

# Virginia Placement Test—English

The Virginia Placement Test (VPT) English evaluates a student’s skill level in writing and reading. The test, which takes approximately two hours, is computerized, but you may use scrap paper (provided in the Testing Center) to plan your essay. It is untimed, adaptive (it increases in difficulty depending on how well the student is doing), and gives a placement for a specific English course. Students may retake the test ONE (1) time in each twelve-month period. Students may *not* retake the VPT English once they have enrolled in an English course. Therefore, it is important to take the test seriously. The VPT English consists of two (2) parts: an essay with reading comprehension and a writing fundamentals section.

**Essay:** The essay is machine scored on the following points:

- Organization
- Staying on topic
- Including more than one paragraph
- Using complete sentences
- Spelling, grammar, and punctuation

These criteria are very important on the essay portion of the VPT.

Students *MUST* do the essay in order to place into a PVCC English course.

**Reading Comprehension and Writing Fundamentals:** This section includes 40 questions testing reading comprehension and knowledge of writing fundamentals. Reading the questions before reading the passage may be helpful for students.

## Online Resources to help prepare for English VPT:

**For READING COMPREHENSION Exercises:**

The ACT <http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/>

- Practice Questions in English, Reading, and Writing
- Sample English Test Questions: 5 Passages

**For ESSAY PRACTICE:**

College Board, SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-practice-test>

- Passage-Based Reading
- Sentence Completion
- Improving Sentences
- Identifying Sentence Errors
- Improving Paragraphs
- Write an Essay

**For READING SKILLS and GRAMMAR EXERCISES:**

Townsend Press Learning Center <http://www.townsendpress.net/class/exercises>

- Reading Comprehension
- Vocabulary
- Sentence Structure
- Punctuation
- Grammar
- Subjects & Verbs
- Word Choice

**For further VPT practice resources, see “Online Resources to Help Students Review for the VPT-English.”**