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CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC  
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**AUGUST/2009**

# **ENGLISH 30 ADMISSIONS EXAM**

**INFORMATION GUIDE**

## Important information about the SAIT English 30 Admission Exam

The SAIT English 30 admission exam allows students to meet the English 30-1/30-2 requirement for SAIT programs. The exam can be used for only for this purpose; it is not for high school credit and it cannot be used for admission to other institutions.

This exam cannot be used to provide proof of English proficiency. For English proficiency requirements, contact Student Services (formerly Customer Services) at 403.284.7248, or contact English Language Foundations at 403.210.4045.

The English admission exam has three parts:

- **Part 1**, Writing: Paragraph response to a visual communication
- **Part 2**, Reading Comprehension – Multiple choice
- **Part 3**, Persuasive Writing: Essay response to a selection of fiction or non-fiction

You may write all three parts in one day, or you may write the exam over more than one day if required. The exam is completed on a drop-in basis and the fee is \$50. See the Testing Services section of the web site at [www.sait.ca/testing](http://www.sait.ca/testing) for hours of operation and location.

You are permitted to use an English dictionary and thesaurus for Parts 1 and 3.

Parts 1 and 2 are worth 25% each of the total exam score. Part 3 is worth 50% of the total exam score. A minimum score of 65% on EACH of the three sections is required in order for the mark to be used for admission to SAIT. Any marks below 65% can NOT be used for admission to SAIT even if a specific program has an admission requirement lower than 65%.

### Part 1: Written Response to a Visual Communication (1 hour)

In paragraph form, you will be asked to write about a comic strip. You will be required to:

- ***Explain what is happening in the comic strip.*** Support your response by referring to specific details in the comic strip.
- ***Describe, in detail, the main ideas*** that the author is trying to communicate to the reader.
- ***Explain how the writer has communicated*** the main idea of the comic strip. How does he/she use language and art to communicate?
- ***Explain how effectively the ideas are being communicated.*** Is the author successful in communicating his/her message? Has the author used an appropriate method (comic strip) for communicating these ideas?

#### Marking criteria for Part 1:

- Content (thought and detail): 40%
- Organization: 20%
- Writing skills (language usage): 20%
- Writing skills (mechanics): 20%

## **Part 2: Reading Comprehension (Multiple Choice) (1.5 hours)**

This part of the exam will measure how well you can read and understand a passage as well as assess your use of language skills. In total, there are 50 multiple choice questions based upon 15 reading selections.

## **Part 3: Persuasive Writing (2 hours)**

This section requires that you read a short selection of fiction or non-fiction and respond to a particular idea using support in your response from your own life experiences and knowledge. You will be required to:

- *Consider the ideas* that are being communicated to you.
- *Think about the author's beliefs and opinions* about the main idea.
- *Use your own experiences* and/or observations to support your opinion.
- Present your ideas in *essay* form.

### **Marking criteria for Part 3:**

- Content (thought and detail): 40%
- Organization: 20%
- Writing Skills (language usage): 20%
- Writing Skills (mechanics): 20%

## **Preparing for the Exam**

Resources for review include:

- Alberta Education English 30-2 guide for students:  
<http://education.alberta.ca/students/exams/guides.aspx> (click on English Language Arts 30-2)

Note that this guide does not precisely match our exam; for example, our sections are not structured in the same way, the scoring system is different, and we do not allow use of writing handbooks on the written sections (though we do allow a dictionary and thesaurus on Parts 1 and 3). However, the guide contains many excellent suggestions on how to construct your written work.

- If you require a review of grammar, punctuation, and paragraph/essay/critical writing, consult guides and books available in libraries or bookstores.
- You may also practice reading a piece of fiction or non-fiction and then critically responding to it in an essay format.