

Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment

Interpreting Your Score

CollegeBoard

Congratulations on Taking the TSI Assessment!

The TSI Assessment measures your strengths and weaknesses in mathematics and statistics, reading and writing, and is an indicator of how ready you are to handle college-level courses. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisers and counselors to place you in the appropriate course that matches your skill level. The goal is to help you become ready for college-level course work.

TSI Assessment

Once you complete the TSI Assessment, you have immediate access to your individual score report, which gives you details on your test results. Use the score report to understand your academic strengths and areas for improvement. Your adviser, counselor, or faculty member will also use this score report to help make the best recommendations for the courses or interventions that meet your individual needs.

How Is My Test Scored?

The individual score report indicates your score in the mathematics, reading, and writing portions of the TSI Assessment and the appropriate course level in which you will be placed.

Your scores on the TSI Assessment determine if you are ready to take college-level courses. If you are college ready, you may enroll in any related entry-level college course without having to take developmental courses or interventions. You are considered college ready if **at the very least** you receive the following scores:

College Readiness Cut Scores

Mathematics: a score ranging from 350 to 390 in the multiple-choice section.

Reading: a score ranging from 351 to 390 in the multiple-choice section.

Writing: a score of 5 in the essay section. You can also place in a college course if you receive a 4 on the essay and a score ranging from 363 to 390 on the multiple-choice section.

For more information on assessment topics and scores refer to:

Page 5 for Mathematics and Statistics

Page 4 for Reading

Page 6 for Writing

What If I Don't Meet the College Readiness Cut Score?

If your TSI mathematics, reading, or writing test score is lower than the college readiness cut score for that subject, you may be placed in either a developmental course or an intervention to improve your skills and prepare for success in college-level courses. In addition to other factors, your placement is determined through the results you get in the DE Diagnostic Test, which measures how well you know the subjects. Your institution may use additional factors such as your high school grade point average/class ranking, other test scores, and courses from your high school or college transcripts.

Can I Retake the Test?

If you are not satisfied with your score, 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. It is very unlikely that your score will improve greatly without additional review and study. Check with the testing center at your college or university for information concerning retesting.

DE Diagnostic Test

If your score in the TSI Assessment is lower than the college readiness cut score, you will be asked to take the DE Diagnostic Test, which determines your areas of strength and areas that need improvement in mathematics, reading, and/or writing. Many students who are not college ready may be provided the DE Diagnostic Test as described below, while others may be given a different version of a diagnostic test to ensure accurate information related to their skill set. The results in the diagnostic test help the adviser place you in the appropriate level of a developmental course.

DE Diagnostic Score Report

Once you complete the DE Diagnostic Test, you will receive a diagnostic score report. This report outlines the topics on which you were tested, along with the score and the criteria used to determine that score.

Proficiency Level and Score	What this means to you
Needs Improvement	Indicates that your performance needs to improve significantly in this area.
Limited Proficiency	Indicates that while you have some skill in this area, there is room for improvement.
Proficient	Indicates that you have well-developed skills in this area.

Sample of DE Reading Diagnostic Test

DE Reading Diagnostic Test

Domain	Needs Improvement / Limited Proficiency / Proficient	Score
Main Idea and Supporting Detail		2
Your performance in the Main Idea and Supporting Details area suggests that you need to improve significantly in this area. This area tests your ability to understand text. You need to work extensively on identifying stated and implied main ideas, supporting details, and author's purpose and tone.		
Author's Use of Language		4
Your performance in the Author's Use of Language area suggests that you need to improve significantly in this area. You need to work on identifying the author's purpose, tone, organization, and rhetorical strategies; determining the meaning of words using context; and analyzing the use of evidence in a passage when the information is implied or the answer choices require simple synthesis.		
Inferences in a Text or Texts		5
Your performance in the Inferences in a Text or Texts area suggests that while you have some skill in this area, there is room for improvement. This area tests your ability to make and understand inferences about informational texts. You need to work on supporting inferences with specific evidence as well as drawing conclusions and making generalizations about paired texts based on details and ideas.		
Literary Analysis		11
Your performance in the Literary Analysis area suggests you have well-developed skills. This area tests your ability to apply your knowledge of universal themes and literary devices to the development of plot and characters and to analyze how author's use of diction and figurative language supports the meaning in fiction or literary nonfiction.		

Sample of DE Mathematics Diagnostic Test

DE Mathematics Diagnostic Test

Domain	Needs Improvement / Limited Proficiency / Proficient	Score
Elementary Algebra		15
These results suggest that you have the ability to perform operations with real numbers and algebraic expressions using correct order of operations; solve linear equations, inequalities, systems and variation problems; graph linear functions; solve word problems.		
Intermediate Algebra		12
The results suggest that you have the ability to factor polynomial expressions by GCF, grouping, difference of squares, trinomials; solve quadratic equations by factoring and using quadratic formula; simplify square roots with numerical values; solve simple equations with radicals and fractions; apply unit conversion in word problems; formulate algebraic expressions and equations to solve word problems; apply rules of exponents.		
Measurement and Geometry		11
The results suggest that you have the ability to identify and analyze geometric shapes to calculate perimeter, area, and volume; analyze multistep geometric problems using factoring quadratics, use properties of transformations to solve problems, and apply the Pythagorean theorum; analyze and apply ratios and proportions to solve geometric problems such as similar figures, recognize and apply concepts of measurement conversions.		
Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability		13
The results suggest that you have the ability to calculate and interpret the mean, median, mode, and range for a set of real number values; calculate the probability of events; make predictions using probabilities and statistics; analyze charts and graphs; apply counting principles; calculate percentages.		

Sample of DE Writing Diagnostic Test

DE Writing Diagnostic Test

	Needs Improvement / Limited Proficiency / Proficient	Score
Sentence Structure		11
Your performance on Sentence Structure suggests that you have well-developed skills in this area. You consistently recognize correct grammar and punctuation. You understand how subordinate clauses and coordinating strategies are used to write more complex sentences. You can identify run-on sentences and sentence fragments. You understand how relationships of ideas are constructed in sentences and how parallelism is used.		
Agreement		2
Your performance on Agreement suggests that you need to improve significantly in this area. You can match the subject and verb in a simple sentence, but you have difficulty if the word order changes or the sentence has a clause. You can rarely match pronouns to nouns (i.e., both singular or plural). You must learn how to use correct verb tense (i.e., past, present, or future); you must learn how to use helping verbs (e.g., be or have). You need to learn what parallelism is and how to use it.		
Sentence Logic		2
Your performance on Sentence Logic suggests that you need to improve significantly in this area. You can pick out the main subject and verb in a simple sentence, but you may have difficulty with complex sentences that use subordinate clauses. You can recognize simple modifiers, but you often fail to use them correctly. You need to learn what parallel structures are. You also need to learn transitions and how to use them. You need to learn how to show logical relationships among ideas.		
Essay Revision		2
Your performance on Essay Revision suggests that you need to improve significantly in this area. You have trouble recognizing how paragraph organization supports the communication of ideas. You can identify a main point in a paragraph, but sometimes you do not recognize when some information is unimportant. You must learn how to identify supporting evidence in each paragraph. You must learn about transitions and how to use them. You must work on identifying the best words to convey your ideas.		

Understanding Your Mathematics Score

The **TSI Assessment in Mathematics and Statistics** is a multiple-choice test that covers the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 20 items on the TSI Assessment Test and 10 to 12 items in each section of the DE Diagnostic Test.

Elementary Algebra and Functions measures your knowledge in linear equations, inequalities, and systems; algebraic expressions and equations; word problems and applications.

Intermediate Algebra and Functions measures your knowledge in 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 measures your knowledge in plane geometry; transformations and symmetry; linear, area, and three-dimensional measurements.

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability measures your knowledge in interpreting categorical and quantitative data, statistical measures, probabilistic reasoning.

What Score Gets Me to a College Course?

You are considered college ready if your score falls within the range of 350 to 390. If your score is 349 or lower, you will be placed in a developmental course or Adult Basic Education course. If you are near college ready, you may be placed in a college course while taking a developmental education course/intervention.

Contact the adviser at your college or university for more information.

Understanding Your Reading Score

The **TSI Assessment in Reading** is a multiple-choice test that covers the four content areas listed below. There are approximately 20 items on the TSI Assessment 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; 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; 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; determining the meaning of words in context.

What Score Gets Me to a College Course?

You are considered college ready if your score falls within the range of 351 to 390. If your score is 350 or lower, you will be placed in a developmental course or Adult Basic Education course. If you are near college ready, you may be placed in a college course while taking a developmental education course/intervention.

Contact the adviser at your college or university for more information.



Understanding Your Writing Score

The **TSI Assessment in Writing** is a test 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 Assessment 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; to achieve rhetorical effectiveness and use evidence.

Agreement measures your ability to perform subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, and determination of verb tenses.

Sentence Structure measures your knowledge on topics like comma splices and run-on sentences; improper punctuation; fragments and parallelism; subordination and coordination.

Sentence Logic measures your ability to correctly place modifying phrases and clauses, and the ability to use logical transitions.

Essay Section

The essay section of the TSI Assessment in Writing requires you to demonstrate clear focus, to logically develop ideas in well-organized paragraphs, and to use appropriate language that indicates your purpose. You will be asked to provide a writing sample of 300 to 600 words in response to one of the several prompts within the system.

You will be scored based on your performance in the following areas:

- **Purpose and Focus:** The extent to which you present information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.
- **Organization and Structure:** The extent to which you order and connect ideas.
- **Development and Support:** The extent to which you develop and support ideas.
- **Sentence Variety and Style:** The extent to which you craft sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.
- **Mechanical Conventions:** The extent to which you express ideas using Standard English.
- **Critical Thinking:** The extent to which you communicate a point of view and demonstrate reasoned relationships among ideas.

How Is My Essay Scored?

The essays are electronically scored by a unique automated system that is specifically designed to score assessments. This system evaluates the meaning of text, not just grammatical correctness or spelling. Your essay is compared for similarities to a set of at least 500 other student essays that have been graded by two expert human readers. It is then placed in the same scoring category with the essays to which it is most similar.

Once you enter your essay into an onscreen textbox and submit it for scoring, the system automatically evaluates the essay and returns a score from 1 to 8 as well as a statement that indicates the criteria used to give you that score.

SCORE	HOLISTIC SCORE DESCRIPTION
8	The essay demonstrates clear and consistent mastery of on-demand essay writing.
7	The essay demonstrates consistent mastery of on-demand essay writing.
6	The essay demonstrates reasonably consistent mastery of on-demand essay writing.
5	The essay demonstrates adequate mastery of on-demand essay writing.
4	The essay demonstrates developing mastery of on-demand essay writing.
3	The essay demonstrates little mastery of on-demand essay writing.
2	The essay demonstrates very little mastery of on-demand essay writing.
1	The essay demonstrates no mastery of on-demand essay writing.

Essays not written in the essay section will receive a score of zero.

What Score Gets Me to a College Course?

You are considered college ready if you score a 5 on the essay and a score ranging from 350 to 390 on the multiple-choice section. You can also place in a college course if you get a 4 in the essay section and a score ranging from 363 to 390 on the multiple-choice section. If your score does not meet these requirements, you will be placed in a developmental course or intervention. If you are near college ready, you may be placed in a college course while taking a developmental education course/intervention.

Contact the adviser at your college or university for more information.



Essay Scoring Guide

SCORE OF 8

An essay in this category demonstrates ***clear and consistent mastery*** of on-demand essay writing with a few minor errors. A typical essay:

- Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue;
- Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing in the thesis statement;
- Demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using effective examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position;
- Is well organized and clearly focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas;
- Exhibits skillful use of language, using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary;
- Demonstrates varied and effective sentence structure; and
- Is free of major errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

SCORE OF 7

An essay in this category demonstrates ***consistent mastery*** of on-demand essay writing although it may have occasional minor errors. A typical essay:

- Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue;
- Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing in the thesis statement;
- Demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position;
- Is well organized and focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas;
- Exhibits appropriate language, using a varied and accurate vocabulary;
- Demonstrates varied sentence structure; and
- Is practically free of errors in sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

SCORE OF 6

An essay in this category demonstrates ***reasonably consistent mastery*** of on-demand essay writing although it may have occasional lapses in quality. A typical essay:

- Effectively develops a point of view on the issue;
- Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing;
- Demonstrates strong critical thinking, generally using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position;
- Is well organized and focused, demonstrating coherence and a logical progression of ideas;
- Exhibits consistent control in the use of language;
- Demonstrates adequate variety in sentence structure; and
- Is generally free of errors in sentence structure, grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation.

SCORE OF 5

An essay in this category demonstrates ***adequate mastery*** of on-demand essay writing although it will have lapses in quality. A typical essay:

- Develops a viable point of view on the issue;
- May stray from the audience and purpose but is able to refocus;
- Demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position;
- Is generally organized and focused but could lack coherence and logical progression of ideas;
- Exhibits adequate but inconsistent control of language;
- Demonstrates some variety in sentence structure; and
- Contains some minor errors in sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

SCORE OF 4

An essay in this category demonstrates ***developing mastery*** of on-demand essay writing. A typical essay:

- Develops a viable point of view on the issue;
- May stray from audience and purpose;
- Demonstrates some critical thinking but may do so inconsistently or use inadequate examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position;
- May lack control of organization or focus, demonstrating some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas; and
- Contains some errors in sentence structure and use of grammatical conventions such as word choice, usage, spelling, and punctuation.

SCORE OF 3

A response in this category demonstrates ***little mastery*** of on-demand essay writing; the response is flawed by ***one or more*** of the following weaknesses:

- Presents a vague or limited point of view on the issue;
- Demonstrates little awareness of audience;
- Attempts to develop the main idea though that attempt is inadequate;
- Demonstrates weak critical thinking with little complexity of thought or with flawed reasoning;
- Provides inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position;
- Is poorly organized and/or focused or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas;
- Displays limited word choice and little sentence variety; and
- Contains many errors in mechanical conventions of usage, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.



SCORE OF 2

A response in this category demonstrates ***very little mastery*** of on-demand essay writing; the response is flawed by ***many or most*** of the following weaknesses:

- Presents a vague or limited point of view on the issue;
- Demonstrates little awareness of audience;
- Presents an unclear main idea;
- Demonstrates weak critical thinking with little complexity of thought or with flawed reasoning;
- Organizes ideas ineffectively, demonstrating a problematic progression of ideas;
- Displays numerous errors in word choice, usage, and sentence structure; and
- Contains significant spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanical errors.

SCORE OF 1

A response in this category demonstrates ***no mastery*** of on-demand essay writing; the response is severely flawed by ***many or most*** of the following weaknesses:

- Lacks a viable point of view on the issue;
- Demonstrates no awareness of audience;
- Fails to present a main idea;
- Demonstrates flawed reasoning;
- Demonstrates no complexity of thought;
- Is disorganized and/or disjointed;
- Displays fundamental errors in word choice, usage, and sentence structure; and
- Contains pervasive spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanical errors.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

For additional information on the TSI Assessment, please contact an adviser/counselor at your institution.

© 2015 The College Board. College Board and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Board. All other products and services may be trademarks of their respective owners. Visit the College Board on the Web: www.collegeboard.org.

14b-10149a