The English Language Assessment (ELA) is made up of six sections: Composition, Listening, Reading Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Grammar and Speaking. The score is out of 200 and the following are sample questions for each section.

**COMPOSITION – PART 1**

In this section you will have 4 short exercises on sentence completion and structure shift. Each sentence can be written in another way without changing the meaning. You will see the beginning of another sentence which you are to finish the best way possible. DO NOT change the meaning of the original sentence.  

*Note: There is more than one correct answer.*

1. Jane said, “I hate homework.”

   Jane told me that ___________________________________________________.

**COMPOSITION – PART 2**

In this section you will have 3 exercises on sentence combining. Combine each group of short sentences into ONE correct sentence that shows the relationship between all the ideas. You may add words, leave words out and change the order, but you must NOT change the meaning of the sentences. (Do not use semi-colons “; “)  

*Note: There is more than one correct answer.*

1. Bill and Jack went to university. The university was in Ontario. Bill and Jack both dropped out after one year.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

You will have 15 minutes to complete COMPOSITION PART 1 and 2.

**COMPOSITION – PART 3**

On the day of the test, you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to write a well-organized and well-developed essay on a given topic in 30 minutes. You will NOT have a choice of topics and your essay must be approximately 250 words. You are expected to use formal language.

*Example: (The topic below will not be used in the ELA)*

What is the most serious problem in society today? Why?

Use specific reasons and examples as support in your essay.

**COMPOSITION PART 1, 2 and 3 are worth a total of 30 marks**
LISTENING

The LISTENING part of the assessment is on CD. (No headphones)

PART 1

You will hear 8 questions. Each question will have 4 possible answers and you must choose the best answer. The answers will be written down for you but the questions will not.

You might hear, “How do you like Canada?”
1. A) I think Canada is a lot like England.
   B) I think it’s a good idea.
   C) I like Canada very much.
   D) I’d like to be able to help you.

PART 2

This is similar to part 1 except that you will hear 7 statements instead of questions. You will choose the answer which has the same meaning.

You might hear, “Classes will re-open after the Christmas holiday.”
2. A) Christmas Day is the first day of classes.
   B) Classes will open on Christmas day.
   C) Classes will be opening through the Christmas season.
   D) There will be no classes until after the Christmas holiday.

PART 3

You will hear 3 short conversations. After you hear each conversation, you will be asked two questions about it.

Example: You might hear,

“Would you like to see a movie tonight, honey?” (woman)
“Oh, I don’t know. Babysitters are so expensive.” (man)

3. Who do you think the woman is probably talking to?
   A) Her husband.
   B) Her father.
   C) Her brother.
   D) Her boss
PART 4

You will hear 3 short paragraphs. After each paragraph you will be asked 3 questions about it.

Example: You might hear,

Pineapples are tropical fruits which are imported to Canada principally from Hawaii and the Philippines. They are shipped green as are bananas, so that they will not be over-ripe when they arrive. Pineapples are an excellent source of vitamin C and provide roughage as well.

5. Why are pineapples and bananas shipped green?
   A) They provide roughage.
   B) They contain vitamin C.
   C) They are tropical fruits.
   D) They should not ripen before arrival.

The LISTENING section takes approximately 20 minutes and is worth 30 marks.

READING VOCABULARY

You will have 15 minutes to answer 40 vocabulary questions similar to these.

1. The old man’s___________ surprised everyone.
   A) longitudinal   C) loiter
   B) longevity      D) lonesome

2. Holograms___________ real images very convincingly.
   A) singular       C) similitude
   B) sinecure       D) simulate
READING COMPREHENSION

There will be 6 short reading passages in this section. Each passage will have 5 questions. You will have 30 minutes to answer 30 questions.

Example passage:

The idea of immortality is by no means ridiculous since death is an evolutionary rather than a biological necessity. Evolution favours creatures that die, for then the species can be modified by natural selection to meet changing conditions. Even though cell death cannot be wholly prevented, the replacement of worn-out parts with transplanted organs may provide an extension of life.

The social consequence of immortality is so serious that it would be disastrous to make use of such technology, except in the rarest cases. If people lived forever or even for a very long time, the population would rise explosively, unless all procreation ceased. It is inconceivable that the human race would abandon procreation, a practice to which it is impelled by such strong instincts and from which it derives such emotional rewards. (Adapted from The Biological Time Bomb.)

1. In this passage, the author suggests that death:
   A) improves the species.
   B) is a biological necessity.
   C) is inevitable.
   D) should be prevented.

2. Modern technology can extend life by:
   A) preventing cell death.
   B) controlling the population explosion.
   C) giving people new organs when necessary.
   D) removing a person’s worn-out parts.

GRAMMAR – PART 1

You will have 15 minutes to answer 20 questions similar to these.

1. “Could you help your mother with that?” “I ________ do it in the afternoon.”
   A) must have  C) will
   B) ought to be  D) would

2. What a __________ story!
   A) surprising  C) wanting
   B) surprised  D) wanted
GRAHAM – PART 2

You will have 15 minutes to answer 20 questions. Read the following sentences and decide if there is a mistake in one of the underlined parts of the sentence. If there is, choose A, B or C as your answer. If there is no mistake in a sentence, choose D as your answer.

1. John and Mary is waiting for you outside in the hallway.
   A                           B                C                           D  No mistake

2. Who is the fellow whom helped you to find the answer?
   A                   B                             C                           D  No mistake

3. I really wish you would stop doing that.
   A                        B                        C                           D  No mistake

NOTE: To prepare for the grammar sections you may want to review:

- pronouns
- use of articles (a, an, the)
- prepositions
- participles (_ed, _ing)
- all verbs tenses (present, future, continuous, perfect, etc.)
- passive voice
- wish/hope
- adjectives vs adverbs
- comparatives and superlatives
- clauses (adverb, adjective and noun)
- gerunds and infinitives
- modals
- question tags

SPEAKING

In addition to your written test, you will be given a 15-minute oral interview to evaluate your speaking level. This will be an in-person conversation with a faculty advisor. Your mark (out of 30) will be based on: pronunciation, fluency, grammar, vocabulary and listening comprehension.
ANSWER KEY

COMPOSITION - PART 1 (possible answers - there are other possibilities)
1. Jane told me that she hated homework.

COMPOSITION – PART 2 (possible answers - there are other possibilities)
1. Bill and Jack both dropped out of university in Ontario after one year.
   **OR**
   Bill and Jack both went to university in Ontario, but dropped out after one year.

LISTENING

READING VOCABULARY
1. B  2. D

READING COMPREHENSION
1. A  2. C

GRAMMAR - PART 1
1. C  2. A

GRAMMAR - PART 2
1. A  2. B  3. D

- Good Luck! -