

## **CCBC ESOL ASSESSMENT/PLACEMENT**

### **Part 1 CAMLA Test**

1. CCBC ESOL placement testing has two parts: a computerized multiple choice test and a writing sample.
2. The computer-based multiple choice test is the CAMLA English Placement Test. The CAMLA has four parts: listening, grammar, vocabulary, and reading. There are a total of 80 questions.
3. The questions and answer choices will appear on the computer screen. There will be only one correct answer for each question.
4. Choose the correct answer by clicking on the button next to the answer.
5. You can see sample questions and answers for each section of the test on the computer before you start the test.
6. You will have one hour to complete the multiple choice test.
7. If you score above 50 on the CAMLA, you will need to do a writing sample.

### **Part 2 Writing Sample**

1. If you score above 50 on the CAMLA, you must complete a writing sample.
2. You can do the writing sample on the same day that you take the CAMLA or you can return on another day to complete the writing sample.
3. You will be given two writing prompts or topics.
4. Choose one topic and write a multi-paragraph response to the prompt.
5. Writing samples must be typed on the computer.
6. All aspects of writing will be considered when the writing sample is reviewed. Grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, word choice, organization, development and complexity of ideas, coherence, and format will all be considered.
7. You will have one hour to complete the writing sample.
8. Placement at the advanced and academic levels of the ESOL program is based on both the computerized test and the writing sample.

## Writing Sample Guidelines

The ESOL writing sample is an important part of the assessment and placement process. Whether you are taking the writing test for the first time or retesting, the following guidelines should help you do your best on the writing sample.

1. You will be given two writing prompts. Choose the one that you think you can most easily write about. Here are two examples of typical writing prompts:
  - a. Which is more important in choosing a career, money or happiness. Why? Use specific reasons, details, and examples to support your response.
  - b. Some children come from large families and some come from small families. Some people are only children with no brothers or sister. Which do you think is the best environment for children to grow up in? Use reasons, specific details, and examples from your own experience to develop your answer.
2. Write a multi-paragraph response to the prompt that you choose. A single paragraph is not enough.
3. Most of the topics deal with subjects that are familiar to students. Write from your own knowledge and experience, and remember that you are being assessed on your ability to write, not on your knowledge of a particular subject. However, your writing should show a certain level of sophistication and complexity of thought about the topic.
4. How you organize information in your writing is important. Take a moment to organize your thoughts before you start writing.
5. Use appropriate formatting for pages, paragraphs, and margins when you write.
6. Avoid grammar mistakes according to the rules of U.S. academic English to the best of your ability.
7. Show that you understand English sentence structure by writing complete sentences.
8. Be careful of word choice and choose an appropriate word or phrase to express an idea. The best words and phrases reflect formal, standard academic language.
9. Proper word forms, also known as parts of speech, are important. For example, do not use a noun form of a word if you should use an adjective. Don't use the noun "violence" when you should use the adjective "violent."
10. Use appropriate pronouns and pronoun forms.
11. Writing should show evidence of critical thinking and the writing should show logical development of ideas
12. You may not access the internet or use any other source of information when completing a placement writing sample. If you are observed looking at the internet, a cell phone, book, dictionary, or anything not approved by the proctor, your test will be stopped and invalidated.

13. Avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is when someone copies another writer's words and uses them as his or her own. Plagiarizing someone else's work is a serious offense. Your essay will be checked for plagiarism violations. If plagiarized portions are found in your writing sample, it will not be accepted for placement.
14. Save some time to proofread and correct your essay.

**Please Note:** Percentage scores are not given for writing samples. Your placement is your score. Your placement is aligned with the objectives that students must meet at each level of the ESOL program, so your writing indicates the level at which you should begin your studies. It demonstrates what skills you already have and what skills or content you need to work on. Appropriate placement helps to ensure your success at CCBC. Your success at CCBC is the primary concern of the Testing Center and the ESOL program.