

KEAN UNIVERSITY



ESL PLACEMENT TEST INFORMATION BULLETIN

ESL PLACEMENT TESTING AT KEAN

- Kean University administers the *ESL Essay*, *ESL Reading Skills*, *ESL Language Use*, and *Elementary Algebra* sections of the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test. In addition, students who demonstrate a high level of mastery on the *Elementary Algebra* section will also be administered the *College-Level Mathematics* section of the test.
- At the conclusion of the ESL Placement Test, students will be interviewed by a member of the ESL Program staff.
- The typical ESL placement testing session conducted at Kean University (for students taking the reading, writing, language use and math test sections) lasts approximately 2 hours; the ESL Interview will take an additional 15 minutes.
- You must present at least one valid photo ID (i.e. current Driver's License, HS/College/University ID, State or Federal ID Card, Passport or Naturalization Card/Certificate of Citizenship) on the day of the test. Students arriving without a valid photo ID will be denied admission to the testing lab.
- If snow forces the cancellation of an ESL placement testing session scheduled at Kean, a message providing rescheduling information will be recorded on the Placement Testing Office voice-mail at (908) 737-0340.

TESTING REGULATIONS

No cell-phones (or other electronic equipment), books, dictionaries, calculators, or papers of any kind are allowed in the testing room. Please leave these items in your locked vehicle or at home. Anyone who gives or receives help during the test, will not be permitted to continue testing. Test scores can be invalidated if there is any reason to question their validity.

PREPARING FOR TESTING

To ensure that test scores accurately represent your skill levels, you may wish to review basic concepts in reading, grammar, and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER. Many students find that SAT Preparation or SAT review books are helpful in refreshing their basic skills. You should also visit the placement testing website at <http://placementtest.kean.edu> - "Resources

for Students" to view an ESL practice test/sample test questions. In addition, this ESL Information Bulletin contains detailed information about the test, including several sample test questions.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTERIZED TESTING

You will take the ESL Placement Test at a personal computer, using the keyboard to type your essay and the mouse to click on answers to multiple-choice questions. The testing instructions and procedures are easy to understand, so prior computer experience is not necessary. A Test Administrator will always be present should you have any questions or problems.

Answering the Questions: The questions will appear one at a time on the computer screen. Most questions are multiple choice and all you will need to do is select the desired answer. When you have completed the question and verified your answer, a new screen will appear with your next question. Each test is untimed so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish. However, once you have verified your answer you cannot change it or return to that question. You must answer each question presented, even if you have to guess. You cannot skip questions. You will be given scratch paper to use, if you wish, during the math test(s).

Adaptive Testing: Each multiple-choice test section usually takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. However, you may take as long as you need to complete each multiple-choice test. Except for the essay, the tests are untimed. Each test is designed using adaptive techniques. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique "zeroes-in" on just the right questions to ask you without being too easy or too difficult. The greater your demonstrated skill level, the more challenging will be the questions presented to you.

Adaptive Test Sequencing: The adaptive nature of computerized testing also enables the administration of different tests to students with differing abilities. Kean University uses this feature in the administration of the math test sections. All students testing for math begin

by taking the *Elementary Algebra* section. Then, depending on the *Elementary Algebra* score, some students are shifted to the *College-Level Mathematics* test, while some students require no additional testing beyond the *Elementary Algebra* section.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST SECTIONS

ESL Essay

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. You will be given 50 minutes to produce an essay on an assigned topic. You will type and edit your essay at the computer. You will not be able to use spelling or grammar-checking tools. Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will also be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following characteristics of writing will be considered:

- Organization and Development – The extent to which the writer is able to focus on the assigned topic and to develop ideas clearly.
- Word Use – The extent to which the writer is able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.
- Sentence Use – The extent to which the writer is able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.
- Grammar– The extent to which the writer is able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.

ESL Reading Skills (20 questions)

The ESL Reading Skills test measures your ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages. It contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact versus opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation).

ESL Language Use (20 questions)

The ESL Language Use test measures your proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas measured on this test:

- Nouns, Pronouns, Pronoun Case Structure
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Comparatives, Adverbs, Adjectives
- Verbs
- Subordination/Coordination

Elementary Algebra (12 questions)

(All students testing for math will take this test)

Three types of questions are administered on this test:

- The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- A second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- The third type of question involves the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems, solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

College-Level Mathematics (20 questions)

(Not all students testing for math will take this test)

Students who demonstrate a high level of mastery on the *Elementary Algebra* section will be automatically administered the *College-Level Mathematics* section after the *Elementary Algebra* section.

The College-Level Mathematics test measures your ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. The test assesses proficiency from intermediate algebra through precalculus. Results are used to assess students' preparedness for higher-level math courses such as *Precalculus* and *Calculus*. There are six content areas measured on this test:

- The Algebraic Operations content area includes simplification of rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
- The Solutions of Equations and Inequalities content area includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, and other algebraic equations.
- The Coordinate Geometry area presents questions involving plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.
- The Applications and other Algebra Topics area contains complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, factorials, and word problems.

- The Functions content area includes questions involving polynomial, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
- The Trigonometry area includes trigonometric functions.

SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS

Answers to the sample questions appear on the last page of this bulletin.

ESL READING SKILLS

Sample Questions:

1. Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the Twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs.

According to the passage, which of the following is true?

- Television is watched in nearly every country.
- Not everybody who had a television set could watch the 1998 World Cup finals.
- Watching television makes people dissatisfied with their own lives.
- Television was invented in 1980.

2. Jane and Paul are busy for 15 hours a day, 5 days a week going to college and working in a restaurant. They go to sleep at 11:00 p.m. every day, but on Sunday they take part in dance lessons.

According to the passage, Jane and Paul spend most of their time

- at home
- going to college and working
- taking part in dance lessons
- sleeping

ESL LANGUAGE USE

Sample Questions:

The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes a grammatically correct sentence.

1. _____ get a new haircut?

- Have you
- Does you
- Are you
- Did you

Read the two sentences below and choose the best way of combining them.

2. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.

- Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
- Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
- Lisa plays the piano and Kelly plays the piano.
- Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

Sample Questions:

Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch work.

1. $-3(5-6) - 4(2-3) =$

- 7
- 7
- 1
- 1

2. $\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{15} = ?$

- 17
- 30
- $\sqrt{30}$
- $\sqrt{17}$

3. If A represents the number of apples purchased at 15 cents each and B represents the number of bananas purchased at 10 cents each, which of the following represents the total value of the purchases in cents?

- $A + B$
- $25(A + B)$
- $10A + 15B$
- $15A + 10B$

COLLEGE-LEVEL MATHEMATICS

Sample Questions:

Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch work.

1. An equation of the line that contains the origin and the point (1, 2) is

- $y = 2x$
- $2y = x$
- $y = x - 1$
- $y = 2x + 1$
- $y/2 = x - 1$

