

San Benito High School College Center

TSI PRE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

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Why does the TSI Assessment matter?

The TSI Assessment is a placement test, not an admissions test. The purpose of this test is to figure out your skill level in math, reading, and writing to make sure you have a successful start to college by placing you in the right level courses.

Why the TSI Pre-Assessment Activity?

- Before you can take the TSI assessment, you must participate in a Pre-Assessment.
- You will be asked, ***“Were you provided with information and/or an activity to help you understand all of the following: 1 the importance of this assessment, 2 sample questions, 3 course options, and 4 resources for students?”***
- You must be able to answer “YES” to this question to take the TSI test

What are Passing TSI Scores?

- The score range on the TSI Assessment in all sections is 310-390.
 - TSI Math: 350
 - TSI Reading: 351
 - TSI Writing: 363 & a 4 on the essay OR 350 & a 5 on the essay
 - What if I score below the passing standard?
 - You will take an extra “Diagnostics” section to help you gauge the areas you need to continue to develop to reach college readiness level

Are There Exemptions?

- ACT – composite score of a 23 with a 19 in English and 19 in Math
- SAT – combined score of 1070 with 500 in Critical Reading and 500 in Math

How Does the TSI Work?

If you are not exempt from taking the TSI Assessment, you will take three tests: one in mathematics, one in reading, and one in writing. Where necessary, you may be given an additional diagnostic test in a particular subject. This diagnostic test is designed to provide more detailed information regarding your academic strengths and weaknesses.

More details about how the TSI works:

- The assessments are computer adaptive, which means that questions increase or decrease in difficulty level depending on how you respond.
- The assessments are untimed, which means there is no time limit on how long you can take to complete the assessment; however, it is important to allow yourself enough time to complete each test because the results are a key factor in determining the course or courses in which you can enroll.
- In most cases, this assessment provides immediate results upon completion. When you complete the assessment, you immediately receive information on your score and your skill or proficiency levels.
- You may start and stop anytime during your test session by using the “save and finish later” option, except during the essay, which must be started and completed in the same session. If you select this option, you must return and complete the remaining assessment within fourteen (14) calendar days.

TSI Math Section

The TSI Assessment in Mathematics is a multiple-choice assessment that covers the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 20 items on the TSI placement test and 10 items in each section of the DE Diagnostic Test.

- Elementary Algebra and Functions measures your knowledge of linear equations, inequalities, and systems; algebraic expressions and equations; and word problems and applications.
- Intermediate Algebra and Functions measures your knowledge of quadratic and other polynomial expressions, equations, and functions; expressions, equations, and functions involving powers, roots, and radicals; and rational and exponential expressions, equations, and functions.
- Geometry and Measurement measures your knowledge of plane geometry; transformations and symmetry; and linear, area, and three dimensional measurements.
- Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability measures your knowledge of interpreting categorical and quantitative data, statistical measures, and probabilistic reasoning.

TSI Reading Section

The TSI Assessment in Reading is a multiple-choice assessment that covers the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 24 items on the TSI placement test and 10 to 12 items in each section of the DE Diagnostic Test.

- Literary Analysis measures your skill in identifying and analyzing ideas in and elements of literary texts.
- Main Idea and Supporting Details measures your skill in identifying the main idea of a passage and in comprehending explicit textual information in a passage.
- Inferences in a Text or Texts measures your skill in synthesizing ideas by making a connection or comparison between two passages and in making an appropriate inference about single passages.
- Author's Use of Language measures your skill in identifying an author's purpose, tone, organization or rhetorical strategies, and use of evidence in determining the meaning of words in context.

TSI Writing Section: Multiple Choice

The TSI Assessment in Writing is an assessment that contains a multiple-choice section and an essay section.

Multiple-Choice Section. The multiple-choice section of the TSI Assessment in Writing measures your skills in the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 20 items on the TSI placement test and 10 to 12 items in each section of the DE Diagnostic Test.

- Essay Revision measures your ability to provide coherence, organization, and good word choice and your ability to achieve rhetorical effectiveness and use evidence.
- Agreement measures your ability to perform subject–verb agreement and pronoun agreement as well as your ability to determine verb tenses.
- Sentence Structure measures your knowledge of topics like comma splices and run-on sentences; improper punctuation; fragments and parallelism; and subordination and coordination.
- Sentence Logic measures your ability to correctly place modifying phrases and clauses and your ability to use logical transitions.

TSI Writing Section: Essay

You may be asked to write a five-paragraph persuasive essay (approximately 300–600 words) on a controversial issue or one of current interest. You will be expected to clearly state a main idea and provide specific examples and details to back up your main idea, as well as follow conventions of standard English. You will not be allowed to use a dictionary or other outside resources, but you may use plain scratch paper (provided to you) to plan your essay and write your rough draft(s).

Can I study for the TSI Assessment?

- Yes, two **official** study guide options are available free of charge:
 - TSI Sample Questions: Brochure provides practice questions and study information
 - <http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-sample-questions.pdf>
 - TSI Web-Based Study App: Features practice tests that can be accessed from your computer, tablet, or Smartphone to familiarize yourself with the basic content areas of TSI tests.
 - <https://store.collegeboard.org/sto/productdetail.do?itemkey=130095469>

How Do I Register to Take the TSI Exam at San Benito HS?

(for test sessions outside of the regular school day)

Register online for your test date at:

<http://college.sbcisd.net/tsi-testing/>

*Test sessions will have limited capacity, and registration will close once capacity is met. **You must check email address given when you register to confirm your registration and receive important test date information.***

What happens when I finish the exam?

- You will receive a TSI placement score report upon completion of exam
- If you met the passing standard, you will be able to register for college credit classes or dual enrollment

Can I retake the exam?

If you are not satisfied with your performance, you may retake the TSI Assessment at any time. However, before you attempt to retest, it is strongly recommended that you set aside time for additional study.

What is my TSI Pre-Assessment Certificate of Participation?

- Your TSI Pre-Assessment Certificate of Participation is your acknowledgment of the following statement:
 - *“Were you provided with information and/or an activity to help you understand all of the following: 1. the importance of this assessment, 2. sample questions, 3. course options, and 4. resources for students?”*
- You must document your completion of the Pre-Assessment Activity
- You must be able to answer “YES” to the above statement in order to take the TSI test

Math Sample Question 1

For questions below, choose the best answer from the four choices given. You may use the paper you received as scratch paper.

If $3t - 7 = 5t$, then $6t =$

- A. 21
- B. -7
- C. -21
- D. -42

Math Sample Question 2

A group of 18 people ordered soup and sandwiches for lunch. Each person in the group had either one soup or one sandwich. The sandwiches cost \$7.75 each and the soups cost \$4.50 each. If the total cost of all 18 lunches was \$113.50 each, how many sandwiches were ordered?

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 10

Math Sample Question 3

A ball was kicked into the air from a balcony 20 feet above the ground, and the ball's height above the ground, in feet, t seconds after the ball was kicked was $h(t) = 20 - 16t^2 + 32t$. What was the maximum height, in feet, of the ball above the ground after it was kicked?

- A. 32
- B. 34
- C. 36
- D. 40

Sample Questions for Reading

Directions: Read the passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

Reading Sample Question 1

The main authors of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are usually thought of as “America’s Founding Fathers.” Other, less known personages also deserve the title, however, and Noah Webster was one of these. Through his writing, which include the still influential dictionary that bears, Webster sought to legitimize an “American English” that was independent of British spelling and pronunciation. For instance, Webster removed the “u” from “colour,” creating the distinct American version of the word.

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To praise the Founding Fathers
- B. To present information about an important American
- C. To define and explain “American English”
- D. To distinguish American dictionaries from British dictionaries

Reading Sample Question 2

Television has been the primary source of information and entertainment for most Americans over the last 50 years. However, with Internet use on the rise year after year, some may wonder if surfing the net will soon surpass watching television as Americans' primary leisure activity. Indeed, some recent surveys show that time spent on the Internet is now greater than time spent in front of the television. However, this statistic may not tell the whole story, as 59% of Americans say they

The main idea of the passage is that television

- A. Is only one of many information sources
- B. May have become less popular than the Internet
- C. Is watched by more people now than ever before
- D. Focuses more on entertainment than on news multitask, using the Internet and watching TV simultaneously.

Reading Sample Question 3

Long thought to be a case of mistaken identity, the discovery of the Bornean rainbow toad by European explorers in 1924 was recently verified by scientists. The explorers had made a black-and-white sketch of an unusual toad they had found in the jungles of Southeast Asia, christening it the Bornean rainbow toad. Skeptical but curious, scientists recently went to look for the toad—and ended up finding three specimens.

The passage implies which of the following about the Bornean rainbow toad?

- A. Some people doubted the existence of the toad.
- B. Scientists were confident that they would find the toad.
- C. The surviving toads have been relocated to Europe.
- D. No human being had seen the toad since 1924.

Writing Sample Question 1

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

Horror films that keep viewers in a state of endless fright and which draw record-breaking crowds.

- A. that keep viewers in a state of endless fright and which draw
- B. keep viewers in a state of endless fright and drawing
- C. that keep viewers in a state of endless fright draw
- D. that keep viewers in a state of endless fright and they draw

Writing Sample Question 2

Think about how you would rewrite the following sentence according to the directions given, and then choose the best answer. Keep in mind that your revision should not change the meaning of the original sentence.

Facing a 50% cut in funding for the library, the director was forced to lay off two librarians and sharply reduce hours of operation.

Rewrite, beginning with

Funding for the library was cut by 50%, ...

The next words will be

- A. the director was forced
- B. forcing the director
- C. this forced the director
- D. two librarians were

Writing Sample Question 3

Think about how you would rewrite the following sentence according to the directions given, and then choose the best answer. Keep in mind that your revision should not change the meaning of the original sentence.

In some places, virtually all the topsoil has washed away, leaving the subsoils to sustain the crops.

Rewrite, beginning with

In some places, the subsoils must sustain the crops ...

The next word will be

- A. although
- B. because
- C. until
- D. before

Math Answer Key

Question Number	Correct Answer and Rationale
1	Choice (C) is correct. If $3t - 7 = 5t$, then $5t - 3t = -7$, and $2t = -7$. Therefore, $6t = (3)(2t) = (3)(-7) = -21$.
2	Choice (D) is correct. Let n be the number of sandwiches ordered. Then $18 - n$ was the number of soups ordered. Since the sandwiches cost \$7.75 each, the soups cost \$4.50 each and the total cost of all 18 lunches was \$113.50, the equation $113.5 = 7.75n + 4.5(18 - n)$ holds. Multiplying out this equation gives $113.5 = 7.75n + 81 - 4.5n$, which simplifies to $32.5 = 3.25n$, or $n = \frac{32.5}{3.25} = 10$. Therefore, 10 sandwiches were ordered.
3	Choice (C) is correct. The equation $h(t) = 20 - 16t^2 + 32t$ is equivalent to $h(t) = 20 - 16t(t - 2)$. It follows that $h(t) = 20$ when $t = 0$ and $t = 2$. Thus the maximum value of this quadratic function occurs when t is halfway between $t = 0$ and $t = 2$, which is when $t = \frac{2-0}{2} = 1$. Therefore, the maximum height, in feet, of the ball above the ground after it was kicked was $h(1) = 20 - 16(1)^2 + 32(1) = 36$.

Reading Answer Key

Correct Answer and Rationale

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Choice (B) is correct. The author discusses Noah Webster and the idea that he deserves the title of Founding Father. The author clearly considers Webster important, citing his “still-influential dictionary” and his attempt to “legitimize an ‘American English.’” Choice (A) is incorrect because although the author mentions that the Founding Fathers authored certain documents, he or she offers no specific praise of the Founding Fathers. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect; although the author mentions Webster’s attempt “to legitimize an ‘American English’” and to create an American English dictionary, neither of these points is the main focus of the passage. |
| 2 | Choice (B) is correct. The main idea of the passage is that television may have become less popular than the Internet. The author points out that “Internet use” is “on the rise,” and that some people wonder if using the Internet will soon become “Americans’ primary leisure activity.” The author points out that surfing the net might already be more popular than watching television, as “recent surveys show that time spent on the Internet is now greater than time spent in front of the television”—though some people use the Internet and watch TV at the same time. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are incorrect: it might be true that television is just one of many information sources, but the author does not address this, and he or she also does not indicate that television is watched by more people now than ever before, or that television programs tend to focus more on entertainment than on news. |
| 3 | Choice (A) is correct. The author suggests that some people doubted the existence of the Bornean rainbow toad: they “thought [it] to be a case of mistaken identity” and were “skeptical.” In other words, some people thought the “European explorers” were documenting another, already known kind of toad, and had not discovered a new toad. This is supported by the fact that the discovery was not “verified” for many years. Choices (B), (C), and (D) are incorrect: the author suggests that scientists did not expect to find the Bornean rainbow toad, there is no indication that the recently-found toads were taken to Europe, and it is unlikely that no human being—including non-scientists—had seen any specimen of the toad since 1924. |

Writing Answer Key

	Correct Answer and Rationale
1	Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the sentence-fragment error of the original sentence by providing the main verb “draw” to agree with the subject “horror films” and to carry out the action of the sentence. In addition, choice (C) appropriately provides the relative clause “that keep viewers in a state of endless fright” to modify the noun phrase that precedes it, “horror films.” None of the other options results in a complete sentence.
2	Choice (B) is correct. The sentence should be rewritten “Funding for the library was cut by 50%, <u>forcing the director</u> to lay off two librarians and sharply reduce hours of operation.” Each of the other choices results in a comma splice, with two independent clauses improperly joined by only a comma. Choice (B) avoids the comma-splice error by providing the participial phrase “forcing the director to lay off two librarians . . .” to join the independent clause “Funding for the library was cut by 50%.”
3	Choice (B) is correct. The sentence should be rewritten “In some places, the subsoils must sustain the crops because virtually all the topsoil has washed away.” Choice (B) avoids the errors of the other options and appropriately provides the causal link needed to explain why the subsoils must sustain the crops. None of the other options can express the causal relationship between the two ideas (“virtually all the topsoil has washed away” and “the subsoils must sustain the crops”) in the sentence.