Preparation Guidelines for the Accuplacer
Sentence Skills Test

The Purpose of the ACCUPLACER TEST
The purpose of ACCUPLACER test is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in reading, sentence skills and math. The results of the assessment, along with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by advisors to determine your course selection. These are not intelligence tests and you cannot "pass" or "fail" the placement tests, but it is very important that you do your very best on these tests so that you will have an accurate measure of your academic skills.

Who Must Take the Test
Most students seeking acceptance into a professional technical certificate or degree program must take the Accuplacer assessment test prior to enrollment. Many general education courses also require specific test scores. For further information on which programs require testing, please contact the Admissions & Student Resource Center at 360-752-8345 or admissions@btc.ctc.edu.

Types of Information Tested
Students entering programs with admissions requirements will be tested on Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills and Arithmetic tests. Students are automatically given the Algebra based on their achievement on the Arithmetic exam. Programs requiring higher math levels include: Civil Engineering, Dental Hygiene, Electronics, Electro Mechanical Technology, Instrumentation & Control, Mechanical Engineering, Process Technology, Radiologic Technology, Registered Nursing, Surgery Technology, Geomatic Technology, and Veterinary Technician. Students who want to place directly into MATH&107, MATH&141or MATH&146 will need to take the BTC College Level Math test.

Test Administration
You may take your Accuplacer test after payment is made at the Campus Store, Campus Store Online, or the BTC Cashier. The Accuplacer test is administered by computer. You will work at your own computer station. You will read the instructions and questions on the computer monitor and select your answers using the computer keyboard or mouse. Only basic computer skills are needed. A tutorial is available for students who need additional computer support. Some oral instructions will be provided.

Answering Accuplacer Test Questions
The number of test questions ranges from 12-21 per test. The questions will appear one at a time on the computer screen. Questions are multiple-choice and require you to use the mouse to select the desired answer. When you have completed each question and verified your answer, the next question will appear on your screen.
**What to Bring with You to the Test**

On the day of the test **you will need to bring picture ID**. No exceptions will be made to this policy. Textbooks, notebooks, dictionaries, calculators or papers of any kind cannot be used during the test. Scratch paper and pencils will be provided.

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**Order of the Tests**

The Accuplacer tests are presented in the following order: Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic and, if applicable, Elementary Algebra. If you are **retaking** an Accuplacer test, be sure to specify which test(s) you need to retake when you check in with the proctor. The test administrator will set up the computer so that it presents only the test(s) that you need to retake.

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**Score Reporting**

When you have completed all the tests, the test administrator will print out a report of your scores for you. You may then meet with an advisor. He or she will explain the results and make recommendations.

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**Testing Fee**

The Accuplacer test fee is $21 for one full battery of exams plus one re-test of any desired exams in the battery of tests within one year’s time. Before you can be placed on the waiting list for a degree/certificate program, you must submit a Degree/Certificate Program Admissions Application in addition to passing the Accuplacer test. Certain programs have additional requirements.

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**Special Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability that requires testing accommodations, such as use of a calculator, reader, and/or private testing room, please make an intake appointment with the Accessibility Resources Office at (360) 752-8576 or (360) 752-8450. After your initial intake and review of your documentation by AR, you will be contacted and your Accuplacer appointment will be made at that time.

NOTE: Please allow 2-4 weeks after documentation review for testing. If you have any questions regarding Accessibility Resources, please refer to our website at [www.btc.ctc.edu/AR](http://www.btc.ctc.edu/AR)

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**Accuplacer Website**

For more information about the test (how it works, sample questions, etc.) go to [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html). Sample questions and some hints about the assessment are included at this site. Remember that your questions will differ from these because the computer will select questions that challenge you without making the test too difficult.

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**Other Resources**

Bellingham Technical College recommends [www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com), a free math tutorial resource. Also, an online version of this study guide appears at [www.btc.ctc.edu/Assessment](http://www.btc.ctc.edu/Assessment) and the Bellingham Technical College Library and Basic Academic Skills department both have resources listed at the end of this study guide.
Sentence Skills

This portion of the Accuplacer Test is required for those who seek to enroll in all levels of writing and English BTC coursework. Sentence Skills may also be taken as part of a part of a series of tests for students who do not have a high school diploma of GED and are applying for state financial aid.

The test contains up to twenty Sentence Skills questions of two types. The first type is sentence correction questions, which require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence. The second type of question is construction shift. These ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original question. Like questions in the Reading Comprehension section, these questions are developed from various categories of information, including social sciences, natural and physical sciences, human relations and practical affairs, and the arts. The following samples, developed by and used with permission of the College Board, illustrate this portion of the Accuplacer Test.

Sentence Correction Examples
Select the best version of the bold part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

1) Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next summer.
   A. planning
   B. are planning
   C. with a plan
   D. plans

2) She hoped to find a new job. One that would let her earn money during the school year.
   A. job. One that
   B. job. The kind that
   C. job, one that
   D. job, so that it

3) To walk, biking, and driving are Pat’s favorite ways of getting around.
   A. To walk, biking, and driving
   B. Walking, biking, and driving
C. To walk, biking, and to drive  
D. To walk, to bike, and also driving

**CONSTRUCTION SHIFT EXAMPLES**
Rewrite the sentence in your head, following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the sentence given you.

4) Being a female jockey, she was often interviewed.  
   Rewrite, beginning with  
   She was often interviewed...

   The next words will be  
   A. on account of she was  
   B. by her being  
   C. because she was  
   D. being as she was

5) In his songs, Gordon Lightfoot makes melody and lyrics intricately intertwine.  
   Rewrite, beginning with  
   Melody and lyrics...

   Your new sentence will include  
   A. Gordon Lightfoot has  
   B. make Gordon Lightfoot's  
   C. in Gordon Lightfoot's  
   D. does Gordon Lightfoot

6) It is easy to carry solid objects without spilling them, but the same cannot be said of liquids.  
   Rewrite, beginning with  
   Unlike liquids, ...

   The next words will be  
   A. it is easy to  
   B. we can easily  
   C. solid objects can easily be  
   D. solid objects are easy to be

*For extra practice you may find the practice test items on the Sentence Correction section of the website, www.testprepreview.com helpful.

**ANSWER KEY:** 1) D  2) C  3) B  4) C  5) C  6) C

**RESOURCES FOR SENTENCE SKILLS REVIEW**
Students may choose from a variety of resources that can assist in refreshing basic academic skills. Depending on your time schedule, learning style, or the level of assistance needed, choose the option that will work for you. You may also choose to meet with a counselor or advisor to obtain their recommendation.

1. **INDEPENDENT STUDY**
   **LIBRARY**
   Listed are some of the resources located in our library. Some of these are available for checkout and some are for use in the library it is open to the community. You do not have to be a student at BTC to use the resources. The Library is located in A Building and is open during the following days and times:
   - Monday to Thursday: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
   - Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
   - Saturday: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
   - Sunday: Closed

   The Library has a variety of materials available for basic skill review. Those listed below are a small sampling. Please feel free to ask our Library staff for assistance.

   **READING MATERIALS**
   - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) materials, including cassettes.
   - Reading Drills: Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Level
   - *Ten Steps To Building College Reading Skills*
   - Assorted GED preparation materials, covering reading and math.

   You may go on-line to practice your skills. These sites, [www.testprepreview.com](http://www.testprepreview.com), [http://collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html](http://collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html), [http://www.studyguidezone.com/](http://www.studyguidezone.com/) has a wide range of practice tests. Please note that these are generic test questions.

2. **Basic Academic Skills**
   Adult Basic Education classes are taught in the Learning Center in an individualized and small group study atmosphere. Basic Academic Skills is open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. as well as evening hours. Please check our quarterly schedule for current registration information or contact the Admissions Office for assistance from our advising staff. Running Start students are not eligible to use BAS and should seek assistance at their high school.

3. **STRUCTURED CLASS**
   **BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS REFRESHER COURSES**
   RDG 85 – Reading Skills at BTC. For those who score at least 50 on the Accuplacer Reading Comprehension test, this course satisfies the reading requirement for program entry.

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Mission Statement: BTC’s mission is to deliver superior professional technical education for today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities
Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, genetic information, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment. All inquiries regarding compliance with access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to the Associate Director of Human Resources, Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225, or call (360) 752-8354 or 752-8515/TTY.

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