

X-Cel Writing Diagnostic % Mastery by Competency

This is the percentage of students who mastered (in this case getting 3 of 4 or 4 of 4 questions correct) each competency on the diagnostic assessment.

Sentences	60.87%
Nouns and Pronouns	39.13%
Verbs and Verb Tenses	56.52%
Subject/Verb Agreement	60.87%
Adjectives and Adverbs	60.87%
Modifying Phrases	34.78%
Capitalization	39.13%
Punctuation	52.17%
Spelling	69.57%
Combining Ideas in Sentences	47.83%
Writing Effective Sentences	60.87%
Style and Diction	26.09%
Tone and Diction	91.30%
Paragraph Structure and Topic Sentences	43.48%

DIRECTIONS: Choose the one BEST answer for each question.

1. Watch out for that falling ladder.

Which correction should be made to the sentence?

- A. Insert a subject
- B. Replace the period with a question mark
- C. Replace the period with an exclamation point
- D. Insert a predicate

2. During the long bus trip from Baltimore to Florida, many passengers slept.

In the sentence above, the subject is:

- A. bus.
- B. many.
- C. passengers.

In the sentence above, the verb is:

- F. During.
- G. many.
- H. slept.

3. The movie audience shrieked in terror and glee at the sight of the seven-headed monster.

In the sentence above, the subject is:

- A. audience.
- B. terror.
- C. monster.

In the sentence above, the verb is:

- F. shrieked.
- G. glee.
- H. sight.

4. Because the air pollution was so bad.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. Because the air pollution
- B. Laws were passed because the air pollution
- C. Air pollution, which
- D. A source of air pollution that

5. **The managers have divided the work equally between you and she.**

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. Change have divided to has divided
- B. Change equally to equal
- C. Replace between with among
- D. Replace she with her

6. **The students excuse for turning in their group project late was not believable.**

Which is the correct form of the underlined noun? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. students
- B. students'
- C. student's
- D. students's

7. **As soon as Tony drove the car off their lot, it began backfiring. People pointed at him and his car. Smoke rose from under it's hood.**

Which correction should be made to these sentences?

- A. change their to their's
- B. replace it with his
- C. replace him with he
- D. replace it's with its

8. **The mayor feels strongly that solution to this city's problems must come from we citizens.**

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. this city's serious problems must come from we citizens.
- B. this city's serious problems must come from us citizens.
- C. this citys serious problems must come from us citizens.
- D. this city's seriously problems must come from we citizens.

25. The press release said that senator Salazar will, as usual, be in his home district in late summer.

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. change press release to Press Release
- B. change senator to Senator
- C. remove the commas before and after as usual
- D. insert a comma after said

26. The mbta expects everyone to pay a fare.

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. change fare to Fare
- B. change mbta to MBTA
- C. change the period to an exclamation point
- D. insert a comma after expects

27. Every four years in the summer, the presidential candidates travel East to west trying to earn support for their campaigns.

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. change summer to Summer
- B. change presidential to Presidential
- C. change East to east
- D. change west to West

28. "Dad, will you tell me a story about your Uncle, the one who went gold prospecting in Alaska?"

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. Dad, will you tell me a story about your Uncle
- B. Dad, will you tell me a story about your uncle
- C. Dad, will you tell me a story about you're Uncle
- D. Dad will you tell me a story about your Uncle

37. If you pay that fine, you will lose your driver's license.

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. replace If with Unless
- B. remove the comma after fine
- C. change will to would
- D. replace If with However

38. Rhode Island not only is the smallest state but also near the ocean.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. not only is the smallest state but also near the ocean
- B. is both the smallest state but also near the ocean
- C. not only is the smaller state but also is near the ocean
- D. not only is the smallest state but also is near the ocean

39. I usually listen to music, but I run around the pond.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. music, but
- B. music although
- C. music so
- D. music while

40. Boston will have no public transportation tomorrow. Because bus drivers are going on strike.

Which is the best way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. tomorrow. Because
- B. tomorrow; because
- C. tomorrow because
- D. tomorrow, because

45. Byron went to cooking class so that the meals that are cooked by him would be meals that taste much better.

Which is the clearest way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. the meals that are cooked by him would be meals that taste much better
- B. he could cook better-tasting meals
- C. the meals that he could cook would be better tasting meals
- D. he could taste meals made by better cooks

46. The belief that many experts think is true is that California will suffer another earthquake within 10 years.

Which is the clearest way to write the underlined portion of the sentence? If the original is the best way, choose (A).

- A. The belief that many experts think is true is
- B. The belief held by a majority of distinguished experts is
- C. Many experts believe
- D. It is true

47. Like Mr. Murray said, about 200 people applied for this job.

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. change said to will say
- B. remove the comma after said
- C. replace Like with As
- D. replace about with around

48. The climate in the Caribbean is considered tropical even though it has lots of sun and rainfall.

Which correction should be made to this sentence?

- A. insert a comma after tropical
- B. insert a semicolon after tropical
- C. replace even though with however
- D. replace even though with since