

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARYLAND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENTS

Test	Test Function	Material Examined	Time	Number of Items	Purpose	Reading Section	Editing Section	Essay Section
High School Assessment English	state achievement	prototype items	to be determined	multiple choice reading, 1 editing, 1 open-ended writing	monitor student achievement toward state-approved content standards	yes	yes	yes
ACT	college admissions	full sample form	80 minutes (35 minute reading, 45 minute editing)	115 multiple choice (40 reading, 75 editing)	Selection of students for higher education	yes	yes	no
AP Language and Composition	college admissions	full sample form	180 minutes (60 minute reading, 120 minute writing)	52 multiple choice; 3 open-ended (1 reading, 2 writing)	provide opportunities for high school students to receive college credit and advanced course placement	yes	no	yes
SAT I	college admissions	full sample form	75 minutes	40 multiple choice reading; 38 multiple choice editing	selection of students for higher education	yes	yes	no
SAT II-literature	college admissions	full sample form	60 minutes	60 multiple choice	selection of students for higher education	yes	no	no

SAT II-writing	college admissions	full sample form	60 minutes (40 minute editing; 20 minute writing)	60 multiple choice editing; 1 open-ended writing	selection of students for higher education	no	yes	yes
ACCUPLACER reading comprehension	college placement	full sample paper-and-pencil form	varies by examinee	number of multiple choice items given depends on demonstrated proficiency level	placement of students into appropriate English course	yes	no	no
ACCUPLACER sentence skills	college placement	full sample paper-and-pencil form	varies by examinee	number of multiple choice items given depends on demonstrated proficiency level	placement of students into appropriate English course	no	yes	no
ASSET writing skills	college placement	full sample form	25 minutes	32 multiple choice	placement of students into appropriate English course	no	yes	no
Nelson-Denny Reading Test	college placement	full sample form	56 minutes (24 minute vocabulary, 32 minute comprehension)	118 multiple choice (80 vocabulary, 38 comprehension)	assess student proficiency in vocabulary development and reading comprehension	yes	no	no