
**College of Science,
Technology and Applied Arts
of Trinidad and Tobago**



ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Candidates must complete all **60** multiple choice questions and chose **one** of two essay topics provided.
- The multiple choice questions are divided into **36 writing** and **24 reading** questions.
- The writing and reading sections comprise **three** (3) passages each.
- Candidates are allowed **25 minutes** to complete each writing and reading section.
- The duration of the examination is **2 1/2 hours**
- Candidates must read all examination instructions carefully.
- Answers to **ALL** questions must be placed **on the answer sheet** provided.

WRITING SKILLS

25 Minutes—36 Questions

PASSAGE I

World prices of wheat, coarse grains, rice and oilseed crops almost doubled between 2005 and 2007 and continued to rise in early 2008. There are many causes for this phenomena ¹ such as droughts in grain-producing regions, low stocks for cereals and oilseeds, increased use of feedstock in the production of biofuels, rapidly rising oil prices and a continuing devaluation of the US dollar, the currency used to quote the prices of these commodities. Many efforts are being made in Trinidad and Tobago to battle with this problem. ² These increases in agricultural commodity prices have been a significant factor in the rising cost of food and has led ³ to a greater awareness and heightened concern about food security and hunger, for us here in the Caribbean. ³

The National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) provides training in land preparation, greenhouse technology and irrigation techniques as well as information on the availability of credit and support services for the sector. ⁴ Government agencies have been established and set up to support farmers in Trinidad and Tobago and, by ⁵ extension, agricultural production. The Agricultural Development Bank and National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO) provides loans to farmers. ⁶

Efforts has been made to encourage individuals to grow they own food. The ⁷ Ministry of Agriculture has been distributing free seeds and seedlings to this end in various parts of the country. As a result many people starting to plant kitchen gardens irregardless of ⁸

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¹⁰

whether they have a backyard; or not. Those without backyards use flowerpots in any free space

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to grow a variety of food crops.

1. A. NO CHANGE
 B. these phenomenon
 C. these phenomenas
 D. this phenomenon

2. This sentence is best placed:

 A. NO CHANGE
 B. First in the paragraph
 C. Second in the paragraph
 D. Last in the paragraph

3. A. NO CHANGE
 B. cost of food and have led to a greater awareness
 C. cost of food and leads to a greater awareness
 D. cost of food and lead to a greater awareness

4. This sentence is best placed:

 A. NO CHANGE
 B. First in the paragraph
 C. Second in the paragraph
 D. Last in the paragraph

5. A. NO CHANGE
 B. was set up and established
 C. have been established
 D. have been set up and established

6. A. NO CHANGE
 B. provided
 C. provide
 D. providing

7. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Efforts are made
 C. Effort has been made
 D. Efforts have been made

8. A. NO CHANGE
B. to grow their own food
C. to grow they're own food
D. to grow there own food
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. people starts to
C. people started to
D. people have started to
10. A. NO CHANGE
B. regardless of whether
C. regardless of weather
D. irregardless of weather
11. A. NO CHANGE
B. backyard, or not.
C. backyard: or not.
D. backyard or not.
12. Which of the following sentences would best strengthen the last paragraph?
- A. Some of the food crops grown in these kitchen gardens are chive, celery, flavouring peppers and ochroes.
- B. Consequently, the crops that individuals grow are chive, celery, flavouring peppers and ochroes.
- C. Also the crops that individuals grow in these kitchen gardens are chive, celery, flavouring peppers and ochroes.
- D. But the crops that individuals grow are chive, celery, flavouring peppers and ochroes
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READING SKILLS

25 Minutes—24 Questions

DIRECTIONS: There are three passages in this test. Each is followed by eight (8) questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question. You may look back at the passage as often as you wish. Mark each answer by filling in the corresponding space on the answer sheet.

You have 25 minutes to work on this test. Work quickly and carefully.

DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

PASSAGE I

The time when the rains didn't come for months and the sun was a yellow furnace in the sky was known as the Great Drought of Trinidad. It happened when everyone was expecting the sky to burst open with rain to fill the dry streams and water the parched earth.

But each day was the same; the sun rose early in a blue sky, and all day long the farmers lifted their eyes, wondering what had happened to Parjanya, the rain god. They rested on their hoes and forks and wrung perspiration from their clothes, seeing no hope in labour, terrified by the thought that if no rain fell soon they would lose their crops and livestock and face starvation and death.

In the tiny village of Las Lomas, out in his vegetable garden, Manko licked dry lips and passed a wet sleeve over his dripping face. Somewhere in the field a cow mooed mournfully, sniffing around for a bit of green in the cracked earth. The field was a desolation of drought. The trees were naked and barks peeled off trunks as if they were diseased. When the wind blew, it was heavy and unrelieving, as if the heat had taken all the spirit out of it. But Manko still opened his shirt and turned his chest to it when it passed.

He was a big man, grown brown and burnt over years of working on the land. His arms were bent and he had a crouching position even when he stood upright. When he laughed he showed more tobacco stain than teeth.

But Manko had not laughed for a long time. Bush fires had swept Las Lomas and left the garden plots charred and smoking. Cattle were dropping dead in the heat. There were scarcely any water in the village; the river was dry with scummy mud. But with patience one could collect a bucket of water.

Adapted from "A Drink of Water" by Samuel Selvon.

1. In the last paragraph, *charred* most nearly means:
 - A. dried
 - B. burnt/scorched
 - C. brown
 - D. overcooked
2. Which of the following is NOT a description of Manko?
 - A. hard working
 - B. tarnished brown in complexion
 - C. a smoker
 - D. a family man

3. What was the name of the rain god?
- A. Manko
 - B. Parjanya
 - C. Las Lomas
 - D. The Great Drought
4. Which of the following was NOT mentioned as being the result of the drought?
- A. dry streams
 - B. bush fires
 - C. no fish
 - D. parched earth
5. Manko still opened his shirt (third paragraph) because he:
- A. liked the way it looked
 - B. wanted to show his abdominal muscles
 - C. wanted to feel cool as the wind blew
 - D. wanted to be comfortable
6. The *Great Drought* occurred in
- A. Las Lomas
 - B. Tobago
 - C. Caribbean
 - D. Trinidad
7. Which of the following is not stated or implied in the passage?
- A. It was very hot and parched during the drought
 - B. When the wind blew it did not have a cooling effect
 - C. The rain god was angry
 - D. Farmers were afraid of losing their crops and livestock
8. Manko is most likely a:
- A. rain god
 - B. banker
 - C. farmer
 - D. fisherman

ESSAY WRITING SKILLS

Choose one of the following topics to write an essay of no fewer than **450** words.

9. A favorite sport or hobby and the reasons you enjoy it

10. An important person and his/her influence on your life

SAMPLE

Answers

Writing

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. D
10. B
11. D
12. A

Reading

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. C