

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TEXAS ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS

Test	Test Function	Materials Examined	Time	Number of Items	Purpose	Reading Section	Editing Section	Essay Section
End-of-course exam (English I)	state achievement, end-of-course	full sample form	2 hours	36 multiple choice (18 reading, 18 editing); 2 open-ended reading, 1 open-ended writing	monitor student achievement of state-based standards	yes	yes	yes
Texas Assessment of Academic Skills	state achievement	full form, 1998 released exam	no time limit	89 multiple choice (49 reading, 40 editing); 1 open-ended writing	monitor student achievement toward Texas standards	yes	yes	yes
Texas Academic Skills Program	state achievement	full sample form	5 hours	82 multiple choice (42 reading, 40 editing); 1 open-ended writing	assess whether students entering Texas public institutions of higher education possess entry level English skills	yes	yes	yes
ACT	college admissions	full sample form	80 minutes (35 minute reading, 45 minute editing)	40 multiple choice reading, 75 multiple choice 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 reading; 3 open-ended (1 reading, 2 writing)	provide opportunities for high school students to receive college credit and advanced course placement	yes	no	yes
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SAT I	college admissions	full sample form	75 minutes	78 multiple choice (40 reading, 38 editing)	selection of students for higher education	yes	yes	no
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SAT II-literature	college admissions	full sample form	60 minutes	60 multiple choice reading	selection of students for higher education	yes	no	no
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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
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