

# APS: ASSESSMENT and PLACEMENT SERVICES

## Practice Test & Guides

### What is APS?

- The APS is an assessment instrument approved for use in the placement of community college students into reading and writing classes.
- The APS was designed to measure those skills necessary for success in community college English classes.

### How long is the APS

The APS consists of two tests:

- |                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| • Reading test | 25 minutes, 35 questions |
| • Writing test | 25 minutes, 40 questions |

### Skills Assessed

The Reading section consists of 35 multiple-choice questions. Skills measured are:

- Understanding the main idea
- Understanding the secondary idea
- Ability to make inferences
- Understanding vocabulary in context

### *Sample Reading passage:*

The study of history provides many benefits. First, we learn from the past. We may repeat mistakes, but, at least, we have the opportunity to avoid them. Second, history teaches us what questions to ask about the present. Contrary to some people's view, the study of history is not the memorization of names, dates, and places. It is the thoughtful examination of the forces that have shaped the courses of human life. We can examine events from the past and then draw inferences about current events. History teaches us about likely outcomes.

Another benefit of the study of history is the broad range of human experience which is covered. War and peace are certainly covered as are national and international affairs. However, matters of culture (art, literature, and music) are also included in historical study. Human nature is an important part of history: emotions like passion, greed, and insecurity have influenced the shaping of world affairs. Anyone who thinks that the study of history is boring has not really studied history.

**Direction:** After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding circle on the answer sheet.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
  - A. Studying history helps us to live in today's world.
  - B. Studying history is not just memorization.
  - C. The role of education is to help students deal with real life.
  - D. Students should study both national and international history.
2. In the first paragraph, inferences means
  - A. Graphs
  - B. Articles
  - C. Conclusions
  - D. Circumferences
3. Which method of teaching history would the author of this passage support?
  - A. Applying historical events to modern society.
  - B. Using flash cards to remember specific facts.
  - C. Weekly quizzes on dates and events
  - D. Student competitions for most books memorized.

**The Writing section** consists of 40 multiple-choice questions that assess (1) the ability to recognize errors pertaining to the grammar and mechanics of Standard English, and (2) the ability to make the appropriate corrections.

### **Sample writing, part 1**

Directions: In each of the following sentences find out what is wrong, if anything. In deciding whether there is something wrong with a sentence, consider the way a sentence should be written in standard written English, the kind of English usually found in textbooks. Remember that this is sometimes different from the kind of English that you use in talking with your friends.

Some sentences are acceptable without change. No sentence contains more than one error.

If the sentence has an error, you will find that the error is underlined and lettered. Assume that all other parts of the sentence are acceptable and cannot be changed.

When you find an error, select the one underlined part that must be changed in order to make the sentence acceptable, and blacken the corresponding circle on the answer sheet.

### Sample Questions

1. Tom ate the hamburger, it was  
A B  
good. No error  
C D

2. Next week Mrs. Wilson has visited  
A  
her sister in Chicago. No error  
B C D

### Sample Answers

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

2. (A) (B) (C) (D)

### **Sample Writing, part 2**

Directions: In each of the following sentences some part of the sentence or the entire sentence is underlined. Beneath each sentence you will find four ways of writing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the underlined part in the original sentence, but the other three are all different. If you think the original sentence is better than any of the suggested changes, you should choose answer A; otherwise you should mark one of the other choices. Select the best answer and fill in the corresponding circle on the answer sheet.

In choosing your answers, follow the requirements of standard written English, the kind of English usually found in textbooks. Remember that it is sometimes different from the kind of English you use in talking with your friends. Pay attention to how clearly ideas are expressed, whether the words convey the meaning they are supposed to convey, and how the sentence is constructed and punctuated. Choose the answer that produces the most effective sentence—clear and exact, without awkwardness or ambiguity. Do not make a choice that changes the meaning of the original sentence.

### Sample Questions

1. Caroline is studying mathematics because she has always wanted to become it.  
(A) it  
(B) one of them  
(C) a mathematician  
(D) one in mathematics

2. Because Mr. Thomas was angry, he spoke in a loud voice.  
(A) he spoke  
(B) and speaking  
(C) and he speaks  
(D) as he spoke

### Sample Answers

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

2. (A) (B) (C) (D)