nscc

Preparing for the Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT)

Homeschooled applicants, applicants with an Individual Program Plan (IPP), mature applicants, and applicants who lack sufficient recognized documentation of secondary education will require further assessment. Assessment is based on established equivalencies and involves additional testing to determine academic readiness for post-secondary programs.

One of these assessments, the Canadian Adult Achievement Test **(CAAT)**, has been designed specifically for the Canadian adult, regardless of his or her previous school experience. The CAAT measures your skills in number operations, reading comprehension, and problem solving to help determine your academic readiness for post-secondary programs.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Format:

- Paper-based
- Multiple-choice

Areas being assessed:

- Reading Comprehension (50 questions--40 minutes)
  - o Designed to measure comprehension of written material
- Number Operations (40 questions--40 minutes)
  - o Designed to assess concepts of numbers and computation
- Problem Solving (40 questions--40 minutes)
  - o Designed to measure the ability to determine an outcome, record and retrieve information, and use geometric concepts

PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

- Review this guide and work through the sample questions, which are similar to the types of questions and areas being assessed on the CAAT. Working through the sample questions can help you identify areas you may want to focus on when preparing for your testing session. If you would like additional practice, many other Canadian colleges have preparation guides available on their websites.
- Review general strategies for taking multiple-choice tests. We have provided some general on-line preparation resources below.
- Being nervous is natural! If you are concerned about test-related anxiety, we encourage you to look into books and on-line resources that can give you some tips on how to work through these issues, including the ones we have provided below.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Hunger can be a distraction when writing an assessment, so eat a healthy meal or snack prior to your session.
- Wear comfortable clothing. Also, consider dressing in layers, as the room temperature could change during the session.
- Arrive early for your assessment appointment.
- Make sure you understand where you need to go on campus to write your assessment. Ask for clear directions when you confirm your assessment appointment.
- Listen carefully to the test instructions and follow directions. If you have further questions, ask the test administrator for additional clarification.
- CAAT is a multiple-choice assessment, which will require you to choose the best answer out of several options. We encourage you to review resources on strategies for taking multiple-choice tests, including the ones listed below.

- As these assessments are timed, it is important to try to work steadily and answer as many questions as you can during the session. If you are having difficulty with answering a question, move on to the next one in the section, then come back to it if you still have time left.
- If you are really struggling with a section of the assessment, don't give up! Keep working through the section and utilize strategies for taking multiple-choice tests, which can increase the likelihood of choosing the correct answer.

RESOURCES

General Assessment Preparation

Many resources and guides for general test preparation are available on the Internet and in books (check your local library).

NSCC offers a free resource with video workshops and resources for many student success concerns, including test preparation:

https://www.studentlingo.com/nscc

- Under "Learning to Learn"
  - How to Reduce Test Anxiety
  - Exam Preparation Tips & Test-Taking Strategies
  - How to Overcome Math Anxiety
  - Reading Comprehension Strategies

- Video Workshop Resources, which includes guides and links to additional information covered in these workshops

Reading Comprehension

Web Resources:

- Student Lingo--Reading Comprehension Strategies (video and resources)
- http://testprep.about.com/od/readingtesttips/
- http://www.ehow.com/way_5256779_reading-comprehension-test-tips.html
- http://classroom.synonym.com/tips-answering-comprehension-tests-4179.html

Number Operations

Topics that may be helpful to review:

- Whole numbers
  - Addition
  - Subtraction
  - Multiplication
  - Division
  - Square roots
- Fractions
  - Addition
  - Subtraction
  - Multiplication
  - Division
- Decimals
  - Addition

- - - Subtraction
  - o Multiplication
  - o Division
- Percentages
  - o Changing fractions to percentages
  - o Changing decimals to percentages
  - o Calculating a percentage of a number
  - o Calculating a number for a known percentage
- Signed Numbers (Integers)
  - o Adding signed numbers/integers
  - o Subtracting signed numbers/integers
  - o Multiplying signed numbers/integers
  - o Dividing signed numbers/integers
- Basic Algebra
  - o Order of operations
  - o Exponents
  - o Solving an equation for an unknown value

Web Resources:

- https://www.wolframalpha.com/
- https://www.khanacademy.org/
- https://www.studentlingo.com   [search on math anxiety]
- http://www.studygeek.org/
- https://www.youtube.com/user/videomathtutor (YouTube tutorials)
- https://www.youtube.com/user/patrickJMT (YouTube tutorials)
- https://www.youtube.com/user/Mathademics (YouTube tutorials)

Problem Solving

Web Resources:

- https://www.studygs.net/mathproblems.htm
- https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-seventh-grade-math/cc-7th-fractions-decimals (see the Percent and Multi-step Word Problems sections)

Sample Assessment Questions

The sample questions below are similar to questions you may see on the actual CAAT assessment, which can help you see what the assessment may look like, as well as help identify some areas you may want to focus on when preparing for your testing session.

READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: Read each sample. Choose the best answer for each question.

Chocolate Chip Muffins

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ Above Average

Yield: Makes 12

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup chocolate chips
- ¾ cup milk

- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon sanding sugar

Directions

1. Heat oven to 400 degree F (205 degrees C). Coat the muffin pan cups with cooking spray or line them with baking cups and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, mix dry ingredients--flour, baking powder, ½ cup white sugar, salt, and chocolate chips.
3. In a medium bowl, combine wet ingredients--milk, oil, and egg until well-blended.
4. Add the medium bowl with the wet ingredients to the large bowl with the dry ingredients; stir just until dry ingredients are moistened (mixture will still have lumps).
5. Fill each muffin pan cup to approximately 2/3 full.
6. In a small bowl, combine two tablespoons of white sugar, two tablespoons of brown sugar, and one tablespoon of chunky sanding sugar; sprinkle the mixture on top of the muffins.
7. Bake the muffins for 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out dry.
8. Remove muffins from the pan and cool on a rack for 10-15 minutes.

Sample 1: How many bowls does this recipe instruct you to use?

a. 5
b. 2
c. 3
d. 1

Sample 2: Which one of the following is not an ingredient of this recipe?

a. Baking soda
b. Flour
c. Baking powder
d. Sugar

Sample 3: What does it mean if the toothpick inserted into the center of the muffin is not dry?

a. The muffin has finished baking
b. The muffin has burned
c. The muffin is not finished baking
d. The muffin needs to cool down

Sample 4: What will likely happen if you forget to grease the muffin pan cups or insert baking cups?

a. The muffins will not cook evenly
b. The muffins will stick to the cups
c. The muffins will not rise
d. The muffin batter will not stay in the cups

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100 Main St.
Halifax, NS B3M 1A1
November 1, 2014

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with valuable feedback on our holiday drink menu. Regrettably, I can confirm that your neighborhood café was correct—we will not be offering our Peppermint White Hot Chocolate this winter. We are committed to offering new seasonal beverages each year, so sometimes we have to discontinue items in order to make room for new options. We try to integrate customer feedback and suggestions into our menu selections, so we genuinely appreciate you letting us know that you would like to see this drink back on the menu.

While we no longer have your favorite drink, I am enclosing two free drink coupons for you to come in and try one of our new drinks or something else that may become a new favourite. As someone who also enjoys peppermint drinks, I'd suggest trying our White Hot Chocolate mixed with peppermint pieces and a splash of mint syrup, which might be a good alternative. We look forward to serving you soon!

Sincerely,

Robert Smith
Manager, Halifax Café
Sample 5: The main purpose of Mr. Smith's letter is to:

a. Complain about Ms. Brown's letter
b. Defend the neighborhood café's response to Ms. Brown
c. Advertise the holiday drink menu

d. Provide additional customer service to Ms. Brown

Sample 6: Why did Mr. Smith likely give Ms. Brown free drink coupons?

a. To encourage Ms. Brown to come back to the café
b. He does not want the café to make money
c. He feels guilty for offering new menu items
d. He also loves peppermint beverages

Sample 7: The tone of Mr. Smith's letter is:

a. Enraged
b. Disinterested
c. Appreciative
d. Pessimistic

For sale: 2011 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5L

Date listed: 1-Nov-14	
Price: $12,999.00	
Phone: (902) 444-4444	
E-mail: jtvw@nscc.ca	
For sale by: Owner	
Year: 2011	
Trim: Comfortline	
Make: Volkswagen	
Model: Jetta	
Kilometers: 56,546	
Body type: Sedan	
Transmission: Manual	
Drivetrain: Front-wheel drive	
Color: Black	
Fuel type: Gasoline	

Description:

Single-owner vehicle in excellent condition! Inspected to July 2016, all maintenance is up-to-date, and all service records are available. We will also give the purchaser a new set of winter rims and tires. Reason for selling is that we no longer need two vehicles.

Includes:

- Alloy Wheels
- Anti-Lock Brakes (ABS)
- Anti-Theft
- Dual Airbag
- Keyless Entry
- Power Mirrors
- Power Seat
- Power Steering

- Power Windows
- Bucket Seats
- Heated Seats
- Cruise Control
- Front Wheel Drive
- Power Door Locks
- Traction Control System
- Tinted windows
- Splash guards
- Chrome-tipped exhaust pipes

Sample 8: The car is described as being owned by:

a. A used car dealership
b. A private seller
c. A Volkswagen dealer
d. An auction facility

Sample 9: This advertisement does not indicate:

a. How to contact the seller
b. The type of transmission
c. The vehicle has had a single owner
d. Financing is available through the seller

Sample 10: Based on the advertisement, the vehicle will include:

a. Winter rims and tires
b. Air conditioning
c. Leather interior
d. All-wheel drive

Answers:

1) c
2) a
3) c
4) b
5) d
6) a
7) c
8) b
9) d
10) a

NUMBER OPERATIONS

Directions: Read each problem, work out the solution, and select the best possible answer. If your answer is "Not Given", select that answer.

Sample 1: 1/3 is the same as what percent?

a. 30
b. 33.33
c. 13
d. 300
e. Not Given

Sample 2:

$$
\begin{array}{r}
27 \\
120 \\
13 \\
+ 98 \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

a. 258
b. 285
c. 1500
d. 148
e. Not Given

Sample 3:

$$\frac{56\,802}{6} =$$

a. 9767
b. 9467
c. 9368
d. 9767
e. Not Given

Sample 4:

$$
\begin{array}{r}
986532 \\
- 864208 \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

a. 123456
b. 122324
c. 122336
d. 122252
e. Not Given

Sample 5:

$$727$$
$$\times 365$$

a. 376466
b. 265354
c. 265535
d. 256554
e. Not Given

Sample 6:

19% of 25 =

a. 118.75
b. .76
c. 29.75
d. 4.75
e. Not Given

Sample 7:

4x – 9 = 2x + 15

a. 12
b. 24
c. 4
d. 1
e. Not Given

Sample 8:

$\sqrt{25}$

a. 125
b. 1
c. 625
d. 4
e. Not Given

Sample 9:

1.135 + 5.67 + 0.852 =

a. 6.8902
b. 2.554
c. 7.657
d. 2.549
e. Not Given

Sample 10:

3/4 ÷ 1/4 =

a. 3
b. 1
c. 3/16
d. 2.25
e. Not Given

Sample 11:

$$\frac{1}{4} = \frac{n}{36}$$

a. 9
b. 144
c. 8
d. 1/9
e. Not Given

Sample 12:

9 x (-12) =

a. 3
b. 108
c. 918
d. -108
e. Not Given

Sample 13:

$3^4 + 10^3 =$

a. 30
b. 42
c. 1081
d. 360
e. Not Given

Answers:

1) b
2) a
3) b
4) b
5) e
6) d
7) a
8) e
9) c
10) a
11) a
12) d

13) c

PROBLEM SOLVING

Directions: Read each problem, work out the solution, and select the best possible answer. If your answer is "Not Given", select that answer.

Sample 1: James earns $15.25 per hour. If he works 35 hours in a week, what will he earn?

a. $537.25
b. $533.75
c. $43.57
d. $1067.50
e. Not Given

Sample 2: Lee wants to borrow $7500. The interest rate the bank gives him is 18.1%. If he borrows the money, approximately how much interest will he have to pay back?

a. $1357.50
b. $4143.65
c. $8857.50
d. $6142.50
e. Not Given

Sample 3: Annie's bill for a haircut was $27.00 and she wants to leave a 20% tip. How much money will she need to pay?

a. $21.60
b. $5.40
c. $32.40
d. $28.35
e. Not Given

Sample 4: A bus ticket costs $2.00. A one-month bus pass with unlimited rides costs $72.00. If Jane needs to pay for trips to and from work each day for 20 days during a month, how much would she save by purchasing the one-month bus pass?

a. $32.00
b. $10.00
c. $20.00
d. $8.00
e. Not Given

Sample 5: Amy's salary is $1350.00 per week. If $257.20 is deducted for taxes, $50.00 for pension plan payments, $23.82 for insurance coverage, and $10.00 for union membership dues, how much money will she take home?

a. $1008.89
b. $1018.98
c. $1056.62
d. $1691.02
e. Not Given

Sample 6: Michael has to purchase 15 folders for school. Store A is within walking distance and is selling them for 5 folders for $2.00. Store B is selling them for 3 folders for $1.00, but it will also cost him $2.00 in bus fare to take him to and from the store. Even though Store B's price is cheaper, how much more will Michael pay if purchases the folders from Store B?

a. $1.00
b. $2.00
c. $6.00
d. $7.00
e. Not Given

Sample 7: Tracy needs 3 cans of stain and 2 packages of sandpaper to re-finish her deck. The home improvement store is selling the stain for $42.76 per can and sandpaper for $5.99 per package. What will be her total pre-tax cost for materials?

a. $110.31
b. $116.30
c. $140.26
d. $73.54
e. Not Given

Sample 8: Corey bought 20 lottery tickets for a trip. If 1200 tickets were sold, what percent chance does he have to win the trip?

a. 60%
b. 2.40%
c. 9.6%
d. 1.667%
e. Not Given

Sample 9: Lori closes her eyes and reaches into a jar with 5 dark chocolate bars and 3 milk chocolate bars. What is the probability that she will choose a dark chocolate bar?

a. 5 in 8
b. 1 in 5
c. 3 in 5
d. 3 in 8
e. Not Given

Sample 10: Jessica wants to create her own basic sugar cookie recipe using a ratio of 3 parts flour, 2 parts fat, and 1 part sugar. If she wants to make 2 ½ batches of dough, how many parts of flour will she have to use?

a. 5
b. 2.5
c. 7
d. 5.5
e. Not Given

Sample 11: It takes Craig 16 minutes to walk from his apartment to his office. What is the latest time Craig should be leaving his apartment if he plans to walk to work and needs to be there by 8:55 A.M.?

a. 8:40 A.M.
b. 8:39 A.M.
c. 8:30 A.M.
d. 8:16 A.M.

e. Not Given

Sample 12: Out of a classroom of 30 students, 15 have brown eyes, 10 have blue eyes, and 5 have green eyes. What is the combined percentage of students who have brown and blue eyes?

a. 25%
b. 66.67%
c. 83.33%
d. 50%
e. Not Given

Sample 13: Which pie chart below would indicate that one of the three candidates received 45% of the total number of votes cast in an election?
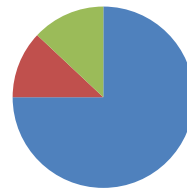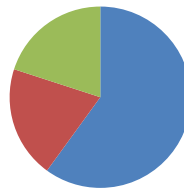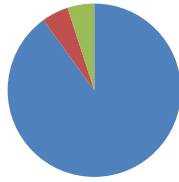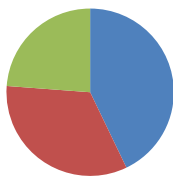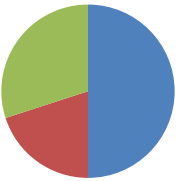
1   2   3   4   5

a. 1
b. 2
c. 3
d. 4
e. 5

Answers:

1) b
2) a
3) c
4) d
5) e
6) a
7) c
8) d
9) a
10) e
11) b
12) c
13) b