Texas Success Initiative Test Content

The TSI Mathematics and Statistics Test *is a multiple choice assessment covering the key College and Career Readiness Standards referenced below. There are approximately 20 items on the placement test, and 10 items on the diagnostic test.*

Elementary Algebra and Functions (6 items on the placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- Linear equations, inequalities, and systems
- Algebraic expressions and equations (other than linear)
- Word problems and applications

Intermediate Algebra and Functions (9 items on the placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- Quadratic and other polynomial expressions, equations, and functions
- Expressions, equations, and functions involving powers, roots, and radicals
- Rational and exponential expressions, equations, and functions

Geometry and Measurement (2 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- Plane geometry
- Transformations and symmetry
- Measurement (linear, area, three-dimensional)
- Modeling and applications

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability (3 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- Interpreting categorical and quantitative data
- Statistical measures
- Probabilistic reasoning

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The TSI Writing Test *is a multiple choice assessment covering the key College and Career Readiness Standards referenced below. There are approximately 20 items on the placement test, and 10-12 items on the diagnostic test.*

Essay Revision (8 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be passage-based items.
- Passages are drafts of essays in need of revision and will be approximately 250 words. Items will ask students to revise parts of the essay to improve coherence, organization, word choice, rhetorical effectiveness, and use of evidence

Agreement (3 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items
- Items will cover topics such as subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, and verb tense.

Sentence Structure (5 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items
- Items will cover topics such as fragments, subordination and coordination, and parallelism
- Items will also cover topics such as comma splices and run-on sentences, as well as improper punctuation.

Sentence Logic (4 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items
- Items will test the student's ability to arrange the parts of sentences in the most logical way, including the use of logical transitions and the correct placement of modifying phrases and

The TSI Reading Test *is a multiple choice assessment covering the key College and Career Readiness Standards referenced below. There are approximately 24 items on the placement test. There are 10-12 items per category on the diagnostic test.*

Literary Analysis (4 items on placement test; 12 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be passage-based items.
- Passages are fiction or literary nonfiction and will be approximately 400 words in length.
- Items will ask students to identify and analyze ideas in and elements of literary texts.

Main Idea and Supporting Details (5 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items with single informational/expository passages of 75-125 words.
- Items will ask students to identify the main idea of a passage or comprehend explicit textual information in the passage.

Inferences in a Text or Texts (8 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items with one or, in some cases, two informational/expository passages of 100-150 words.
- Most items will ask students to make an appropriate inference about a single passage.
- Some items will require students to synthesize ideas by making a connection or comparison between two passages.

Author's Use of Language (7 items on placement test; 10 items on diagnostic test)

- All items in this category will be discrete items with single informational/expository passages of 75-125 words.
- Some items will ask students to identify an author's purpose, tone, organization, or rhetorical strategies and use of evidence;
- Some items will ask students to determine the meaning of words in context.

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The Texas College and Career Readiness Writing *standards ask students to write essays that "demonstrate clear focus, the logical development of ideas in well-organized paragraphs, and the use of appropriate language that advances the author's purpose."*

WritePlacer automatically evaluates students' essays written to one of several prompts. WritePlacer essays are electronically scored by the Intelligent Essay Assessor (IEA) that is powered by the Knowledge Technologies (KT) engine.

The **Intelligent Essay Assessor** is a unique automated assessment technology that evaluates the meaning of text, not just grammatical correctness or spelling.

The Intelligent Essay Assessor is based on **Latent Semantic Analysis** (LSA), a statistical language learning theory and computer model that measures the semantic similarity of words and documents with accuracy closely approximating that of human judges.

Feedback in provided on the following six dimensions

- **Purpose and Focus** — The extent to which the writer presents information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.
- **Organization and Structure** — The extent to which the writer orders and connects ideas.
- **Development and Support** — The extent to which the writer develops and supports ideas.
- **Sentence Variety and Style** — The extent to which the writer crafts sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.
- **Mechanical Conventions** — The extent to which the writer expresses ideas using standard English.
- **Critical Thinking** — The extent to which the writer communicates a point of view and demonstrates reasoned relationships among ideas.

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