



*****Please see "Important Notes" on back page*****

Fundamental English Assessment Practice Test (FUN)

This practice test will help you become familiar with the Camosun College Fundamental English Assessment Test. It is a test suitable for students whose past academic experience is *less* than completed academic English 10 or Communications 11. The test consists of three timed subtests - Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension and Language Expression (grammar) and a writing sample. Allow 2.5 – 3 hours in total.

Directions the multiple choice sections: Read each question carefully and then choose the most appropriate answer. Read all the possible answers before making your selection. Circle your answer. Check your answers with the answer key provided at the end of the test.

The Centre does not permit the use of dictionaries or other aids during the actual test.

TEST 1: Vocabulary

NOTE: For the actual test, you will have 32 questions to answer and you will be timed: 17 minutes

This test is about the meanings of words. There are a few different types of items in this test. Be sure to read the directions for each new section before selecting your answers.

In items 1 through 3, choose the word or phrase that means the same or about the same as the underlined word.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <u>flexible</u> straw | 2. <u>often quibble</u> | 3. <u>too bland</u> |
| A. useful | A. scramble | A. mild |
| B. plastic | B. argue | B. salty |
| C. long | C. play | C. fresh |
| D. bendable | D. smash | D. sour |

In items 4 through 6, choose the word that means the opposite of the underlined word.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4. <u>usually chatty</u> | 5. <u>sacred</u> place | 6. <u>very feeble</u> |
| A. quiet | A. religious | A. old |
| B. talkative | B. calm | B. twisted |
| C. noisy | C. ordinary | C. small |
| D. unknown | D. private | D. strong |

For items 7 through 9, read the complete paragraph. For each numbered blank, there is a list of words with the same number. Choose the word from each list that best completes the meaning of the paragraph.

Seashells have long been used by humans. Some groups of people used shells as a kind of 7 for trading. Because some shells were so 8, they were more valuable. Other people fashioned the shells into combs, 9, and other jewellery.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 7. A. money | 8. A. sandy | 9. A. money |
| B. food | B. rare | B. weapons |
| C. gesture | C. common | C. necklaces |
| D. prize | D. green | D. soup |

For items 10 through 11, choose the word or phrase that gives the best meaning of the underlined prefix or suffix.

10. impossible impolite
- A. very
 - B. not
 - C. always
 - D. sometimes

11. pianist artist
- A. a person who does this
 - B. a thing
 - C. equipment
 - D. full of

For items 12 through 13, read the sentences. Then choose the word that correctly completes both sentences.

12. Some _____ grow very tall in the hot sun.
My neighbour _____ a vegetable garden every spring.
- A. buys
 - B. vines
 - C. sizes
 - D. plants
13. Monica _____ the candles on the birthday cake.
The _____ from the approaching car blinded the driver for an instant.
- A. plants
 - B. lights
 - C. sees
 - D. bakes

TEST 2: Reading Comprehension

NOTE: For the actual test, there are several reading passages and a total of 40 questions to answer. You will be timed: 37 minutes.

This test is about understanding what you read. Here is a story about an animal. Read the story and then complete items 1 through 6.

The horned toad is sometimes called the great horned toad or the Texas lizard. Although this animal has the round body of a toad or frog, it is actually neither. It is really a reptile, a lizard, in fact, because of the scales on its body. It also has spines along its back, and it has a true bony horn. Its feet have the sharp claws that signify most lizards. In North and South America, there are about 14 species that live in hot, dry regions.

The horned toad is a “sit-and-wait” predator. In other words, it sits and waits for its food to walk by. It lives on small insects but especially loves ants and termites. It is patient and can spend a long time in one position.

The horned toad itself is prey to many other creatures. Hawks, snakes, wolves, dogs, and roadrunners like to make a meal of a horned toad. Because it is such desirable prey, it has developed four main defences.

First, its colour provides it with camouflage. It easily blends in with the rough, rocky ground and is difficult to spot unless it moves. Next, it can stay for long periods without moving. Thus, its camouflage and its stillness help to confuse its predators. If it is threatened, it can puff up its body. It appears much fiercer than it actually is. Its last defence is unique.

It can squirt blood from the corners of its eyes. When the horned toad becomes excited or angry, its blood pressure is supposed to rise. This causes the little blood vessels near the corners of its eyes to break, squirting blood to a distance of up to five feet. The blood itself tastes terrible which further defends it against its enemies.

1. According to the story, why do horned toads puff up?
 - A. to feel stronger
 - B. to make themselves look threatening
 - C. to impress their girlfriends
 - D. to reduce heat in their bodies
2. What is this story mostly about?
 - A. lizards and toads
 - B. the horned toad's predators
 - C. the horned toad's defences
 - D. the horned toad's favourite foods
3. How many species of horned toads are there?
 - A. 14
 - B. 15
 - C. 12
 - D. 16
4. What food is not part of the horned toad's diet?
 - A. ants
 - B. termites
 - C. grasshoppers
 - D. rattle snakes
5. You can tell from the story that all reptiles have:
 - A. toes
 - B. horns
 - C. scales
 - D. camouflage
6. What makes horned toads special?
 - A. their ability to squirt blood
 - B. their songs
 - C. their camouflage
 - D. their diets

Test 3 Language Expression For the actual test there will be 38 questions. You will be timed: 28 minutes

For Items 1 through 3, choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

1. Mrs. Simm brought you and _____ some cookies.
 - A. she
 - B. our
 - C. they
 - D. me
2. Have they _____ their permission to use the room for the party?
 - A. gave
 - B. given
 - C. give
 - D. gives
3. His daughter is _____ than his son.
 - A. tall
 - B. taller
 - C. tallest
 - D. more taller

For Items 4-6, choose the sentence that is complete and is written correctly.

4.
 - A. Last weekend we will have a birthday party for Frank.
 - B. We enjoyed the fresh coffee and eat lots of cake.
 - C. Frank's friends gave some good speeches.
 - D. Next week Frank opened his gifts.
5.
 - A. Summer many people's favourite season.
 - B. Many loves to go to the beach with their families.
 - C. Some enjoy cooking meals outdoors.
 - D. Playing summer sports like baseball.
6.
 - A. The workers cautiously set up their equipment along the side of the street.
 - B. A flag person directed traffic with carefully.
 - C. Drivers made their way slow along the single lane.
 - D. The traffic lights were temporary stopped.

For Item 7, read the underlined sentences and then choose the statement that best combines these sentences into one.

7. Josef watched the celebration dance
Josef's family watched the celebration dance
 - A. Josef and his family watched the celebration dance.
 - B. Josef watched the celebration dance and his family.
 - C. Josef watched and his family watched the celebration dance.
 - D. Josef watched the celebration dance, and Josef's family watched the celebration dance.

For Item 8, choose the topic sentence that best fits the paragraph.

8. _____ . Some Internet sites do not include a date when they have been updated. Other sites do not list who is responsible for the site. Many sites contain unreliable information.
- A. Not all Internet users are the same.
 - B. Not all Internet sites are trustworthy.
 - C. Being an Internet user can be fun.
 - D. Some Internet users cannot be trusted.

For Item 9, choose the answer that best develops the topic sentence.

9. **Adult students have more responsibility than high school students.**
- A. Adult students have to make their own lunches.
 - B. Adult students may have to work while they attend school.
 - C. High school students love to work on computer.
 - D. High school students often enjoy school sports activities.

For Item 10, read the paragraph. Choose the sentence that does not belong in the paragraph.

10. 1 - My neighbor, George, is a skilled woodcarver.
2 - He was taught to carve by his grandfather who learned to carve from his own grandfather.
3 - George likes to listen to music while he carves.
4 - The tools George uses were passed down through the generations.
- A. Sentence 1 B. Sentence 2 C. Sentence 3 D. Sentence 4

Writing Sample

This important part of the English assessment requires you to plan and write a one-paragraph composition in 30 minutes. We will give you five topics to choose from; choose a topic that interests you. We will consider organization, content, grammar, punctuation, language expression, and sentence style when assessing your work. To prepare for this part of the test, you should practice at home. Write paragraphs that include a topic sentence, details, and a concluding sentence. For practice, use topics of general interest. A family member or friend may suggest a topic to you, or you can visit our website: www.camosun.ca/services/assessment and click on the link to online writing centres for more assistance. Do not forget to leave time within the 30 minutes to check for errors and correct them. Here is a suggestion: 5 minutes to plan, 20 minutes to write, 5 minutes to edit (find errors and correct them), and revise (make wording changes).

Answer Key:

Test 1: Vocabulary

1. **D** 2. **B** 3. **A** 4. **A** 5. **C** 6. **D** 7. **A** 8. **B**
9. **C** 10. **B** 11. **A** 12. **D** 13. **B**

Test 2: Reading Comprehension

1. **B** 2. **C** 3. **A** 4. **D** 5. **C** 6. **A**

Test 3: Language Expression

1. **D** 2. **B** 3. **B** 4. **C** 5. **C** 6. **A** 7. **A** 8. **B** 9. **B** 10. **C**

Important Notes:

- **Monthly assessment schedules** are posted at www.camosun.ca/services/assessment
- **Documented Disability?** If you have a documented disability and require accommodations/supports to write the College placement test contact the Disability Resource Centre in Dawson 119 or call 250-370-3312, TTY/TDD: 250-370-3311 to set up alternative testing arrangements.
- **Test Anxiety?** For the most up-to-date information on learning how to keep your cool at test time go to the Counselling website <http://camosun.ca/services/counselling/counselling-types.html>
- **Need help with writing?** Google “**Online Writing Lab**” (OWL) or any college or university writing centre, such as www.utoronto.ca/ucwriting/organizing.html, for lots of valuable information. You can also ask a librarian for help locating a study guide for essay and/or paragraph writing.
- **Advising: Need help planning your education?** Academic Advisors help you explore educational options, develop a Personal Learning Plan, understand admission processes, plan course selections and interpret educational institution rules and regulations as they apply to you. Email at academicadvising@camosun.bc.ca or drop in to Academic Advising (hours on website).