Complete guide to STAT for online sittings

Includes valuable preparation advice and free sample questions
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About STAT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is STAT?</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT Multiple Choice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT Written English</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How and where can I sit STAT?</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How often can I sit STAT?</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting STAT overseas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills tested by STAT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test delivery format</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms and conditions of sitting STAT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for STAT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for STAT Multiple Choice</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for STAT Written English</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checklist</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before you register for the test</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your STAT results</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample questions</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample essay prompts: STAT Written English</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Candidates should read this entire information booklet carefully.

STAT is produced by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information provided in this booklet. However, ACER reserves the right to alter or amend test details and/or test administration details outlined in this booklet.
About STAT

What is STAT?
The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) develops the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) to help Australian tertiary institutions admit students who are well suited to a broad range of academic programs.

By completing STAT, applicants without a recent or satisfactory Year 12 qualification can demonstrate their ability to succeed in tertiary studies.

STAT assesses a range of competencies considered important for successful tertiary study, evaluating skills such as critical thinking, and understanding and analysis of given information. It does not test knowledge of curriculum or specific academic content.

Tertiary institutions use applicants’ STAT scores, together with other information available to them at the time of selection, to make decisions about offers of places in their courses.

STAT Multiple Choice
- 2 hours and 10 minutes test time (inclusive of reading time)
- 70 multiple-choice questions, half Verbal (Critical) Reasoning, half Quantitative Reasoning

STAT Written English
Only required by some institutions in WA, VIC/TAS and NSW/ACT. Please confirm with the institution to which you are applying if STAT Written English is a requirement.
- 1 hour and 5 minutes test time (inclusive of reading time)
- Two short essays

How and where can I sit STAT?
ACER manage all online test sittings for Australian and overseas except for Western Australia which is managed by their Tertiary Admission Centre TISC

Australia (except WA) and overseas
ACER https://stat.acer.org

This booklet provides information about the test itself, not administrative or booking details.

How often can I sit STAT?
Applicants may sit STAT once only per test cycle. (The STAT cycle runs from 15 April in one year to 14 April in the following year)

Sitting STAT overseas
ACER offers online sittings of STAT Multiple Choice and STAT Written English if you are located outside Australia. For more information Email: stat@acer.org Web: https://stat.acer.org/au/testing-information

Skills tested by STAT Multiple Choice
The test consists of 70 questions, which are placed into either verbal or quantitative units. Units are interspersed throughout the test.

STAT questions are based on stimulus material drawn from a variety of common sources. All the information required to answer questions is contained within the unit. If the stimulus material is a historical document, the candidate’s knowledge of history is NOT being assessed.

Candidates are responsible for checking course application requirements carefully to confirm which version(s) of STAT they should sit.
**Verbal/Critical Reasoning**

The focus is on interpretation and understanding of ideas in language. Questions may require you to:

- identify the main idea in a passage
- interpret specific words and phrases
- paraphrase what is stated
- infer suggestions and deduce meanings

Some units test the comprehension of demanding and complex language with emphasis on analysing and understanding the stimulus material. Other units test the understanding and processing of ideas presented in more elementary language with emphasis on manipulating information and solving problems.

Units may deal with objective or subjective material, or conceptual or argumentative issues.

The aim of the test is to include a balanced representation of a wide range of material and kinds of thinking.

**Quantitative Reasoning**

The aim is to test your comprehension and application of information presented in scientific and mathematical contexts.

Items may present information in numeric, symbolic, spatial or graphical form.

Questions do not require an in-depth knowledge. The focus is on your ability to interpret and apply information, and to use information provided for decision making and problem solving.

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**Skills tested by STAT Written English**

**Only required by some institutions in WA, VIC/TAS and NSW/ACT.**

Please confirm with the institution to which you are applying if STAT Written English is a requirement.

**Assessment Criteria:**

Each piece of writing is assessed independently by two markers in relation to:

**Thought and content**

The quality of what is said in the piece of writing

- what is made of and developed from the task
- the kinds of thought and feelings offered in response to the task

**Structure and organisation**

The quality of the structure and organisation developed to say something

- the shape and form of the piece
- the sequence and cohesion of the piece

**Expression, style and mechanics**

The quality of the language used to organise and present what is said

- the effectiveness and appropriateness of the language
- the expressiveness and fluency of the language
- the control of the mechanics of English

**Test delivery format**

STAT is delivered online via remote proctoring for ACER registered candidates.
Terms and conditions of sitting STAT

Registration to reserve a spot in the sitting of the Special Tertiary Admissions Test constitutes an acceptance of and an agreement to abide by the conditions set forth in this Complete Guide to STAT for Online Sittings and the booking systems concerning the test registration, administration, the reporting of scores, collection and use of personal information and the use of information for research. Test results may be used by approved authorities for purposes of research into the STAT program. ACER may use, reproduce, adapt, modify and communicate de-identified essay answers for educational and training purposes.

Candidates are assured that any use of test responses will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.
Preparing for STAT

General
The best starting point in preparing for STAT is to familiarise yourself with the contents of this booklet. Read the preliminary information before attempting the sample questions.

The sample questions included in this *Complete Guide to STAT* and in the *STAT Practice Tests* are indicative of the kinds of material included in a real test.

Some institutions offer STAT workshops, to assist candidates with their preparation for STAT. Specific coaching for tests such as STAT is not particularly effective in improving candidates’ scores. This is partly because the tests are designed to assess reasoning and comprehension skills which develop over extended periods of time through a variety of experiences. Whilst ACER does not endorse preparation workshops, we recognise that some candidates may find them useful as a means of allaying anxiety about the test through providing an opportunity to talk with other candidates about STAT.

ACER does not provide past papers to any of the STAT workshops and candidates should be advised that the only sources of past STAT questions are found in the *STAT Practice Tests* and this *Complete Guide to STAT*, published by ACER.

STAT Practice Tests for Multiple Choice and for Written English are available for purchase from the STAT website: [https://stat.acer.org/preparation/practice-material](https://stat.acer.org/preparation/practice-material)

You may find the STAT questions quite difficult, but remember that they are designed to measure a wide range of intellectual ability.

Preparing for STAT Multiple Choice

If you are based in VIC, TAS, NSW, ACT, QLD, SA, NT or outside Australia, STAT is delivered online.

Answers to the multiple-choice questions are recorded by following the procedure outlined below:

Each question provides four alternative answers. You must choose one answer from these alternatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The total number of questions in this test is</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○ 70.</td>
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<tr>
<td>○ 50.</td>
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<td>○ 35.</td>
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<tr>
<td>○ 32.</td>
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</tbody>
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Choose your answer by clicking the relevant button with your mouse.

To move to the next question, click on the Next button.

At the end of the test, click on the Finish button.

During the test:

- During the test you will see a timer in the top right-hand corner of your screen. This counts down the time remaining for the test.
- If you need to communicate with the proctor, it is best to use the chat window.

Extra tips

- All questions have the same value, therefore by attempting as many questions as possible you stand the best chance of maximising your score. Please record an answer for all questions.
- No marks will be deducted for a wrong answer (i.e. there is no negative scoring).
• If you mark more than one answer to a question it will be considered incorrect.

Test taking strategy
• Don’t spend too much time on any one question.
• Read through all the alternative answers to a question, even if you think the first one is correct, before marking your chosen response.
• See if there are any options you can discard immediately because they are obviously wrong.
• If you think you know the answer to a question, mark it, even if you are not certain. Go on to the next question and come back later if you have time. This will prevent you from getting your answers out of sequence and will give you some chance if you run out of time.

Preparing for STAT Written English
• Only required by some institutions in WA, VIC/TAS and NSW/ACT.

Good preparation for the STAT Written English test is to attempt the essay topics in this booklet. Set yourself the task of choosing and writing essays on two of the sample topics. (Note: you don’t have to agree with comments.) Choose a time when you will not be interrupted and give yourself an hour (30 mins each) to write your short essays under ‘test conditions’. It is often helpful to ask someone else to read your essays and to suggest improvements or alternative approaches to your selected comments. Alternatively, it can be useful to put your essays aside for several days before re-reading them to look for ways to make improvements.

In addition, the **STAT Written English Practice Test** is available for purchase (at https://stat.acer.org.au/preparation/practice-material). You will be provided with an indicative score immediately after submitting your essays online.

For online test sittings:
• essay topics are chosen from a drop-down list
• essays are typed directly into space provided on-screen

Candidates are often concerned about the expected length of the STAT Written English essays. Within reason, the quality of the writing is much more important than the length. Remember, you only have 30 minutes to plan and write each essay.

The examiners do not have unrealistic expectations of what you can produce in that time.

The following questions will be considered in assessing the writing of candidates.
• What kinds of ideas has the candidate developed in response to the chosen comment?
• To what extent and how well has the candidate explored the ideas and issues in the chosen comment?
• Has the candidate developed a structured and organised piece of writing?
• Has the candidate written clearly and fluently?
• Is the language used by the candidate precise and appropriate?
## Checklist

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Tick once Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Check your equipment meets the technical requirements needed to sit online</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Register and pay for your exam with ACER</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Schedule your test date and time(s)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Check your admission ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Have your equipment and test room and venue ready for your test session(s).</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sit the test(s) at your scheduled time</td>
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### Before you register for the test:

Visit [https://www.proctoru.com/live-plus-resource-center](https://www.proctoru.com/live-plus-resource-center) to understand how remote proctoring works. You must ensure that you can meet the remote proctoring requirements before you register for the test with ACER and submit the test fee.

### Step 1 – Test room and technical requirements

Before proceeding to book STAT online, you MUST ensure that you have:

- a functioning web camera & microphone (connected/inbuilt) to the computer you will use for the test.
- a stable, strong internet connection (Wi-Fi or hard wired)
- a suitable private room to sit the test (at home or at a friend’s house), free from noise and distraction. (Public locations such as universities and libraries often have network firewalls in place which may block your connection to the online proctoring service and prevent you from sitting STAT)
- a personal computer or laptop to use. Public computers found in work places, libraries, universities and schools (including work/school laptops being used at home) may have remote monitoring software installed which is prohibited. They also require administration rights and prevent the disabling of these programs.
- equipment specified by the online proctoring service minimum ‘Technical Requirements’ specification
- met the operating system requirements:
  - For PC users, Windows Vista or higher (Windows 10 S is not supported).
  - For Mac users, OS X 10.5 or higher.
  - Chromebooks are not supported for STAT sittings.
  - Linux/Unix/Android/Windows RT tablets, iPads, computers or phones are not compatible with your session.
  - Minimum screen width 1280px.
  - Please ensure the unpermitted resources/software programs are closed before commencing the test.
  - Web Browser - Guardian Browser (Download via your Proctor U account)
It is your responsibility to ensure that your computer meets the minimum technical requirements before you book your test with ACER and schedule your test time with the online proctoring service. The ProctorU website has detailed troubleshooting assistance. Should you need help with your equipment setup, please refer to their website for assistance.

**Step 2 – Register for STAT with ACER**

When the STAT booking system is open, you can book and make payment for the test by creating your ACER user account. Once your account is created, please log in.

Select “Start a new test booking.”

It is important to select the correct time zone for your test sitting.

Please select the location in which you will be sitting your STAT Online.

Once you have completed your test booking with ACER, you will receive a confirmation email containing instruction of how to schedule your test time.

Check that your personal details and test registration are correct.

Any changes to personal information will require a copy of your photo ID. When sending personal information please to use the messaging feature in the STAT Registration System so that private information is not transferred via email. **Please click here for instructions.**
**Step 3 – Schedule a time and date for your exam**

1. Log back into your ACER account;
2. Under “Schedule, update, sit or cancel your exam, select the purple “Log in to Proctor U” button;
3. Complete the following questions to finish setting up your Proctor U account (for new accounts only):
4. Select “Schedule New Session”;

5. Your institution will show as “***Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) – ACER***”;

6. Select the term (current year);

7. Select your exam then “Find Sessions”;
8. Select your chosen date during the test window and preferred time then “Submit”. A list of available times will show on the right, please select one and “Schedule”;

9. If you are sitting both Multiple Choice and Written English exams you will need to select “go to my sessions” to repeat steps 4 through to 8 for your second exam date and time.

If you plan to sit one test straight after the other, please allow at least a minimum of one hour in between the two test sessions.
Pre-test procedures can take **around 30 minutes** (this does not count towards your test time). For example, if you plan to sit the Multiple Choice test followed by the Written English test and have scheduled your Multiple Choice test session at 10.00am, you are advised to schedule your Written English session to start after 1.00pm. After you have scheduled your session(s), you will receive a verification and confirmation email from ProctorU. If you do not receive the email, please contact ProctorU.

Test session(s) can only be scheduled/rescheduled to take place during the test window you registered for. It is not possible to reschedule online test session(s) from one test window to a subsequent test window. Please note that once you have scheduled your session(s) with ProctorU, you can change your session(s) day/time within the test window you registered for. Test sessions can be rescheduled up to 72 hours before the end of the online test window.

**Step 4 – Test your equipment.**

Run the equipment test via your ProctorU account as pictured on the next page. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure the equipment test is completed in a timely manner (before the close of the ACER booking window) as equipment test failures may not qualify for refunds after the close of bookings. For more information on our refund policy visit: [https://stat.acer.org/au/about-stat/refunds-and-deferrals](https://stat.acer.org/au/about-stat/refunds-and-deferrals)

You must complete the equipment test using the computer and internet connection that you plan to sit the test with, at the location you will be doing the test from. Network firewalls at public locations such as schools, universities, workplaces or libraries may prevent access to ProctorU on your test day and the equipment test may not detect the firewalls. Computers provided by your workplace or institution usually also have settings that prevent you from sitting the test. **For these reasons you are advised to sit the test using a personal computer connected to your home network.**

You will need to download the Guardian Browser to connect to Proctor U. The Guardian Browser can be downloaded from your Proctor U account.

Once you have downloaded the browser you can run the equipment test.
If you run into technical issues, please contact ProctorU via their live chat for technical support.

Your equipment meets the technical requirements if your system passes all checks in the System Details section. If any of the checks fail and you are unable to fix them, please click on the blue button near the bottom right of the page and then fill in your details in the popup window and proceed to connect to an online technician. You need to click the 'Allow' button when a message requesting access to your camera and microphone appears to allow the technician to connect to your computer.

"Please note that passing the equipment test means your equipment meets the technical requirements. However, it does not guarantee that you will not have any technical issues during your test session."

If your equipment does not pass all checks and the issues cannot be resolved by Proctor U’s online technicians, you can source another location and/or equipment and complete the equipment check again.

If your equipment passes all checks, you may proceed to register to sit the test by remote proctoring.

"Test sessions can only be scheduled to take place (at least) 72 hours from the point of booking. For example, if you wish to schedule a test session for 11:30am on a Saturday, then you must schedule it prior to 11:30 am on the Wednesday before."
**Step 6 – Manage your Booking.**

Your ACER account is used to manage all aspects of your STAT booking.

Although you will sit your exam using the ProctorU platform, your ACER account uses single sign in technology to link your information to your ACER dashboard.

You must have your Admission Ticket at the test sitting (digital, saved on your desktop or printed), together with your ID document.

You will be required to show both documents prior to your test session being activated by the proctor.

Please note, your Admission Ticket should have your details printed on it. If they do not display in the printed copy, check that JavaScript is enabled (See how: http://www.enable-javascript.com).
Step 7 – Your Admission Ticket

Log in to your ACER user account to access your Admission Ticket. Once logged in, click the tab labelled ‘Online Test Registration’.

Click the ‘View Admission Ticket’ button.

You must have your Admission Ticket at the test sitting (digital, saved on your desktop or printed), together with your ID document.

You will be required to show both documents prior to your test session being activated by the proctor. Please note, your Admission Ticket should have your details printed on it. If they do not display in the printed copy, check that JavaScript is enabled (See how: http://www.enable-javascript.com).

Step 8 – Test Day

Make sure you have everything you will need to sit the test and that your test room is prepared.

- A valid and current photo-bearing identity document
- A white board and marker for rough working (optional)

Identification

The name on your identification document must match the name used on your test registration.

On the day of the test you will be required to show photo-bearing identification in hard-copy format, such as a:

- current passport
- current Australian driver license
- current photographic proof of age card
- current Keypass Identity Card (available from Australia Post)

Digital drivers licences will be accepted in SA, NSW and QLD ONLY. Other forms of digital ID and Photocopies of ID are NOT ACCEPTED.
Your identification document MUST contain:

1. your full name
2. your date of birth
3. a recent photograph (embedded in the card i.e. not laminated)
4. your signature.

A student or workplace identification card is only acceptable if it meets all four criteria listed above.

If you do not possess any of the above forms of photo-bearing identification, you must obtain a statutory declaration, accompanied by a photo which has been signed on the back by the witness to the statutory declaration. This witness should be independent of the person making the declaration.

Please note, change of name documents, supplemented by ID in your old name, will not be accepted for online tests. Please obtain a statutory declaration with your new name if you do not have any of the accepted identification documents listed on Page 7 in your current name.

**Candidates who do not present an identification document as outlined here will not be permitted to sit the test.**

The identification must contain a photograph that is a recognisable likeness of the candidate at the time of sitting the test.

Ensure you have downloaded the Guardian Browser to connect to ProctorU.

Log into your ACER user account from Google Chrome and open your Admission ticket for your proctor to check during your test session.

**Your test room must meet the following requirements:**

- An appropriate workstation on a stable desk or hard surface. It is not permitted to take the test sitting on beds, couches or on the floor.
- A room that is free from distractions, noise and prohibited materials (no other persons including dependent children are permitted in the test room). Proctors may require you to move your sitting position or change to a different room on your test day if they believe your sitting position or test room is not suitable.
- Your back should be facing the door (if possible)
- Rooms with a clear glass wall where someone else could view the computer screen are not permitted
- Suitable temperature, lighting and ventilation.

**You are advised to uninstall any unpermitted remote-control software such as TeamViewer before your scheduled test session. Any such program will be detected on your computer, and you will not be able to continue with your test session until the issue is resolved. Please ensure that such programs have been disabled or uninstalled on your computer before you sit the test.**

We recommend you eat a meal or snack before your scheduled test session. You will not be allowed to have any food or drink, other than bottled water or a clear glass of water on your desk.
Prohibited items

- calculators (including computer-based and online)
- dictionaries of any type (including online)
- books, papers, pencil cases, rulers or stationary other than what is approved
- all additional items on surface that you are taking your test from (e.g., desk) that are not permanently affixed or approved for the test
- mobile phones/smartphones/smart watches or other communication devices
- watches of any type
- audio or recording devices, with or without earphones
- headphones, earbuds or earplugs
- bags, briefcases or crash helmets
- pets should be in another room or part of the house when testing online. Prior approval is required to bring support animals to venues
- food (unless prior consent has been given by ACER)
- smoking, vaping or smokeless tobacco (dipping) is not permitted during online test sessions
- music, TV, and/or other background noise (unless prior consent has been given by ACER
- non-religious head coverings that obstruct the eyes and/or ears (including sunglasses)
- additional display monitors (online sittings only)
- no additional cables leaving the computer outside of the mouse, keyboard, ethernet, and power cables

Rules and Misconduct

STAT is a high stakes test; the results of the test have the potential to make a major impact on the future study plans of the candidate. For this reason, security procedures have been established and will be strictly enforced at all times.

It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure they understand that the following are considered to be breaches of test rules:

- attempting to sit the test more than once per annual test cycle
- attempting to take a recording/image of test materials
- reading test questions aloud or talking to anyone other than a remote proctor during the test
- the giving of false or misleading information during the registration process
- attempting to gain access to test questions prior to the test
- attempting to sit the test on behalf of another person
- allowing another person to attempt to sit the test on your behalf
- failure to follow remote proctor’s instructions at all times
- giving or receiving assistance during the test
- using prohibited aids (notes, note paper, dictionary, calculator, mobile phone, recording device, etc.)
- leaving your seat or room without permission

Penalties may include the cancellation of the candidate’s test and a ban from sitting STAT in the current STAT year; or in the case of theft, criminal charges.

The remote proctor will report breaches of the test rules to ACER. Candidates have the right of appeal against the imposed penalty within 10 calendar days of the despatch of the penalty notification.
**Test Day**

If you are unwell or if conditions in the test room impact on your ability to perform in the test, please bring this to the attention of the remote proctor as soon as possible. Please contact ACER via email as well for all issues relating to STAT online.

Open the Guardian browser and log in to your ACER account then connect to Proctor U, ready for your test at least 5 minutes before the scheduled session(s).

At your scheduled test time, a button to start the test for your session will appear. The countdown timer for the scheduled test session will reach zero.
Click the button to ‘Start Session’. You will be connected to ProctorU and a proctor will assist you through the entire test process, including the pre-test administrative and technical checks. **Pre-test administrative procedures can take around 30 minutes** (this does not count as test time).

**Download the chat box.**

You will also be required to download the LogMeIn application. This application contains the ProctorU chat box and allows you to communicate with your proctor throughout your test session. After you have installed the LogMeIn application, you will then be connected to a proctor.

**Connect to your proctor.**

It may take some time until you are connected to a proctor so, please be patient. Please note that there may be times when the proctor is setting up your test session and working ‘in the background’ while nothing seems to happen on your screen. This is expected: **do not close the chat box** as this will restart the process and increase your wait time.

**Remote system check**

Once you are connected to a proctor, the proctor will check your computer and environment. Please follow the instructions as provided by your proctor.

**Identification Check**

Your Admission Ticket and appropriate photo ID will be checked. Your photo will also be taken by the proctor.

**Camera pan**

Your proctor will prompt you to show your test room. You can use your webcam or a mirror to show your proctor a 360 degree pan of your room and your computer monitor. Your proctor may request you to remove items that are not permitted. Your proctor will also ask you to show your mobile phone is placed out of reach.

After the pre-test administrative checks have been completed, your proctor will run the STAT Security App on your computer/laptop to allow you to sit your test.

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**Your username and password for the App is the same email address and password you used to register with ACER. Please ensure you know your password or have it written down as you cannot access saved passwords in the test app.**

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**What to expect during your online test experience**

Once the proctor unlocks your test, you will be instructed to start the test. When you are ready, click to begin your test.

During the test you will see a timer in the top right-hand corner of the screen. This counts down the time remaining for the test.

Your entire test session will be recorded by ProctorU including your chat logs with proctors, the video recordings of your test sitting and your computer desktop. ACER will have access to the full records.
**Bathroom Breaks**

You may use the bathroom during the test session however the test timer will not be stopped. **You must advise your proctor and wait for their approval before leaving your seat at any time.** After each bathroom break, the proctor will request to check your test environment again. As you may appreciate, each

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No additional time will be granted for bathroom breaks.

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Kindly note that sometimes unexpected technical issues may occur; and this may be due to a variety of causes such as unstable internet connection or faulty equipment. During your test session, the following actions may need to be taken by your online proctor to ensure that your test is administered securely and within the test rules:

- Communicate with you via the chat box or audio if there is an issue.
- Ask you to adjust your webcam in order to be able to see your face and what you are doing clearly during the entire test session.
- Ask to borrow your mouse because of issues associated with the video and/or screen recordings.
- Transfer you to another online proctor or technician.

As you may appreciate, internet connectivity and equipment performance may vary at different junctures during the test session and your online proctor may need to perform certain actions in order to ensure smooth operations of the test.

**Exam Rules**

During your test, you are not permitted to:

- Leave the room without authorisation from the proctor.
- Navigate away from the test screen.
- Read test questions aloud or talk to anyone.
- Have anyone else in the test room with you.

**Resolving Technical Issues**

If you experience any issues (for example, technical or connection problems) during your test session, you should communicate these to your proctor immediately to try to resolve them. It is possible that your test session may need to **be rescheduled within the test window.**

If the proctor cannot resolve your issues, or for any other queries and concerns you may have regarding your test session, **please contact ACER by email on the test day so the issue can be addressed without delay.**

If you need to report an issue to ACER regarding your online test session, please provide as much information as possible. Your case will be investigated based on the ProctorU test session records, ACER online test logs, and any information provided by you in writing.

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It is important that you read and understand all the test instructions before you start the test.
What You Will See on Your Screen

STAT Multiple Choice

Once logged in, you will see this screen:

Directions
1. Time allowed: 2 hours and 10 minutes (including reading time).
2. This test has 70 questions.
3. The test contains both verbal and quantitative items.
4. You will obtain the best possible score if you observe these points:
   (a) Work carefully through the questions in the order in which they are given.
   (b) Don’t waste too much time on any one question; if necessary, go on to the next question and come back to the difficult ones later.
   (c) If you think you know an answer, select it—even if you are not certain you are correct. Marks will not be deducted for wrong answers.
   (d) If you want to change your answer, simply select a different option.
   (e) If you go back to a previous question, click on the question number you wish to return to at the top of the screen.
5. Each question provides four alternative answers. You must choose one answer from these alternatives.

The screenshot below gives you an idea of the layout of the STAT Multiple Choice online test.

Note the timer in the top right-hand corner of the screen.

The test taker has selected the third answer option by clicking the circle next to answer three.
Once logged in, you will see the directions screen:

**INTRODUCTION**

Time allowed: **1 hour and 5 minutes** (including reading time).

The purpose of STAT Written English is to assess your ability to communicate effectively in writing.

The criteria used for the assessment of STAT Written English are:

**THOUGHT AND CONTENT**
(the quality of what is said in the piece of writing)

- what is made of, and developed from, the task
- the kinds of thought and feelings offered in response to the task

**EXPRESSION, STYLE AND MECHANICS**
(the quality of the language used to organise and present what is said)

- the effectiveness and appropriateness of the language
- the expressiveness and fluency of the language
- the control of the mechanics of English

The following questions will be considered in assessing your writing:

- What kinds of ideas have you developed in response to the comment?
- To what extent and how well have you explored the ideas and issues in the comment?
- Have you developed a structured and organised piece of writing?
- Have you written clearly and fluently?
- Is the language you have used precise and appropriate?

**DIRECTIONS**

- You are required to produce two pieces of writing in one hour – one in response to a comment from Part A, and one in response to a comment from Part B.
- Part A reflects a more formal public affairs topic that invites argument.
- Part B reflects a less formal topic that invites a more personal reflection.
- **DO NOT** try to address all of the other comments in your response.
- Note that you do not have to agree with the comment you choose for each essay.
- Give each piece of writing a title that will help orient the reader to the approach you are taking.
- To move to the next page, click on **Next**.
- To conclude the test, click on the **Finish** button.

The screenshot below gives you an idea of the layout of the STAT Written English online test.
To select from the four possible essay topics, click the drop-down arrow and the choices will appear.
Click on the topic you wish to respond to.
After your test session:
Alert your proctor when you have finished your test. After you have submitted your test, use the chat box to tell your proctor you have completed your test. Your proctor will prompt you to erase any rough workings you may have. Log out of the test and all browsers. Finally, close the chat box to end your connection to ProctorU.

If candidates experience technical issues during their online test session and the online proctor cannot resolve these issues during the session, candidates must immediately report any concerns and/or complaints to ACER. This must be done in writing (to stat@acer.org), on the day of the relevant test session.

This is to ensure that any concern may be remedied, if possible, as soon as practicable and during the test window candidates registered for.

Test day troubleshooting and FAQs
What if I need to wait to connect to a proctor?
You must log into your ProctorU account via your ACER account at least 5 minutes before your scheduled test time. Any time required to set up your test session does not count towards your test time. Your test time will not start until you click to start your test after all pre-test procedures have been completed.

What do I do if I face technical difficulties?
Your proctor will connect you to ProctorU’s technical support. If you experience technical issues during the pre-test procedures and the issues cannot be resolved after 15 minutes, you can either:
• inform the proctor that you do not wish to continue and would like to reschedule your test session to another time (within the current test window); or
• you can let the proctor continue to try and resolve the issues.
If you need to reschedule your test session due to technical issues, you must contact ACER via email immediately.
If you experience technical issues during your test that cannot be resolved, you must contact ACER via email immediately.

What if I lose test time?
Please inform your proctor using the chat box. Proctors are not able to add time back to a test session. Continue your test and contact ACER via email immediately after finishing your test so we can investigate the issues experienced during your test session.

What if I accidentally close the ACER Online Test Application during my test?
Inform your proctor using the chat box so that they can pause the test. Your proctor will then help you reopen the application. Note, you will need to log in to the application again.

How can I improve my internet speed to sit the test?
Make sure that nobody else is using the same internet connection while you sit the test. If somebody else is streaming video, for example, your internet may not be able to support both activities simultaneously. If you are using wireless, moving closer to your modem may also help, but remember that you must be alone in your test room.

What if my proctor asks me to contact my institution?
If your proctor refers to ‘your institution’, they mean ACER, not your university. Please contact ACER at stat@acer.org.

Please do not contact your university for help with your test session as they cannot access the system, and this will delay solving any problem that you have.

Your STAT results.

Your Multiple-Choice and Written English results will be available in your ACER account on the dates advertised on our website.

You will receive an email to your registered email address, by 5pm on the results release date notifying you that your results are available to download from your ACER account. If you have selected for your results to be sent to your Tertiary Admission Centre, this will be done after results are made available to candidates.

The STAT National Data Base will also be updated with candidate results.

STAT scores explained

STAT results are reported as scale scores between 100 – 200, with a mean score of 150. There is no pass or fail mark for STAT.

Each tertiary institution determines the minimum acceptable STAT score/s required for their courses. STAT results are taken into consideration with the other application requirements the institution requests.

The STAT score scale reflects the differing abilities of candidates and the different degrees of difficulty of the test items. STAT multiple-choice test forms are equated so that scores are directly comparable across forms and years. For example, a score of 160 in the verbal component of a STAT paper in one year will represent the same level of performance as a score of 160 in the verbal component of the previous year’s test.

STAT Written English results are also reported as scale scores with a mean score of 150, generally within the range of 100 – 200.

You will not be able to work out how many individual questions you answered correctly based on your scaled score. Results are calculated using complex algorithms.

STAT scores provide a useful objective measure of a candidate’s academic capacity, however other factors will play a key role in the final determination of academic success. Such factors include the candidate’s motivation, application, determination and perseverance!

Percentile rankings

Institutions are provided with percentile rankings in relation to scores achieved by each candidate. For example, a candidate with a total percentile rank of 81.4 has achieved a score that is as good as or better than 81.4% the test-taking population. Percentile ranks provide information about how well a candidate has performed relative to the test-taking population.

Please note, it is not a linear relationship between the scale scores and the percentile rank. The percentile rank is effected by the STAT candidate results distribution/population performance.

Currency of STAT results

STAT results have a 3-year validity from the date of issue. Some institutions impose their own limit on the length of time for which they consider a STAT score valid. If in doubt, please check with the institution.
*Appeals*

ACER will not enter into appeals regarding STAT results. Candidates are advised that STAT results are released only after careful calculation and extensive checking. Errors in scoring are highly unlikely.

Requests for re-marking will not be considered. Nor is it possible to give special consideration for impaired performance on the day of the test caused by illness or other unexpected personal situations. Applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant Tertiary Admissions Centre/ACER prior to the test to arrange an alternative sitting time.

Please note that candidates will not be provided with any additional information regarding scores or the scoring process. All information remains the property of ACER and the candidate has no right of inspection. Candidates sign their agreement to these conditions on the front cover of the Test Booklet and Answer Sheet (or during the booking process for online testing).
UNIT 1

Questions 1 – 4

In this passage from an essay, F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose fiction is connected to the prosperity and extravagance of New York in the 1920s, has come back from overseas at the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Alfred E. Smith was the president of the corporation that built and operated the Empire State Building.

In the dark autumn of two years later we saw New York again. We passed through curiously polite customs agents, and then with bowed head and hat in hand I walked reverently through the echoing tomb. Among the ruins a few childish wraiths still played to keep up the pretense that they were alive, betraying by their feverish voices and hectic cheeks the thinness of the masquerade. Cocktail parties, a last hollow survival from the days of carnival, echoed to theplaints of the wounded: ‘Shoot me, for the love of God, someone shoot me!’; and the groans and wails of the dying: ‘Did you see that United States Steel is down three more points?’ My barber was back at work in his shop; again the head waiters bowed people to their tables, if there were people to be bowed. From the ruins, lonely and inexplicable as the sphinx, rose the Empire State Building and, just as it had been a tradition of mine to climb to the Plaza Roof to take leave of the beautiful city, extending as far as eyes could reach, so now I went to the roof of the last and most magnificent of towers. Then I understood – everything was explained: I had discovered the crowning error of the city, its Pandora’s box. Full of vaunting pride the New Yorker had climbed here and seen with dismay what he had never suspected, that the city was not the endless succession of canyons that he had supposed but that it had limits – from the tallest structure he saw for the first time that it faded out into the country on all sides, into an expanse of green and blue that alone was limitless. And with the awful realization that New York was a city after all and not a universe, the whole shining edifice that he had reared in his imagination came crashing to the ground. That was the rash gift of Alfred E. Smith to the citizens of New York.

1. The passage implies that the customs agents (line 2) and the head waiters (line 8) in earlier times had
   A. had more prestigious jobs.
   B. been warmer and less formal.
   C. been less concerned about their jobs.
   D. been more anxious to please customers.

2. The word ‘childish’ in line 3 indicates that some people have not
   A. come to terms with the gravity of their situation.
   B. understood that they need not repeat their mistakes.
   C. been adult enough to avoid the disaster in the first place.
   D. shown the selflessness required to help others in the same position.
3  For Fitzgerald, New York’s demise was a result of a lack of
   A  restraint.
   B  compassion.
   C  urban planning.
   D  economic planning.

4  In his picture of New York, Fitzgerald suggests that, for New Yorkers, the Great Depression began when
   A  New York began to overflow its geographical limits.
   B  they understood that New York was a part of the world.
   C  New York had no further ambition to strive for excellence.
   D  they began to believe they were better than the rest of the world.

UNIT 2

Question 5

In the grid below, different letters represent different whole numbers less than 20. The numbers to the right and below the grid are row and column totals.

For example, Q + L + Z + Z = 46 .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>Z</th>
<th>Z</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5  The value of Q is
   A  7 .
   B  9 .
   C  11 .
   D  13 .
UNIT 3

Questions 6 – 8

The following diagrams present overviews of how the legal systems of five different states in a certain country deal with trying and sanctioning juvenile offenders.

6. In which model would it be legally impossible for a juvenile to be incarcerated in an adult jail?
   A. I
   B. II
   C. III
   D. IV
7 Systems I and II differ significantly from systems IV and V in
A whether or not the offenders can be considered adults for the purposes of their sanctions.
B whether offenders are considered as juveniles prior to sentencing or after sentencing.
C the severity with which juveniles are sanctioned.
D the choices available for sanctioning.

8 From the point of view of an offender, which of the following pairs would have a similar range of possible outcomes?
A I and V
B II and IV
C III and V
D I and IV
When fighting forest fires, a major problem for firefighters is dealing with the heat. Heat enters, leaves or is produced in a firefighter’s body by the following processes:

1. Radiation — heat from the fire and the sun radiate to the firefighter’s body
2. Conduction/convection — body heat is carried away by the surrounding air
3. Metabolism — heat is produced in the firefighter’s body
4. Evaporation of sweat — heat is removed from the firefighter’s body when sweat evaporates from skin and clothing

In a study of firefighters in a state of heat balance, two groups of firefighters built a firebreak — a hard physical task. One group built their firebreak next to a fire. The other group did exactly the same work under the same conditions, except that no fire was burning nearby. The table below gives the average results for the firefighters in the two groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Amount of heat gained or lost per minute by the body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fire nearby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation</td>
<td>gain of 260 joule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduction / convection</td>
<td>loss of 60 joule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metabolism</td>
<td>gain of 488 joule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaporation of sweat</td>
<td>loss of 688 joule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Assume that the figures above apply to any individual firefighter.
* Although some of the processes above can transfer heat to or from a firefighter, this unit and the table refer to net gains or losses of heat by each process.

9. When building a firebreak, the body of a firefighter
   A. loses heat by radiation and gains heat by conduction/convection.
   B. loses heat by both radiation and by conduction/convection.
   C. gains heat by radiation and loses heat by conduction/convection.
   D. gains heat by both radiation and by conduction/convection.

10. The heat lost by evaporation of sweat from the body of a firefighter in one minute while building a firebreak without a fire nearby is
    A. 532 joule.
    B. 590 joule.
    C. 612 joule.
    D. 688 joule.

11. Which one of the following increases when a firefighter moves from an area where there is no fire nearby to an
area where there is a fire nearby?
A  the amount of heat produced per minute by metabolism
B  the amount of heat lost per minute by conduction/convection
C  the amount of heat lost per minute by the evaporation of sweat
D  none of A or B or C

UNIT 5

Question 12

‘It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism while the wolf remains of a different opinion.’

Dean William Ing

12  The quotation is mainly about
A  power.
B  ideology.
C  conformity.
D  controversy.
Questions 15 – 18

At Runalong Fire Station there are seven firefighters (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). It is necessary to have three firefighters at the station each night in case of emergency, and the Firefighters’ Union requires that each firefighter works the same number of nights.

Schedules I–IV were prepared for consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>{1,2,4}</td>
<td>{1,2,4}</td>
<td>{1,2,4}</td>
<td>{1,2,4}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>{2,3,5}</td>
<td>{2,3,5}</td>
<td>{2,3,5}</td>
<td>{2,3,5}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>{3,4,6}</td>
<td>{3,4,6}</td>
<td>{3,4,6}</td>
<td>{3,4,6}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>{4,5,7}</td>
<td>{4,5,7}</td>
<td>{1,2,4}</td>
<td>{4,5,7}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>{1,2,4}</td>
<td>{5,6,1}</td>
<td>{5,6,1}</td>
<td>{5,6,1}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>{2,3,5}</td>
<td>{6,7,2}</td>
<td>{6,7,2}</td>
<td>{7,1,2}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>{3,4,6}</td>
<td>{7,1,3}</td>
<td>{7,1,3}</td>
<td>{6,1,3}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 Which one of the schedules meets the requirements of the Firefighters’ Union?

A I  
B II  
C III  
D IV

Questions 16 – 18 refer to the following additional information:

A schedule can be thought of as a set of $v$ objects (in this case, firefighters) that have to be arranged into $b$ sets (in this case, one set for each day of the week) all of size $k$ and such that each object occurs the same number of times ($r$) in the schedule and only once in any set. For the firefighters’ schedules, $v = 7$, $b = 7$, $k = 3$, and $r = 3$.

16 If $v = 3$, $b = 6$, $k = 1$, $r = 2$, which one of the following completes the schedule \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \ldots?

A \{1\}  
B \{2\}  
C \{3\}  
D neither A, nor B, nor C

17 The schedule \{1,2\}, \{2,3\}, \{x,y\} is a schedule for which $v = 3$, $b = 3$, $k = 2$, $r = 2$, if

A $x = 1$, $y = 2$.  
B $x = 1$, $y = 3$.  
C $x = 2$, $y = 2$.  
D $x = 2$, $y = 3$.

18 The schedule \{1,2,3\}, \{4,5,6\}, \{7,8,9\}, \{1,4,7\}, \{2,5,8\}, \{3,6,9\}, \{1,5,9\}, \{2,6,7\}, \{3,4,8\}, \{1,6,8\}, \{2,4,9\}, \{x,y,z\} is a schedule for which $v = 9$, $b = 12$, $k = 3$, $r = 4$, if

A $x = 1$, $y = 2$, $z = 4$.  
B $x = 1$, $y = 3$, $z = 5$.  
C $x = 2$, $y = 4$, $z = 6$.  
D $x = 3$, $y = 5$, $z = 7$. 
The following passage is from the introduction to a series of lectures on philosophy written in the early 1900s.

The history of philosophy is to a great extent that of a certain clash of human temperaments. Undignified as such a treatment may seem to some of my colleagues, I shall have to take account of this clash and explain a good many of the divergencies of philosophies by it. Of whatever temperament a professional philosopher is, he tries, when philosophising, to sink the fact of his temperament. Temperament is no conventionally recognised reason, so he urges impersonal reasons only for his conclusions. Yet his temperament really gives him a stronger bias than any of his more strictly objective premises. It loads the evidence for him one way or the other, making a more sentimental or more hard-hearted view of the universe, just as this fact or that principle would. He trusts his temperament. Wanting a universe that suits it, he believes in any representation of the universe that does suit it. He feels men of opposite temper to be out of key with the world’s character, and in his heart considers them incompetent and ‘not in it’, in the philosophic business, even though they may far excel him in dialectical ability.

Yet in the forum he can make no claim, on the bare ground of his temperament, to superior discernment or authority. There arises thus a certain insincerity in our philosophic discussions: the potentest of all our premises is never mentioned. I am sure it would contribute to clearness if in these lectures we should break this rule and mention it, and I accordingly feel free to do so.

17 The passage implies that the writer’s colleagues believe that philosophical argument is based on
A disposition.
B trial and error.
C personal beliefs.
D objective principles.

18 The words ‘a certain insincerity in our philosophic discussions’ (lines 15 and 16) suggest that the writer thinks philosophers are often
A prepared to lie to be convincing.
B aware that their arguments are illogical.
C unwilling to take into account the opinions of others.
D unwilling to acknowledge what influences their arguments.

19 The writer of the passage is most likely to agree with the idea that philosophical positions
A are subjective.
B are devoid of emotion.
C must be universal and unchanging.
D must conform with facts about the outer world.

20 Which of the following best describes the language used in the passage?
A arrogant
B hesitant and diffident
C sincere and measured
D belligerent and provocative
In some areas of the world, marine birds such as kelp gulls feed on mussels which have been deposited on the beaches. To break open the shells, the birds carry the mussels to heights and drop them onto hard surfaces, such as rocks or wet beach sand.

Experimental evidence indicates that the minimum drop height required to fracture a mussel shell depends on its size, and also on the nature of the surface onto which it is dropped. Moreover, the speed on impact with the ground can be related to the mussel’s drop height and its shell length.

The graphs in Figures 1 to 4 show the relationships between the size, impact speed, and drop height of mussels. The figures are based on the results of extensive mussel dropping experiments that attempted to simulate real conditions.

Assume that all mussels referred to in the following questions are described by these relationships.
21 An 80 gram mussel has a shell area closest to

A 20 square centimetres.  
B 24 square centimetres.  
C 40 square centimetres.  
D 45 square centimetres.

22 Which one of the following is the smallest drop height required to fracture three mussels with lengths 75 millimetres, 85 millimetres, and 100 millimetres, when all three are dropped onto wet beach sand?

A 1.90 metres  
B 2.35 metres  
C 2.67 metres  
D 3.00 metres

23 Two mussels are dropped from a height of 2.5 metres onto wet beach sand. Mussel \(X\) has a mass of 30 grams and mussel \(Y\) has a mass of 60 grams.

According to the available evidence,

A only mussel \(X\) will fracture.  
B only mussel \(Y\) will fracture.  
C both mussels will fracture.  
D neither mussel will fracture.
For a group of mussels, all of which have a shell length of 80 millimetres, the difference between the drop heights required to fracture the mussels when they drop onto rock and wet beach sand is closest to

A 0.6 metres.  
B 1.0 metres.  
C 1.9 metres.  
D 2.5 metres.

Which of the following is closest to the lowest impact speed required to fracture a 30 gram mussel by impact with wet beach sand?

A 5.5 metres per second  
B 6.8 metres per second  
C 8.4 metres per second  
D 10 metres per second
UNIT 9

Question 26

26 Which two of statements (i) – (iv) below are most similar to each other in the attitude to equality presented?

(i) Although men possess unequal powers, they nonetheless deserve equal rights.
(ii) Men are made by nature unequal. It is vain, therefore, to treat them as if they were equal.
(iii) Kneeling ne’er spoil’d silk stocking; quit thy state;
     All equal are within the church’s gate.
(iv) The wealth of a nation consists more than anything else in the number of superior men it harbours.

A statements (i) and (iii)
B statements (ii) and (iii)
C statements (i) and (iv)
D statements (iii) and (iv)
Sample essay prompts: STAT Written English

- **Only required by institutions in WA, VIC/TAS and NSW/ACT.**

**Time:** One hour, plus 5 minutes reading time.

STAT Written English requires written responses to two themes. Four comments (prompts) will be presented for each Part. Candidates must choose one comment from each Part.

The test will offer the following directions to candidates:

**Directions for paper-based sittings**

- There are two parts to this test, and four comments are offered for each part. You are required to produce two pieces of writing — one in response to a comment from Part A, and one in response to a comment from Part B.
- Part A is a more formal public affairs issue that invites argument. Part B is a less formal topic that invites more personal reflection.
- One hour is allocated for this test, with an additional five minutes reading time.
- Your responses to the essay comments are written directly on the test paper. You should write your essays neatly and legibly in pen.
- Circle the comment you are responding to. Do not try to address all of the other comments in your response.
- Give each piece of writing a title that will help orient a reader to the approach you are taking.

The following themes and comments indicate the kind of stimulus material that will be offered in this test.

**COMMENTS**

**Part A**

| Comment 1 | Education helps individuals grow and has a civilising and humanising influence on society as a whole. |
| Comment 2 | Too much of current education is concerned with rote learning that has little relationship to real problems and real life. |
| Comment 3 | Education is the greatest force for change and offers the greatest opportunity for hope about the future of our society. |
| Comment 4 | Much of what passes as education is technical knowledge that does little to broaden the mind. |

**Part B**

| Comment 5 | Friendship is something that most people see as very important, but most friendships turn out to be superficial and fragile. |
| Comment 6 | Romances come and go, but it is friendship that remains. |
| Comment 7 | It is important that we learn to be confident within ourselves rather than dependent on the good opinion of others. |
| Comment 8 | You have to work at friendship, because without tolerance and respect, even the best friendships soon disappear. |
Directions for online sittings

Online tests follow a similar format to the paper-based tests except that you select the comment you are going to respond to by using a drop down menu and typing rather than handwriting your response.

Below is an example of the screen that you will see for the online Written English test.

Part A:
Select ONE comment from the list below to respond to. Please allow approximately 30 minutes to complete this essay.

Write a title for your response here (to help orient the reader):

Essay Response

Click on the drop down arrow to view the topic choices
Answers

Unit 1: Fitzgerald's Lost City (V)
1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B

Unit 2: Grid (Q)
5. B

Unit 3: Juvenile Court (V)
6. C
7. B
8. D

Unit 4: Firefighters (Q)
9. C
10. A
11. C

Unit 5: Wolf and Sheep Quote (V)
12. A

Unit 6: Runalong Fire Station (Q)
13. B
14. C
15. B
16. D

Unit 7: Philosophy and Temperament (V)
17. D
18. D
19. A
20. C

Unit 8: Mussels (Q)
21. C
22. C
23. B
24. A
25. B

Unit 9: Statements (V)
26. A