NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NCCC College Placement Tests

ACCUPLACER®

Sanborn: Room B-102
3111 Saunders Settlement Road
Sanborn, NY 14132-9460
(716) 614-6728 (phone)
(716) 614-6814 (fax)
testingcenter@niagaracc.suny.edu (email)

Niagara Falls: Niagara Falls Culinary Institute
28 Old Falls Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
(716) 210-2525 (phone)
(716) 210-2575 (fax)
nfcistudentservice@niagaracc.suny.edu (email)

What is the Purpose of NCCC's College Placement Test?

The purpose of the Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Placement Test (ACCUPLACER) is to assess your current skills in reading, writing and math for placement into appropriate coursework at NCCC. The test is administered online in a adaptive computer-based format, featuring unlimited time. Experience with computers is not necessary.

There are three sections to NCCC's ACCUPLACER placement test:

- Reading Comprehension - 20 questions related to reading skills, such as identifying the main idea and making inferences.
- Writing (WritePlacer) - essay response which tests for structure, ideas, purpose, focus, critical thinking and grammar.
- Mathematics (Arithmetic or Elementary Algebra) - Students will take one or two of the math tests (12 to 17 questions each) depending upon math experience and score.

NCCC recommends that you prepare for the tests by reviewing math formulas, grammar rules, reading skills, and reviewing general information on test preparation to help you feel less anxious and more confident. See: "Review & Study Information".

Please Note: *Students who score below college-level in any academic area (reading, writing or math) are required to take a foundation class in that area during their first semester. This policy is in place to promote future success in college courses.*

Scheduling an Appointment

Visit the "Placement Tests" section of NCCC website to schedule an appointment online (http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/testing). You have the option of testing at either the Main Campus in Sanborn or at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute in Niagara Falls. You will receive a confirmation e-mail once you have scheduled your appointment, which includes information such as directions to campus, a reminder of what you need to bring, and other FAQs.

Off Campus Testing

Students who live outside of the area can choose to complete placement testing off campus by finding a proctor to administer the test for them. Many colleges and universities have testing centers which allow students from other schools to take tests. Once a proctor has been identified at a college or university testing center, the student will need to have the proctor fill out the "Off Campus Testing Form" from our website and fax, mail, or e-mail a copy to the Testing Center. You can also view a list of "Off Campus Testing Sites" in New York State on our website.

What to Bring With You to Test

1. Photo id is required (i.e. driver's license, state ID, or passport)

2. Testing fee $14.00 (also applicable for re-test appointments)

Please Note: *You will be provided with scrap paper and pencils for the test(s). Students are not allowed personal items in the Testing Center (B-102). This includes coats, bags, backpacks, cell-phones, computers, folders, notes, etc. The only items allowed are approved materials from your instructor for use with your quiz/test/exam. Items may be left on a table near the Proctor. (Testing Center staff is not responsible for lost or stolen items)*

Waiver of College Placement Test(s) One or more of the College

Placement Tests may be waived for applicants who meet any of the following criteria:

Test	Waiver Criteria
ANY/ALL	Successful completion of college-level courses in English or Math (requires transcript) **or**
	Successful completion of NCCC's Academic Foundation Courses (AAC 042, MAT 002, MAT 004, ENG 099) **or**
	Valid scores (less than 3 years old) on NCCC's College Placement Tests **or**
	Completion of ACCUPLACER test at another institution (Requires Score Report)
WRITING	Score of 77 or higher on NY State Regents Exam for English 11
READING	SAT Verbal score of 500 or higher **or**
	ACT Reading score of 23 or higher **or**
	Score of 77 or higher on NY State Regents Exam for English 11
MATH	Score of 75 or higher on NY State Regents Exam for Math A **or**
	Score of 60 or higher on NY State Regents Exam for Math B **or**
	Score of 80 or higher on the Integrated Algebra exam **or**
	Score of 75 or higher on either the Integrated Geometry or Integrated Algebra 2 and Trigonometry exams **or**
	SAT Math score of 500 or higher **or** ACT Math score or 20 or higher

Review & Study Information

NCCC highly recommends that you refresh your memory by reviewing math formulas, grammar rules, reading skills, or reviewing general information on test preparation may help you feel less anxious and more confident. The next few pages include sample questions from the ACCUPLACER® placement tests.

1. Official ACCUPLACER Study App available from iTunes.

2. For more Sample Placement Test (ACCUPLACER) Questions, visit accuplacer.org .

3. Search the for the terms "Accuplacer Practice" or "Accuplacer Sample Tests" in one of these Internet search engines. You should find many links to sources for free ACCUPLACER review: www.yahoo.com and www.google.com.

4. If you are interested in attending a pre-collegiate course in math, writing or reading comprehension, contact the Testing Center at (716) 614-6728 or at testingcenter@niagaracc.suny.edu. The courses are free of charge.

Sample Questions—Math

Arithmetic

- **A total of 17 questions of three types are administered for this test.**
- **Solve the problems and select your answer from the choices given.**
- **You may use the papers you have been given for scratch paper.**
- **Calculators and personal electronic devices are not allowed during this test.**

1. Which of the following is closest to 27.8×9.6?

    A.   280
    B.   300
    C.   2,800
    D.   3,000

2. A soccer team played 160 games and won 65 percent of them. How many games did it win?

    A.   94
    B.   104
    C.   114
    D.   124

3. Three people who work full-time are to work together on a project, but their total time on the project is to be equivalent to that of only one person working full-time. If one of the people is budgeted for one-half of his time to the project and a second person for one-third of her time, what part of the third worker's time should be budgeted to this project?

    A.   1/3
    B.   3/5
    C.   1/6
    D.   1/8

4. What is 12% of 120?

    A.   10
    B.   14.4
    C.   18.4
    D.   28.8

5. The measures of two angles of a triangle are 35° and 45°. What is the measure of the third angle of the triangle?

    A.   95°
    B.   100°
    C.   105°
    D.   110°

6. Three of four numbers have a sum of 22. If the average of the four numbers is 8, what is the fourth number?

    A.   4
    B.   6
    C.   8
    D.   10

7. Which of the following is the least?

    A.   0.105
    B.   0.501
    C.   0.015
    D.   0.15

8. What is $\frac{1,345}{99}$ rounded to the nearest integer?

    A.   12
    B.   13
    C.   14
    D.   15

9. A box in a college bookstore contains books, and each book in the box is a history book, an English book or a science book. If one-third of these books are history books and one-sixth are English books, what fraction of the books are science books?

    A.   1/3
    B.   1/2
    C.   2/3
    D.   3/4

Sample Questions—Math

Elementary Algebra

- **A total of 12 questions of three types are administered for this test.**

- **Solve the problems and select your answer from the choices given.**

- **You may use the papers you have been given for scratch paper.**

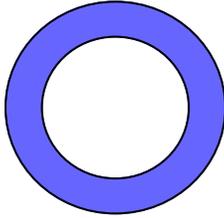- **Calculators and personal electronic devices are not allowed during this test.**

*Effective fall 2011 applicants, unless waived, students will be administered the Elementary Algebra portion of the placement test. Based upon the score, the Arithmetic portion of the test may also be administered.

1. What is the value of the expression $2x^2 + 3xy - 4y^2$ when $x = 2$ and $y = -4$?

    A.   -80
    B.   80
    C.   -32
    D.   32

2. $(3x - 2y)^2 =$

    A. $9x^2 - 4y^2$
    B. $9x^2 + 4y^2$
    C. $9x^2 - 6xy + 4y^2$
    D. $9x^2 - 12xy + 4y^2$

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.   A + B
    B.   25(A + B)
    C.   10A + 15B
    D.   15A + 10B

4. In the figure below, both circles have the same center, and the radius of the larger circle is R. If the radius of the smaller circle is 3 units less than R, which of the following represents the area of the shaded region?

A. πR^2
B. $\pi (R-3)^2$
C. $\pi R^2 - \pi \times 3^2$
D. $\pi R^2 - \pi (R-3)^2$

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

A. -7
B. 7
C. -1
D. 1

6. Which of the following lists of numbers is ordered from least to greatest?

A.   −1/3, -3/5, 2/3, 3/5
B.   -3/5, -1/3, 3/5, 2/3
C.   -1/3, -3/5, 3/5, 2/3
D.   -3/5, -1/3, 2/3, 3/5

7. $2x + 6y = 5$
   $X + 3y = 2$

How many solutions (x, y) are there to the system of equations above?
A.   None
B.   One
C.   Two
D.   More than two

8. 20. On Monday, it took Helen 3 hours to do a page of science homework exercises. The next day she did the same number of exercises in 2 hours. If her average rate on Monday was p exercises per hour, what was her average rate the next day, in terms of p?

A. $2(p+ 1)$ exercises per hour
B. $3(p- 1)$ exercises per hour
C. $2/3\ p$ exercises per hour
D. $3/2\ p$ exercises per hour

9. A rectangular yard has area 96 square feet. If the width of the yard is 4 feet less than the length, what is the perimeter, in feet, of the yard?

A.   40   B.   44
C.   48   D.   52

Sample Questions—Reading

Reading Comprehension

In an ACCUPLACER placement test, there are 20 questions of two primary types in Reading Comprehension.

- **The first type of question consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided.**

- **The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences.**

1. Leonardo DaVinci is not only one of the most famous artists in history, he was also a botanist, a writer and an inventor. Even though most of his inventions were not actually built in his lifetime, many of today's modern machines can be traced back to some of his original designs. The parachute, the military tank, the bicycle and even the airplane were foretold in the imaginative drawings that can still be seen in the fragments of Leonardo's notebooks. Over 500 years ago, this man conceived ideas that were far ahead of his time.

    The author of this passage is praising Leonardo DaVinci for his:

    A.   artistic talent   B.   intelligence
    C.   foresight   D.   fame

2. All water molecules form six-sided structures as they freeze and become snow crystals. The shape of the crystal is determined by temperature, vapor, and wind conditions in the upper atmosphere. Snow crystals are always symmetrical because these conditions affect all six sides simultaneously.

    The purpose of the passage is to present

    A.   a personal observation.   B.   a solution to a problem.
    C.   factual information.   D.   opposing scientific theories.

3. In the words of Thomas De Quincey, "It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it." If like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, "I'll listen carefully; I'll repeat each person's name to be sure I have it, and I will remember." You'll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest if your life.

    The passage suggests that people remember names best when they

    A.   meet new people   B.   are intelligent
    C.   decide to do so   D.   are interested in people

For the questions that follow, two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement. Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

4.   The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in 15 years.

    Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

    What does the second sentence do?
    A.   It restates the idea found in the first.
    B.   It states an effect.
    C.   It gives an example.
    D.   It analyzes the statement made in the first.

5.   Social studies classes focus on the complexity of our social environment.

    The subject combines the study of history and the social sciences and promotes skills in citizenship.

    What does the second sentence do?
    A.   It expands on the first sentence.
    B.   It makes a contrast.
    C.   It proposes a solution.
    D.   It states an effect.

6.   Studies show that the prevalence of fast-food restaurants corresponds with the rates of obesity in both children and adults.

    Obesity is now on the rise in countries outside the U.S., where fast food restaurants are becoming more common.

    How do the two sentences relate?
    A.   They express roughly the same idea.
    B.   They contradict each other.
    C.   They present problems and solutions.
    D.   They establish a contrast.

7.   While most people think of dogs as pets, some dogs are bred and trained specifically for certain types of work.

    The bloodhound's acute sense of smell and willing personality make it ideal for tracking lost objects or people.

    What does the second sentence do?
    A.   It makes a contrast.
    B.   It restates an idea found in the first.
    C.   It states an effect.
    D.   It givers an example.

WritePlacer®

Writing Placement Test

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. 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 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 five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **Focus** — The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view

- **Organization** — The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas

- **Development & Support** — The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details

- **Sentence Structure** — The effectiveness of your sentence structure

- **Mechanical Conventions** — The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

Sample Topic—WritePlacer®

Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.

"Some schools require each student to participate in an organized school sport chosen by the student. People at these schools argue that athletics is an important part of the educational experience and that there should be a rule requiring participation. Others argue that students should be free to decide whether or not they wish to participate in organized school sports. "

Assignment

- Write an essay for a classroom instructor in which you take a position on whether participation in organized school athletics should be required.

- Be sure to defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples.

- Your essay must be 300–600 words in length.

Retesting and Placement Policy

Students can take one retest with the understanding that they have to pay the $14 testing again. The retest can be taken until the end of Add/Drop.

Students who do not meet the minimum level will be required to enroll in the appropriate Academic Foundation course (s) in their first semester.

After Placement Testing

Once you have been officially accepted to the college and completed all outstanding requirements (such as placement testing or immunization records) outlined in your Application Status letter, Registration and Records will mail you a letter regarding an online orientation. After you have completed the online orientation and short quiz, you will be able to schedule your READY Session. At the READY Session, you will be advised and register for classes.

If you have any additional questions regarding registration and advisement, contact:

Registration and Records
614-6884
registration@niagaracc.suny.edu

Answers to Sample Questions

Arithmetic 1-A , 2-B , 3-C , 4-B , 5-B , 6-D , 7-C , 8-B , 9-B

Algebra   1-A , 2-D , 3-D , 4-D , 5-B , 6-B , 7-A , 8-D , 9-A

Reading Comprehension   1-C , 2-C , 3-C , 4-B , 5-A , 6-A , 7-B

Special Arrangements for Students with Disabilities

The placement tests are not timed; all students have unlimited time to complete the tests. This means an academic adjustment for extended time is not needed. Students who need other academic adjustments for the placement tests should contact Accessibility Services prior to scheduling an appointment.

(716) 614-6285 or accessibility@niagaracc.suny.edu

NCCC is an AA/EEO Institution

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