence 2
  - c) sentence 3
  - d) sentence 4

- M. In the paragraph, which sentence should be second?
- a) sentence 1
  - b) sentence 2
  - c) sentence 3
  - d) sentence 4

- N. In the paragraph, which sentence should be third?
- a) sentence 1
  - b) sentence 2
  - c) sentence 3
  - d) sentence 4

- O. In the paragraph, which sentence should be fourth?
- a) sentence 1
  - b) sentence 2
  - c) sentence 3
  - d) sentence 4

## ANSWERS

### Reading Comprehension

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

### Language

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