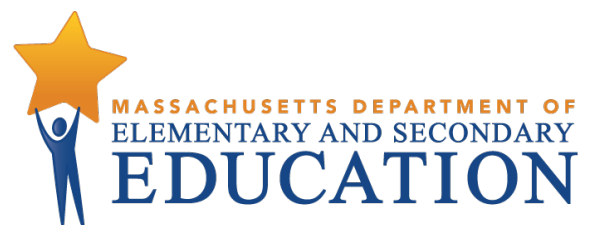


GOOD-TO-KNOW ASSESSMENT GUIDES

ESOL STUDENT EDITION

DECEMBER 2021



UMass**Amherst**



QR CODES TO ACCESS GUIDES

BEST PLUS



CLAS-E Reading



CLAS-E Writing



CLAS-E Locator



GOOD TO KNOW: Your Guide to the BEST Plus

What is the BEST Plus?

The BEST Plus is a test. It evaluates your English speaking and listening skills. You take the BEST Plus with a teacher.

- The teacher looks at a computer screen. The teacher asks you questions in English.
- You listen to each question. Then, you answer the question in English.



- Sometimes, you look at a picture and the teacher asks you a question about it.



The questions are about daily life, so just talk to your teacher in English the best that you can. Don't worry if you don't know how to answer a question. Ask the teacher to repeat the question or say, "I don't know".

Why do I need to take the BEST Plus?

It helps you and your teacher know how much English you can speak and where you need to improve.

When do I take the BEST Plus?

You take the BEST Plus two or three times a year.

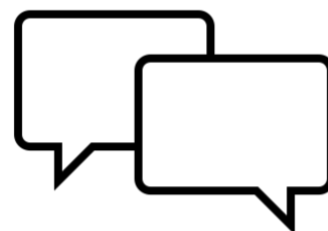
- You take a pre-test when you start English class
- You take a post-test when you end English class.

What does my score mean?

You can't pass or fail the BEST Plus. You can ask your teacher about your score after you take the test.

A test is something you do to show how much you know or how much you can do. You can also call it an evaluation or a measurement.

You take a test to get a driver's license. That test measures your level of driving skill. It is a way to make sure you are a safe driver.



You take a pre-test before you learn something. A pre-test shows you how much already know.

You take a post-test after you learn something. A post-test shows you how much you have learned.

GOOD TO KNOW: Your Guide to the CLAS-E Reading test

What is the CLAS-E Reading test?

The CLAS-E Reading test evaluates your English reading comprehension skills. There are four different CLAS-E Reading tests. You take one of them. Sometimes the teacher needs to give you a test called the Locator before you take the CLAS E Reading test. The Locator helps your teacher decide which reading level test is best for you.

- Check out the [GOOD TO KNOW Guide for the Locator Test](#).



A test is something you do to show how much you know or how much you can do. You can also call it an evaluation or a measurement.

You take a test to get a driver's license. That test measures your level of driving skill. It is a way to make sure you are a safe driver.

What happens during the CLAS-E Reading test?

During the test, the teacher reads the directions to you. Listen carefully and follow the directions. The questions on the CLAS-E Reading test are multiple-choice questions. The questions ask you about something you read or a picture. Answer the questions the best that you can.

Follow these steps to answer each question:

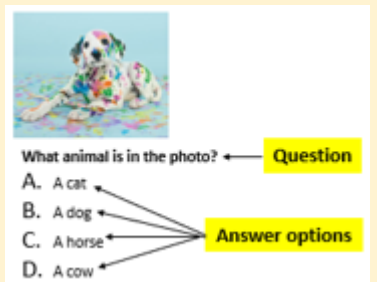
1. Read the question.
2. Read all the answer choices carefully.
3. Choose the right answer. If you are unsure of which answer choice is right, then choose the one that you think is right.

What types of questions are on the CLAS-E Reading test?

The questions are about daily life, so just answer the questions the best that you can.



A multiple-choice question is a question on a test that gives you answer options. You choose the correct answers. See the example below.



How many questions do I have to answer?

If you take the test on paper, there are 25 questions. If you take the test on the computer, there are 30 questions.

GOOD TO KNOW: Your Guide to the CLAS-E Reading test

Why do I need to take the CLAS-E Reading test?

It helps you and your teacher know your reading level and what you need to improve in reading.

When do I take the CLAS-E Reading test?

You take the CLAS-E Reading test two or three times a year.

- You take a pre-test when you start English class
- You take a post-test when you end English class.



How long will the test take?

You can take the paper test or the computer test:

- The paper test is 25 minutes.
- The computer test is 35 minutes.

These times do not include the time before and after the test. Ask your teacher how much time the entire test session will take.

What does the CLAS-E Reading test look like?

- For the paper test: You get a test booklet and an answer sheet.
- For the computer test: You see the questions on the computer screen. You select your answer using the computer mouse.



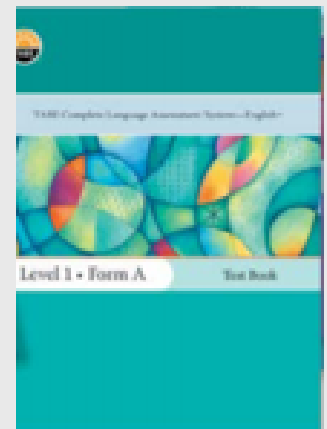
What does my score mean?

You can't pass or fail the CLAS-E Reading test. You and your teacher can talk about your test score after the test.

You take a pre-test before you learn something. A pre-test shows you how much already know.

You take a post-test after you learn something. A post-test shows you how much you have learned.

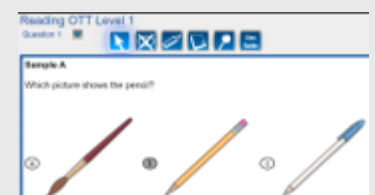
Test Booklet



Answer Sheet

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Computer Screen



GOOD TO KNOW: Your Guide to the CLAS-E Writing test

What is the CLAS-E Writing test?

The CLAS-E Writing test evaluates your English writing skills. There are four different CLAS-E Writing tests. You take one of them. Sometimes the teacher needs to give you a test called the Locator before you take the CLAS-E Writing test. The Locator helps your teacher decide which writing level test is best for you.

- Check out the [GOOD TO KNOW Guide for the Locator Test](#).

What happens during the CLAS-E Writing test?

During the test, the teacher reads the directions to you. Listen carefully and follow the directions. The CLAS-E Writing test has two parts. You answer multiple-choice questions for the first part.

Follow these steps to answer each multiple-choice question:

1. Read something or look at a picture.
2. Read the question.
3. Read all the answer choices carefully.
4. Choose the right answer. If you are unsure of which answer choice is right, then choose the one that you think is right.



You write the answer to the questions in the second part of the CLAS-E Writing test. Read everything carefully, then write your answer in English.

Follow these steps to answer each writing question:

1. Read the question.
2. Write your answer carefully.
3. Read your answers again. You can make changes if you want.

The writing questions ask you to do different things:

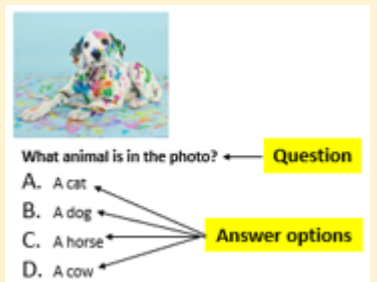
- Read something, then answer a question about what you read.
- Look at a picture, then write a sentence or two about the picture.
- Write a letter to someone.

A test is something you do to show how much you know or how much you can do. You can also call it an evaluation or a measurement.

You take a test to get a driver's license. That test measures your level of driving skill. It is a way to make sure you are a safe driver.



A multiple-choice question is a question on a test that gives you answer options. You choose the correct answers. See the example below.



GOOD TO KNOW: Your Guide to the CLAS-E Writing test

What types of questions are on the CLAS-E Writing test?

The questions are about daily life, so just answer the questions the best that you can.

How many questions do I have to answer?

There are 20 multiple-choice questions and 5 questions that you answer by writing something.

Why do I need to take the CLAS-E Writing test?

It helps you and your teacher know your writing level.

When do I take the CLAS-E Writing test?

You take the CLAS-E Writing test two times a year.

- You take a pre-test when you start English class.
- You take a post-test when you end English class.



What does the CLAS-E Writing test look like?

There are two ways to take the test. Some programs use the paper test, and some use the computer test.

- You get a test booklet and an answer sheet to take the paper test.
- The question appears on the computer screen. You choose your answer on the screen using the mouse or you type your answer using the keyboard.

How long will the test take?

You can take the paper test or the computer test:

- The paper test is 47 minutes.
- The computer test is 55 minutes.

These times do not include the time before and after the test. Ask your teacher how much time the entire test session will take.

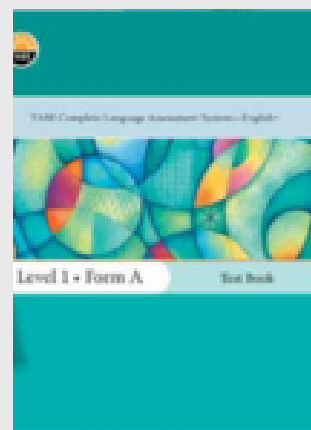
What does my score mean?

You can't pass or fail the CLAS-E Writing test. Ask your teacher about your score after you take the test.

You take a pre-test before you learn something. A pre-test shows you how much already know.

You take a post-test after you learn something. A post-test shows you how much you have learned.

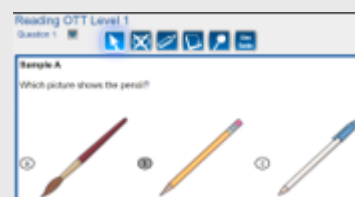
Test Booklet



Answer Sheet

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Computer Screen



GOOD TO KNOW: Your Guide to the CLAS-E Locator Test

What is the CLAS-E Locator test?

- Sometimes, the teacher needs to give you a Locator test before you take the CLAS-E Reading or Writing test.

Why do I take the Locator test?

- It helps the teacher to decide which CLAS-E Reading or Writing test is best for you.
- You get the best measurement of your reading or writing skills when you take the test that is best for you.



How long is the Locator test?

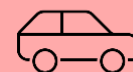
- There are 15 multiple-choice questions.
- You have 15 minutes to answer the questions.

What happens after I take the Locator test?

- Your teacher will decide on a level of CLAS-E Reading or Writing test for you.
- Sometimes your answers on the CLAS-E Reading or Writing test will show that the level you took was too easy or too difficult. Then, your teacher will ask you to take a different level of the test.
- It is important that the test is at the best level for you.
- A test that is at the best level for you helps you and your teacher know the level of your reading or writing skills when you start taking English classes.
- When you take the post-test, the test helps you see the change in your reading and writing skills.

A test is something you do to show how much you know or how much you can do. You can also call it an evaluation or a measurement.

You take a test to get a driver's license. That test measures your level of driving skill. It is a way to make sure you are a safe driver.



A measurement tells you how much of something you have. You might be most familiar with measurements of a person's height or weight. You measure height in centimeters or inches and weight in kilograms or pounds.



A score is a measurement of your reading or writing skills. The score tells you the amount or level of your reading or writing skills. Your score will change as you practice more reading or writing in English.