

Instructions to the Student

- ALTA's Writing Test is a 5-question test in a pen/paper format and the time limit is 1 hour.
- The questions are designed to elicit writing samples in a variety of styles and forms. You will be asked to report a personal experience, to persuade, to describe, to give an opinion, to explain a procedure.
- You must answer all questions. An effective answer will typically consist of a minimum of 100 words.
- You may not use reference materials of any kind on this test (dictionaries, electronic devices, external websites, etc.)

Sample Writing Prompts

Questions will come from the following pools:

Question 1: School related personal experience.

Describe a time when you helped a friend. Discuss why you took on that role, what you did, and how it made you feel.

Question 2: Impersonal question using the present perfect

In the past five years, how has technology affected people's health?

Question 3: Persuasion / Letter or email Writing

You recently had a positive experience at a new local restaurant, and you want to let the manager know about it. Write an email to the manager that addresses the following points:

The food was unique and delicious.

The staff was helpful and polite.

The manager should advertise more in the local community to bring in more new business.

Question 4: Description

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? Discuss, with specifics, why you would choose this location.

Question 5: Explanation / Procedural

You are training a new employee at your company. Write a brief list of instructions telling them how to set up a signature for their email.

You will be evaluated on the following:

- Quality and style of your sentences.
- Organization and expression of ideas.
- How well the responses relate to the questions asked.
- Use of formal and informal structures when appropriate.
- Grammar, spelling (including accent marks where applicable), punctuation.