Virginia Placement Test (VPT) Information

There are two placement tests students generally take at Germanna Community College. The VPT English and VPT Math tests are computerized placement tests that are used to evaluate students’ current English and Math skills respectively. The placement tests are not tests that students can “pass” or “fail.” Instead, scores are used to identify students’ strengths and weaknesses, so they are not placed into classes that are too easy or difficult. While the tests are not timed, students are required to allow at least three hours for each test. Taking both VPT tests on the same day is not recommended. This handout includes some resources that might assist you in preparing to take the placement tests.

VPT English Information

The VPT English test will consist of two weighted parts: the writing prompt, which is more heavily weighted, and the multiple-choice reading comprehension section. The VPT English test will begin with a selection of writing prompts. Computerized help tools, such as spell check and auto correct, will not be available. The writing section will be scored based upon a combination of the essay’s paragraph and sentence organization and structure, quality of content, overall unity, coherence of ideas, thesis statement, topic sentences, spelling, and grammar. Students will be expected to proofread their writing prior to submission. After completing the writing section, students will encounter a series of reading selections followed by multiple choice questions to evaluate reading comprehension. At the conclusion of the test, each student will receive a score report indicating into which ENF and/or ENG classes he/she has been placed.

VPT Math Information

The VPT Math test will consist of a series of math questions. All students will start with 30 questions that the software will use to determine which additional sections they will be given. Students will then receive sections with questions that tests them on topics related to MTE 1-5, MTE 6-9, and/or advanced math concepts. Students should plan to finish all sections to the best of their ability as trying
to skip questions will not make the test end sooner. At the conclusion of the test, each student will receive a score report indicating into which MTE and/or MTH classes he/she has been placed.

**Sample Test Questions for the English and Math VPT**

The information regarding when the testing center hours for placement testing and necessary documents are available on the Testing Services webpage under “Placement Testing:”

http://www.germanna.edu/testing_services/placementtests.asp.

By accessing any one of the three “Are You College Read?” links on this page, students can access the instructions for taking the online VPT practice test which can be downloaded by clicking on the “VPT practice directions” link. The “Are you College Ready?” page can be accessed directly with the following link:

http://www.germanna.edu/Students/Are_You_College_Ready/placement-ready.asp

Once students have registered with the VPT practice website, they may access five different practice exams. *VPT Math - Practice Units 1-5* covers the material in MTE modules 1-5, which is a prerequisite for the Liberal Arts Math track. *VPT Math - Practice Units 6-9* covers the material in MTE modules 6-9, which is a prerequisite for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) track.

Students interested in the STEM track should review the material within both *VPT Math - Practice Units 6-9* and the *VPT Math - Practice Units 1-5* exams. The *VPT Math - Practice Calculus NO Trig* covers the material necessary to place into Business Calculus (MTH 271) or Trigonometry (MTH 164*). The *VPT Math - Practice Calculus with Trig* covers the additional Trigonometry material necessary to place into Calculus 1. Students interested in placing directly into should review the material in both the *VPT Math - Practice Calculus NO Trig* and the *VPT Math - Practice Calculus with Trig* practice exams. The *VPT English – Practice Exam* will cover content within the discipline of English.

*Please note:* MTH 164 will not be offered at Germanna after the Fall 2013 semester. The MTH 163/164 sequence will be replaced with MTH 166. The MTH 163 class will still be offered for students pursuing Statistics (MTH 240) or Business Calculus(MTH 271).

**Helpful Placement Test Review Websites**

Virginia’s Community Colleges VPT MathSite: math practice problems broken down the same way as the MTE math modules

http://vccsblogs.com/math/
This web site was created by the VCCS to assist students with preparing for the VPT Math test. The website is divided into units. Each unit corresponds to the material covered in the Math Essentials (MTE) module units of the same number with unit 0 corresponding to the Basic Skills (BSK) math module.

CollegeBoard: critical reading, writing, and math skill preparation
http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html
Although this site is specifically geared towards information covered on the SATs, the topics reviewed are similar to the subjects students will encounter on the VPT Math and VPT English tests.

Germanna Tutoring Services’ homepage: access to many helpful handouts and websites
www.germanna.edu/tutor
There are numerous handouts available for student use outside the Tutoring Centers at both the Locust Grove Campus and the Fredericksburg Area Campus. They can also be accessed and downloaded from Tutoring Services’ Germanna webpage under “Helpful Handouts.”
http://www.germanna.edu/Academics_And_Student_Services/Student_Services/Tutoring_Services/helpful-handouts.asp
There are numerous helpful websites listed within the subheadings below, and they can be accessed from the “Academic Links” area of the tutoring website.
http://www.germanna.edu/Academics_And_Student_Services/Student_Services/Tutoring_Services/academic-links.asp
Helpful English Handouts

- Guide to Writing an Essay
- Guide to English Grammar
- Controlling Idea/ Topic Sentence
- Thesis Statement
- Comma Rules
- Run-ons and Comma Splices
- The Semicolon
- Direct and Indirect Objects
- Verb Tenses
- Possessives
- Prepositions
- Adjectives/Adverbs
- Spelling – Nouns Plural
- Subject Verb Agreement
- Pronoun Antecedent Agreement
- Pronoun Case
- Self-Editing Checklist for College Writers
- VCCS English VPT Review

Helpful English Websites

➢ Guide to Grammar and Writing: index of various grammar and writing topics
   http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index2.htm
   This site provides a searchable database of various grammar and writing topics with examples that illustrate the concept. Within the index list is a link to “Quizzes,” and a link to “FAQs.”

➢ English Reading and Writing Exercises: a computer applet with different exercises
   http://www.qedoc.org/qedoc/index.php?title=English_Reading_and_Writing_Exercises
   This site provides a link to run a Java-based program containing different reading and writing exercises. Activities range from Hangman to fill-in-the-blank questions. At the beginning of the program, the viewer may choose the level of difficulty.

➢ Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab: guides students on the writing process, mechanics, grammar, development of thesis statements, and much more
   http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/
   This site includes useful articles on the writing process including academic writing, common writing assignments, mechanics, grammar, punctuation, and other topics listed under the “General Writing” subheading within the menu on the left-hand side.
Helpful Math Handouts

- MTE 1-9 Cumulative Math Review
- Order of Operations
- Introduction to Word Problems
- MTE 5 & 7 Word Problems
- Decimals, Fractions, & Percentages
- Introduction to Fractions
- Factoring Methods
- Linear Equations
- Polynomial Fractions
- Quadratic Formula and the Discriminate
- Working with Complex Numbers
- Geometric Formulas
- Exponents and Radicals
- Logarithms
- Metric Conversions
- Completing the Square
- Graphing Polynomials
- Common Trigonometric Angle Measurements
- Common Derivatives and Integrals

Helpful Math Websites

- KhanAcademy: video tutorials on various Math and other topics
  http://www.khanacademy.org/
  This site provides access to thousands of video tutorials on several course topics including Math, Biology, SAT prep, Physics, Chemistry, History, and many others. Use the search feature to find the topic you would like to review. Most videos are less then ten minutes in length.

- That Quiz: math practice quizzes
  http://www.thatquiz.org/
  This site provides many practice problems for a variety of math topics from Arithmetic to Geometry and Calculus. Quiz results only demonstrate which problems were answered correctly or incorrectly; they do not provide the solutions.

- PurpleMath: tutorials on many math topics
  http://www.purplemath.com/modules/index.htm
  This site provides detailed explanations on how to solve many different kinds of math problems. Sections include the following: preliminary topics; beginning, intermediate, and advanced algebra; and solving word problems.
Math.com: tutorials, practice problems, calculators, and games
http://math.com/homeworkhelp/PreAlgebra.html
Math.com features tutorials on various math topics, including Pre-algebra, Math Basics, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics, and Calculus. There are also online calculators available for use, as well as a variety of games that will strengthen math skills.

AAA Math: multiplication practice
http://www.aaastudy.com/mul.htm
This site provides lessons and practice problems on basic multiplication. Other math topics can be accessed by clicking on the links located within the left-hand menu.

HippoCampus: algebra video tutorials with audio
http://www.hippocampus.org/
This site features video tutorials on how to solve a variety of math problems. Topics include Algebra Basics, Equations, Ratios and Proportions, Inequalities, Absolute Values, and others. Also featured are simulations in which the concepts presented in the videos are the basis of games, puzzles, or application scenarios.

Algebra.help: lessons and practice problems
http://www.algebrahelp.com/worksheets/
This site provides lessons and practice problems with a step-by-step guide to the solutions.

Virtual Nerd: algebra video tutorials with audio
http://www.virtualnerd.com/
This site provides many tutorial videos for Basic Math, Algebra, Geometry, and SAT/ACT preparation.