



ENGLISH PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT STUDY GUIDE

An English Placement Assessment is used to assess both a student's ability to read and understand what has been read and to evaluate writing skills.

At North Island College we regularly use Accuplacer, an online English Assessment. This assessment has three parts: Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills and Essay Writing. Accuplacer provides a study guide for students that can be found here:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-sample-questions-for-students.pdf>

or downloaded as a study app here:

<https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org/login>

Even if you do a paper and pencil assessment of your reading the Accuplacer study materials will still be useful, so use them to see what you can expect.

Whether you write your essay online with Accuplacer, or write it out on paper, here are a few essay writing pointers that may be helpful:

Remember: if you choose to write a 3 or 5 paragraph essay the first paragraph is always your Introduction:

- You need to get straight to the point.
- Your first sentence in your introduction needs to clearly identify your topic and point of view. Other sentences should support your point of view without going into depth.

In the body of your essay (whether you are writing 3, 5 or more paragraphs):

- Keep on the topic.
- Always clearly state your supporting points and support them with examples keeping related ideas together.
- Try to avoid using 'I'.
- Watch out for 'after thoughts' – these are ideas that pop into your head as you write and they often are sentence fragments. Try writing these ideas down on a separate sheet of paper and then rereading them before adding them.
- The last paragraph will be your conclusion:
 - Your conclusion will sum up your essay and should reinforce the first sentence in your introduction.
 - Starting this paragraph with 'In conclusion' is always a good idea.
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YOU CAN ALWAYS CONTACT ASSESSMENT SERVICES OR AN NIC ADVISOR FOR MORE INFORMATION