

GECE Preparation Workshop

The exam has 2 parts. You can pass one part OR the other; thus a “fail” means both parts were failed.

Part 1: Objective

- Sentence Structure and Grammar (30 questions, 20 minutes)
 - Run-on sentences
 - Fragments
 - Subject-verb agreement
 - Pronoun-antecedent problems
 - Wordiness
 - Verb tense mistakes
 - Vague pronoun reference
 - Comma splices
 - Lack of parallel structure
 - Misplaced and dangling modifiers
 - Pronoun case errors
 - Adjective-adverb confusion
 - Present participle mistakes
 - Misuse of comma
- Sentence and Syntax Skills (40 questions, 15 minutes)

Part 2: Essay—90 minutes; 4-5 choices.

Essay judged on:

1. Maturity of content
2. Logic
3. Organization and paragraph development
4. Mastery of standard usage, grammar, and punctuation.

Sample Topics

1. What do you consider the most important event of the last decade? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with clearly articulated reasons and specific examples.
2. More and more students are interested in taking online classes because of the convenience. If you have taken an online class, compare and contrast the experience with traditional classroom learning. Be sure to use specific examples to illustrate your discussion. State clearly in the essay whether or not online learning is equal to or better than traditional learning.
3. Invention and technology have always been an important part of changing the way one lives. Things that did not exist when your parents or grandparents were young now have changed the way most people in this country live. Some of those inventions are large and others are small. No matter what their size, they have altered the lives of the average person today. Write about how one such invention that came about in the last hundred years or so has caused a significant change in the way people live their lives on a daily basis.

GECE: Part 1
Sample Questions

Sentence Structure & Grammar Test (20 minutes, 30 questions)

Section 1: In this section, each question contains 4 sentences. Choose the one that is best.

Example:

- A. One of the musicians who is Eric has been looking for a practice room.
- B. Eric, one of the musicians, are looking for a practice room.
- C. Eric who is one of the musicians who are looking for a practice room.
- D. Eric, one of the musicians, is looking for a practice room.

Answer: "D" is the only choice that makes sense and is grammatically correct.

Section 2: In this section, you are given a sentence which has words left out. Fill in the blank space and complete the sentence by choosing the correct answer from the choices given.

Example: The workers left early and _____ home.

- A) gone
- B) went
- C) have dinner
- D) drives

Answer: "B" is the only answer that makes sense and is grammatically correct.

Section 3: In this section, you are first given two sentences. Then you are given four choices of how these two sentences can be combined. Choose the best answer.

Example: The traffic was heavy. I was late to work.

- A. I was late to work because the traffic was heavy.
- B. I was late to work, so the traffic was heavy.
- C. The traffic was heavy, I was late to work.
- D. The traffic was heavy: and then I was late to work.

Answer: "A" is the only sentence that makes sense and is grammatically correct.

Sentence & Syntax Skills (15 minutes, 40 questions)

Directions: Words have been left out of reading passages. Choose the answer that will correctly fill in the blank. When you finish, you should have a logical and grammatical passage. It may be useful to try to read the passage through to check your answers. Don't get stuck; if one blank is difficult to fill in, go on to the next one.

Example:

It used to be common for dentists to have to remove teeth. However, with modern technology,

(1) _____ visits to the dentist's office and good (2) _____ hygiene at home, most people can keep
(3) _____ teeth for their entire lives.

1.

- a. the
- b. infrequent
- c. regular
- d. often

2.

- a. dental
- b. person
- c. cleaning
- d. tooth

3.

- a. their
- b. his
- c. front
- d. cleaned

Answers: (1) c (2) a (3) a
