



UNIVERSITY OF
GUAM

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
Division of English & Applied Linguistics



Preparing for the UOG English Placement Test

Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Ph.D.

Diane Thurber, MA

English Placement Test

- All students must take the EPT prior to enrolling at the University.
- High school students who complete the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition or Literature with a score of 4 or 5 will be given credit for EN 110 and placed into EN 111: Writing for Research.
- The EPT is administered a minimum of 4 times per academic year. Dates are published in the Undergraduate Catalog.

English Placement Test

- There are two parts to the EPT:
 1. CLOZE Test (30 minutes)
 2. Essay (40 minutes)
- Essay prompts are adapted from the TOEFL
- DEAL Faculty administer and score the EPT

English Placement

EN 085: Fundamentals of English

EN 100: Fundamentals of College English

EN110: Freshman Composition

EN 085

The essays that place into this course usually:

- Show little understanding of the prompt
- Have many sentence level errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Do not use a thesis statement and good organization
-

EN 100

Essays that place into EN 100 usually:

- Address the prompts, but not completely
- Have several sentence level errors that make reading and understanding difficult
- Lack strong thesis and organization

EN 110

Essays that place into EN 110 usually:

- Show complete understanding of the prompt
- Have a strong thesis and organization
- Have few or no errors at the sentence level
- Are easily read and understood
- Offer insights and ideas about the prompt

CLOZE Test Example

The Hawaiian Monk Seal

The Hawaiian monk seal is found on small, uninhabited _____ and atolls of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Its skin _____ gray with silver-gray under parts. Adults can grow up _____ seven feet in length and can weigh as much _____ 600 pounds. Females are larger than males.

This species prefers _____, beaches and coves for its habitat. Most of the _____ is spent basking but in damp sand close to the _____ edge to avoid overheating. Hawaiian monk seals eat a variety of foods, such as crustaceans, fish, lobsters, eels, and octopuses. The seals _____ to mate in the water. Males outnumber females and _____ been seen mobbing females in eagerness to mate, sometimes _____ hurting the females. Females give birth to one pup after a gestation _____ of 11 months.

There are less than 1000 Hawaiian monk seals left in _____ wild. Commercial sealing back in the 1800s nearly wiped the _____ out, and it was once thought to be extinct _____ rediscovered and immediately placed on the endangered species list. _____ they are threatened by human disturbance of pregnant or _____ females, reef poisoning, and shark attacks. A number of _____ are now designated as reserves for the species.

Tips for the Essay Test

The prompts used in the EPT are adapted from the TOEFL. Here are a couple of sample prompts:

1. Should governments spend more money on improving roads and highways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.
2. Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Tips continued

Readers look for:

1. Language control at the sentence level
(grammar , syntax, mechanics)
2. Thesis/Idea development
3. Transitions
4. At least 4-5 paragraphs
5. Organization
6. Supporting details

Preparation Tips

- If you would like to review basic concepts of composition like thesis statements, essay structure and organization, or have any other grammar, usage or punctuation questions, visit the Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University: owl@purdue.edu
- Review for Thesis Statements is found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/>
- Review for Expository essay review is here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/02/>

General Test Taking Tips for Success

- Read test materials carefully before you start writing.
- Make a brief outline to organize your essay.
- Keep track of your time—leave yourself about five minutes to proofread your essay.
- Eat a good breakfast before taking the test and don't overdo the caffeine or energy drinks!
- It is often cold in the Lecture Hall; bringing a sweater or a hoodie is advised.
- Before starting, take a deep breath and relax your hands, arms and shoulders. Take quick breaks while you write to breathe and relax your shoulders to release tension.

A Final Thought

- You can affect your placement by careful preparation and some simple reading. If it has been some time since you wrote an essay, take the opportunity to refresh your memory!
- Preparation will enable you to relax and enjoy the experience of college placement.
- Thank you for choosing the University of Guam, the natural choice!