

CLEP EXAMINATION: *English Composition with Essay*

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION:

The English Composition exams assess writing skills taught in most first-year college composition courses. Test takers should be able to demonstrate skills needed in writing that explains, interprets, analyzes, and presents or supports a point of view. One version of this exam is all-multiple-choice, focusing on skills at the sentence level, such as voice, idiom, tense agreement, and syntax, and skills in the context of works in progress or published prose, such as thesis, organization, logic, audience, consistent point of view, revision, and analysis. The second version of the exam contains two parts: a shorter multiple-choice section and a mandatory essay assignment, scored for the College Board by college faculty.

CLEP TEST KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED	ALIGNMENT TO MN ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN LANGUAGE ARTS			
	Strand: Writing			
	Sub-strand	Standard	Benchmark	Notes
<p><b><i>Skills in Context:</i></b></p> <p><b>1. <i>Revising Work in Progress</i></b></p> <p><b>2. <i>Analyzing Writing</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Main idea, thesis</i></li> <li>• <i>Organization of ideas in the paragraph or essay</i></li> <li>• <i>Relevance of evidence, sufficiency of detail, levels of specificity</i></li> <li>• <i>Audience and purpose (effect on style, tone, language, or argument)</i></li> <li>• <i>Logic of argument (inductive, deductive reasoning)</i></li> <li>• <i>Coherence within and between paragraphs</i></li> <li>• <i>Rhetorical emphasis, effect</i></li> <li>• <i>Sustaining tense or point of view</i></li> <li>• <i>Sentence combining, sentence variety</i></li> </ul>	B. Elements of Composition	The student will engage in a writing process with attention to audience, organization, focus, quality of ideas, and a purpose.	<p>1. <del>Generate, gather, and</del> organize ideas for writing.</p> <p>4. Arrange paragraphs into a logical progression.</p> <p>5. Revise writing for clarity, coherence, smooth transitions and unity.</p> <p>8. Revise, edit <del>and prepare</del> final drafts for intended audiences and purposes.</p>	

<p><b>Skills at the Sentence Level:</b></p> <p><b>1. Identifying Sentence Errors</b></p> <p><b>2. Improving Sentences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence boundaries</li> <li>• Clarity of expression</li> <li>• Agreement: subject-verb; verb tense; pronoun reference, shift, number</li> <li>• Active/passive voice</li> <li>• Diction and idiom</li> <li>• Syntax: parallelism, coordination, subordination, dangling modifiers</li> <li>• Sentence variety</li> </ul>	<p>C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage</p>	<p>The student will apply standard English conventions when writing.</p>	<p>1. Understand the differences between formal and informal language styles and use each appropriately.</p> <p>3. Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, verb tense, sentence structure, and paragraphing to enhance clarity and readability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Correctly use reflexive case pronouns and nominative and objective case pronouns, including <i>who</i> and <i>whom</i>.</li> <li>b. Correctly use punctuation such as the comma, semicolon, colon, hyphen, and dash.</li> <li>c. Correctly use <i>like/as if</i>, <i>any/any other</i>, <i>this kind/these kinds</i>, <i>who/that</i>, and <i>every/many</i> when they occur in a sentence.</li> <li>d. Correctly use verb forms with attention to subjunctive mood, subject/verb agreement, and active/passive voice.</li> <li>e. Correctly use the possessive pronoun before the gerund.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>The Essay (Argumentation/Persuasive)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Command of English grammar and sentence structure</li> <li>• Precise use of words</li> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Logical presentation of ideas</li> <li>• Pertinent examples</li> </ul>	<p>A. Types of Writing</p>	<p>The student will write in <del>narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive and critical</del> modes.</p>	<p>1. Plan, organize and compose <del>narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, critical and research</del> writing to address a specific audience and purpose.</p>	
	<p>B. Elements of Composition</p>	<p>The student will engage in a writing process with attention to audience, organization, focus, quality of ideas, and a purpose.</p>	<p>1. Generate, gather, and organize ideas for writing.</p> <p>2. Develop a thesis and clear purpose for writing.</p> <p>3. Make generalizations and use supporting details.</p>	

			<p>4. Arrange paragraphs into a logical progression.</p> <p>5. Revise writing for clarity, coherence, smooth transitions and unity.</p> <p>6. Apply available technology to develop, revise and edit writing.</p> <p>8. Revise, edit and prepare final drafts for intended audiences and purposes.</p>	
	<p>C. Spelling, Grammar, and Usage</p>	<p>The student will apply standard English conventions when writing.</p>	<p>1. Understand the differences between formal and informal language styles and use each appropriately.</p> <p>2. Use an extensive variety of correctly punctuated sentences for meaning and stylistic effect.</p> <p>3. Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, verb tense, sentence structure, and paragraphing to enhance clarity and readability:</p> <p>a. Correctly use reflexive case pronouns and nominative and objective case pronouns, including <i>who</i> and <i>whom</i>.</p> <p>b. Correctly use punctuation such as the comma, semicolon, colon, hyphen, and dash.</p> <p>c. Correctly use <i>like/as if</i>, <i>any/any other</i>, <i>this kind/these kinds</i>, <i>who/that</i>, and <i>every/many</i> when they occur in a sentence.</p> <p>d. Correctly use verb forms with attention to subjunctive mood, subject/verb agreement, and active/passive voice.</p> <p>e. Correctly use the possessive pronoun before the gerund.</p>	