



Placement Test Information

Gavilan College offers a variety of placement tests to assist you in choosing the appropriate class. These include:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- English Reading and Writing Skills
- Math Skills

Why do I have to take a placement test?

Placement tests are intended to help you succeed. The placement recommends a class level that should be neither too difficult nor too easy for you. Some students are exempt from the placement test requirement if they have 1) completed an Associate's Degree or higher, 2) accumulated less than 12 units in transfer courses, 3) currently are enrolled in less than 6 units, or 4) do not plan to earn a certificate or degree. To be exempt, you must formally waive assessment through the Admissions and Records Office. You may still take the placement test even if you qualify for an exemption and are encouraged to do so if you plan to take ESL, English, or Math courses.

Who should take the ESL assessment?

- Students who do not know any English
- Students who know some English but have not received formal classes in the language or who took ESL classes more than 3 years ago
- Students who attended high school in this country for less than a year
- Students who attended high school in this country for a few years but are unsure about their level of proficiency in English

If you are unsure if you should take the ESL assessment, contact a counselor or the ESL department.

How does the ESL assessment work?

The ESL assessment consists of an interview followed by at least one of two objective tests: the Gavilan English as a Second Language test (GESL) or the Combined English Language Skills Assessment (CELSA). The placement interview and test takes from 1 to 1½ hours not including waiting times. Your placement level is determined at the end of the testing session.

How does the Reading and Writing assessment work?

The reading and writing assessments are based upon the College Tests for English Placement (CTEP). These are 3 objective tests consisting of a 35 question, 30 minute reading comprehension test, a 30 question, 20 minute sentence structure and grammar test, and a 40 question, 15 minute sentence and syntax skills test. All three tests are required for a reading or writing placement.

How does the Math assessment work?

The Math assessment consists of a timed multiple-choice test called the Mathematics Diagnostic Test Project (MDTP) developed by the University of California and the California State University systems. The MDTP consists of four test levels:

- Algebra Readiness
- Elementary Algebra
- Intermediate Algebra
- Pre-Calculus

Below are guidelines for helping you choose the right test based upon your math course history.

Last math class you successfully passed	MDTP Test you should take:
I took math long ago and/or I'm not sure what my math skills are now	Algebra Readiness
Arithmetic, Pre-Algebra	Algebra Readiness
Elementary Algebra, Algebra 1, Integrated Math 1	Algebra Readiness (Elementary Algebra if you did very well recently)
Intermediate Algebra, Algebra 2, Integrated Math 2	Elementary Algebra
Advanced Algebra, Integrated Math 3, Statistics, Functions	Intermediate Algebra
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus	Intermediate Algebra (Pre-Calculus if you did very well recently)
A.P. Calculus, Math Analysis	Pre-Calculus

Sample questions are available to help you decide which test level is best for you. A sample test is also available at <http://mdtp.ucsd.edu/> for those attempting Pre-Calculus. Your assessment coordinator will assist you as well. After completing your test, you should review your test scores with a counselor in order to select a class in which you are likely to succeed. Below is important contact information for scheduling an assessment:

What are multiple measures?

In addition to your placement test score, other factors will be used to place you into the appropriate course. A counselor will work with you to help determine the right class for you.

Important Contact Information

Service	Phone	Website
Admissions and Records	848-4735	http://www.gavilan.edu/admit/
Assessment	846-4992	http://www.gavilan.edu/admit/assess.html
Counseling	848-4723	http://www.gavilan.edu/counseling/
English as a Second Language Program	848-4844	http://www.gavilan.edu/schedule/english_as_a_second_language.htm

For comments or suggestions about this sheet or practice tests call the Research Office at 848-4852.

This information was last updated August 2004.

Sample Assessment Questions

Reading Comprehension

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Read the passage and then choose the best answer to the questions that follow.

A town is a thing like a colonial animal. A town has a nervous system and a head and shoulders and feet. A town is a thing separate from all other towns, so that there are no two towns alike. And a town has a whole emotion. How news travels through a town is a mystery not easily to be solved. News seems to move faster than small boys can scramble and dart to tell it, faster than women can call it over the fences.

Before Kino and Juana and the other fishers had come to Kino's brush house, the nerves of the town were pulsing and vibrating with the news—Kino had found the Pearl of the World. Before panting little boys could strangle out the words, their mothers knew it. The news swept on past the brush houses, and it washed in a foaming wave into the town of stone and plaster.

1. This story most likely takes place:
 - A. in a desert
 - B. in a high mountain village
 - C. near the ocean
 - D. on a distant planet
2. The author's comparison of a town to a colonial animal most likely is intended to:
 - A. show that towns are living creatures
 - B. suggest that people in towns are closely associated
 - C. state that towns people are untamed and wild
 - D. make a political statement about colonialism
3. In the last sentence of the first paragraph, the word *scramble* most likely means:
 - A. to run quickly
 - B. to beat an egg
 - C. to mix up
 - D. to crawl slowly
4. Kino and Juana are probably:
 - A. farmers
 - B. fisher folk
 - C. factory workers
 - D. weavers
5. The news that Kino and Juana had was:
 - A. ordinary
 - B. mundane
 - C. tragic
 - D. exciting

Answers: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. D

Sample Assessment Questions Sentence Structure and Grammar

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

1. Choose the one sentence which is best.

- A. California having big, old trees according to the portly ranger.
- B. The ranger said that the oldest and largest trees are in California.
- C. The ranger say that the oldest and largest trees are in California.
- D. The ranger say that the oldest and largest trees is California.

2. Fill in the blank space and complete the sentence by choosing the correct answer.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, _____ people can change the world.

- A. tiny
- B. disinterested
- C. committed
- D. pride

3. Below are two sentences that can be combined into one. From the four choices, choose the one that best combines the two sentences.

- The writer's fine pen ran out of ink.
- She finished writing the story with a short, dull pencil.

- A. She finished writing the story with a short, dull pencil however her fine pen ran out of ink.
- B. The writer's fine pen ran out of ink although she finished writing the story with a short, dull pencil.
- C. The writer's fine pen ran out of ink while she was writing with a short, dull pencil.
- D. The writer's fine pen ran out of ink while writing a story but she finished writing with a short, dull pencil.

Answers: 1. B 2. C 3. D

Sample Assessment Questions
Sentence and Syntax Skills

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: In this section, words have been left out of two reading passages. Choose the answer that will correctly fill in the blank.

“When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, “It means just what I _____ it to mean – neither more nor less.

1

“The question is,” said Alice, “_____ you can make words mean different things.”

2

“The question is,” said Humpty Dumpty, “_____ is to be master -- that's all.”

3

1. A. didn't B. sentence C. choose D. speak	2. A. why B. however C. although D. whether	3. A. whose B. which C. those D. if
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Answers: 1. C 2. D 3. B

Sample Assessment Questions Algebra Readiness

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question. You are not permitted to use any type of calculator.

1. $8 \times \frac{3}{4} = ?$

- A. $\frac{24}{32}$
- B. $\frac{3}{32}$
- C. 5
- D. 6
- E. 10

2. $10.2 - 2.001 = ?$

- A. 8.199
- B. 8.21
- C. 8.201
- D. 7.1
- E. 12.201

3. $7 \div \frac{1}{4} = ?$

- A. $7\frac{1}{4}$
- B. $6\frac{3}{4}$
- C. 28
- D. $\frac{1}{11}$
- E. $\frac{7}{4}$

4. 8% of 25 = ?

- A. .02
- B. .2
- C. 2
- D. 20
- E. 200

5. A worker who earns \$10 an hour received a 5% raise last week. She also gets paid overtime at 1.5 times her hourly rate for every hour worked over 8 hours of work in a day. If she works 10 hours today, how much will she earn?

- A. \$115.50
- B. \$114.00
- C. \$110.00
- D. \$100.00
- E. \$101.50

Answers: 1. D 2. A 3. C 4. C 5. A

Sample Assessment Questions
Elementary Algebra
Page 1 of 2

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question. You are not permitted to use any type of calculator.

1. What is the value of $2x^2 - 3x + 9$ when $x = 3$?

- A. 18
- B. 15
- C. 12
- D. 9
- E. 3

2. $\frac{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{4}} = ?$

- A. $1/20$
- B. $4/5$
- C. $5/24$
- D. $10/3$
- E. 4

3. If $2x + 7 = 3x - 7x - 5$, then $x = ?$

- A. -6
- B. -2
- C. 0
- D. 2
- E. 6

4. A car rental costs \$50 per day and 10¢ per mile after the first 100 miles. If you have \$100, how many miles can you afford to drive?

- A. 100
- B. 500
- C. 600
- D. 650
- E. 1000

Sample Assessment Questions
Elementary Algebra
Page 2 of 2

5. $\frac{6xy^2}{5y} \div \frac{3x^3}{10yz} = ?$

A. $\frac{3x^2y^2}{2z}$

B. $\frac{4y^2z}{x^2}$

C. $\frac{9x^4}{25z}$

D. $\frac{16(xy^2 - x^3)}{15y(1 - z)}$

E. $\frac{3x(2y^2 + x^2)}{5y(1 + 2z)}$

6. Which is equivalent to $2x^2 + 8x + 8$?

A. $4x(x + 2x + 8)$

B. $2(2x^2 + 8x + 8)$

C. $(2x + 4)(x + 4)$

D. $2(x+4)^2$

E. $2(x+2)^2$

7. $2z(3z + 7) = ?$

A. $5z^2 + 9$

B. $6z + 14$

C. $6z^2 + 7z$

D. $6z^2 + 14z$

E. $9z^2 + 49z$

8. The value of $\sqrt{10}$ is closest to which of the following values?

A. 1

B. 3

C. π

D. 4

E. 5

Answers: 1. A 2. D 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. E 7. D 8. C

Sample Assessment Questions
Intermediate Algebra
Page 1 of 3

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question. You are not permitted to use any type of calculator.

1. If $|x + 2| > 3$, then what are all possible values of x ?

- A. $x < 1$
- B. $-5 < x < 1$
- C. $x > 5$ or $x < 1$
- D. $x < -5$
- E. $x < -5$ or $x > 1$

2. If $f(x) = 2x^3 - 7x + 4$, then $f(2) = ?$

- A. -2
- B. 2
- C. 6
- D. 30
- E. 34

3. What is the solution to the following system of equations?

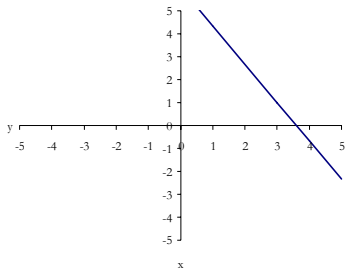
$$\begin{aligned} -2x + 3y &= 4 \\ x - 2y &= -3 \end{aligned}$$

- A. $x = -7, y = -1$
- B. $x = 1, y = 2$
- C. $x = 7, y = 6$
- D. $x = -1/7, y = 10/7$
- E. $x = 13, y = 9$

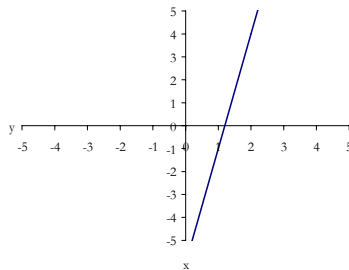
Sample Assessment Questions
Intermediate Algebra
Page 2 of 3

4. Which of the following is the graph for $3y - 5x = 18$?

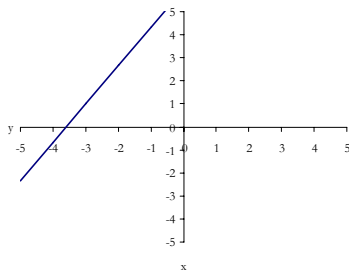
A.



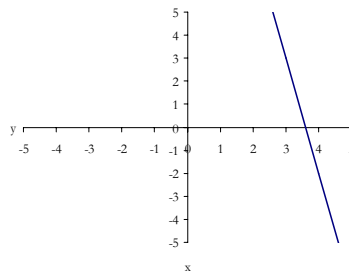
D.



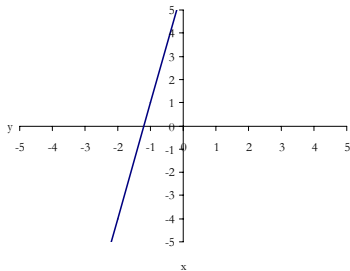
B.



E.



C.



5. In Fall 2001, Gavilan College enrollment grew at a rate where the number of students would double in 15 years. If there were 5000 students in Fall 2001, how long would it take for the number of students to increase by 50%?

- A. about 1 years
- B. about 2 years
- C. about 4 years
- D. about 8 years
- E. about 16 years

Sample Assessment Questions
Intermediate Algebra
Page 3 of 3

6. The expression $\ln x + \ln(x + y)$ can be simplified to which of the following expressions?

- A. $\frac{\ln x}{\ln(x + y)}$
- B. $\ln(x^2 + y)$
- C. $\ln(2x + y)$
- D. $\ln x(x + y)$
- E. $2\ln(2x + y)$

7. If adding 3 units to the length of each side of a square results in the area quadrupling, what are the dimensions of the original square?

- A. 1 unit x 1 unit
- B. 2 units x 2 units
- C. 3 units x 3 units
- D. $\sqrt{3}$ units x $\sqrt{3}$ units
- E. no such square can exist

8. What (x,y) coordinates mark the x -intercepts of the following function $2y = 2x^2 - 2x - 12$?

- A. $(-2,0)$ and $(3,0)$
- B. $(0,-2)$ and $(0,3)$
- C. $(2,0)$ and $(-3,0)$
- D. $(0,2)$ and $(0,-3)$
- E. $(-2,3)$ and $(0,0)$

Answers: 1. E 2. C 3. B 4. B 5. D 6. D 7. C 8. A

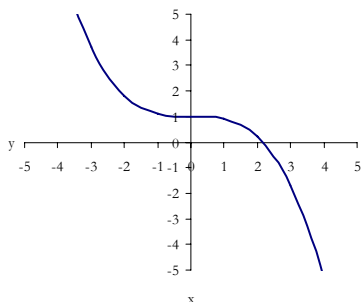
Sample Assessment Questions
Pre-Calculus
Page 1 of 3

Please note that these sample questions do not cover all areas that may be in the assessment.

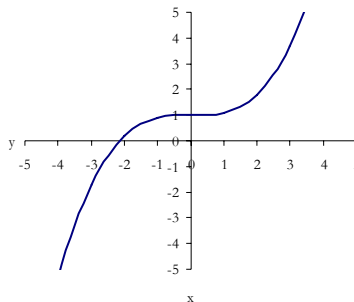
Directions: Choose the best answer for each question. You are not permitted to use any type of calculator.

1. Which of the following most closely resembles the graph of $y = 0.1x^3 + 1$?

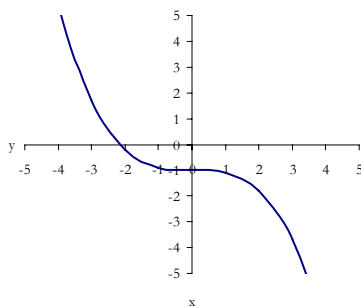
A.



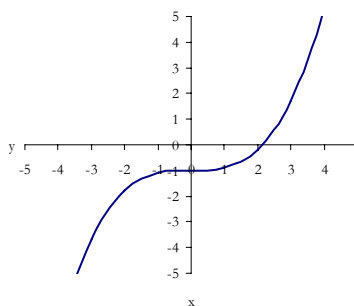
D.



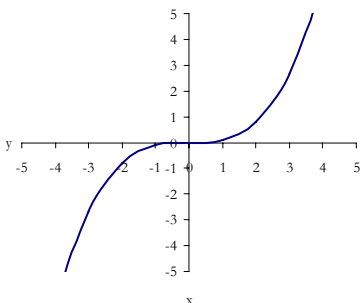
B.



E.



C.



Sample Assessment Questions
Pre-Calculus
Page 2 of 3

2. A farmer can pay \$500 plus \$50 per acre to have a lettuce field sprayed for pests or can pay workers \$10 an hour to remove pests by hand where it takes 4 workers working together a full 8 hour day to remove pests from 2 acres. How small would the lettuce field have to be for the farmer to save money by paying workers to remove pests by hand?

- A. about 2.4 acres
- B. about 2.8 acres
- C. about 3.4 acres
- D. 4 acres exactly
- E. about 4.5 acres

3. Which of the following equations, when graphed, would form a hyperbola?

- A. $2x^2 - 3y^2 = 5$
- B. $2x^2 + 3y^2 = 5$
- C. $2x^2 + 2y^2 = 5$
- D. $2x^2 - 3y = 5$
- E. $2x - 3y^2 = 5$

4. $\sqrt{-16} = ?$

- A. -8
- B. -4
- C. 4i
- D. 8i
- E. 16i

5. What is the period of $y = 2\cos(3x - 1)$?

- A. $\pi/2$
- B. π
- C. 2π
- D. $2\pi/3$
- E. $4\pi/3$

Sample Assessment Questions
Pre-Calculus
Page 3 of 3

6. $2(\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x) = ?$

- A. 0
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 3π
- E. 4π

7. How many ways can 3 different vases be arranged on a shelf?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 6
- D. 30
- E. 100

8. Which of the following is equivalent to $\ln x - 2\ln(x - z)$?

- A. $2\ln(2x - z)$
- B. $2\ln(x^2 - z)$
- C. $\ln \frac{x}{2(x - z)}$
- D. $2\ln \frac{x}{(x - z)}$
- E. $\ln \frac{x}{(x - z)^2}$

Answers: 1. D 2. E 3. A 4. C 5. D 6. B 7. C 8. E