Q. What is the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST)?
A. The CLAST is an achievement test that measures selected communication and mathematics skills adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). It includes four subtests: essay, English language skills, reading, and mathematics. The mathematics, reading, and English language skills subtests are multiple choice. The essay requires written composition on one of two provided topics.

Q. Is the CLAST a required test?
A. Demonstrating attainment of basic college-level communications and mathematics skills is required for (1) the award of an associate in arts degree from a community college or state university and (2) admission to upper-division status in a state university or receipt of a baccalaureate degree from a state university.

The CLAST is one measure of students' academic proficiency. Effective January 1, 1996, s. 1008.29, Florida Statutes (F.S.), provides alternative ways for students to demonstrate attainment of the required communications and mathematics skills. For further information about these alternatives, contact the person or office responsible for administering the CLAST at your college or university.

Q. What are passing scores on the CLAST?
A. Passing scores on the CLAST have been established by the State Board of Education as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay</th>
<th>ESL</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/18-7/31/96</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/18-7/31/97</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/19-9/30/91</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1/91-11/30/99</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1/92 &amp; thereafter</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In October 1991, the essay scoring scale was revised. A score of 5 on the revised scale is equivalent to a score of 4 on the former scale.*

A student is required to present scores that meet the standards that are in effect at the time he or she initially takes the test. Students should check with local school authorities to determine which passing scores apply to them.

Q. What happens if a student does not pass all four subtests of the CLAST?
A. Students who have not passed all four subtests and who are seeking a baccalaureate degree may be required to pass all three subtests before they are allowed to earn more than 60 degree credits; they also may be required to pass all four subtests before they are allowed to earn more than 96 degree credits.

Q. May students retake the CLAST?
A. Students who have not passed a subtest of the CLAST may retake it during any subsequent administration for which they are properly registered. Students may retake as many subtests as necessary to meet the CLAST requirement.

Students may retake an examination no sooner than the thirty-first (31st) day after any previous administration date, regardless of whether the previous administration was a regular administration, a special administration, or a computer-adaptive (CAT) administration. If a student takes a subtest of the CLAST before the thirty-first (31st) day, the score(s) will be invalidated, and no score report will be mailed.

Students may not retake any CLAST subtest for which they already have a passing score.

Q. Where do students register for the CLAST?
A. Students must register for the CLAST at an institution that can determine their eligibility to take the test. Normally, this will be the institution in which students are enrolled when they take the test. Registration must be completed by the established deadline; late registration, stand-by registration, or walk-ins to the test are not permitted.

Q. When is registration and when is the CLAST given?
A. The Commissioner of Education will establish registration and test dates for the CLAST for each year.

Participation in any administration of the CLAST is limited to those persons who have registered for that administration on or before the registration deadline.

An alternate administration is held on the Tuesday following each regular administration of the CLAST. This administration is open only to students who were registered for but could not participate in the regular administration because of lack of funds, administrative error in the part of the institution, or participation in an authorized school function.

Q. What is the CLAST administered?
A. The CLAST is administered in all community colleges and state universities and in many private institutions in Florida.

Q. What is the total testing time for the CLAST?
A. The total testing time for the CLAST is approximately 5 hours, which includes the time required for arrival, instructions, and a break. The time allotted for each subtest is as follows:

- **Essay Subtest** – 60 minutes
- **English Language Skills and Reading Subtests** – 80 minutes
- **Mathematics Subtest** – 90 minutes

Retake examinees are allowed double time for each subtest.

Q. When will test results be mailed?
A. Test results will be mailed to students approximately 5 weeks after the test administration.

Q. Are special testing arrangements available for students with disabilities?
A. Yes. Adaptations of testing materials, as well as of testing conditions, are made for students with documented psychological impairments or learning disabilities. It is the responsibility of students who need special testing arrangements to request them when registering for the CLAST.

Q. How do students prepare to take the CLAST?
A. Community colleges and state universities in Florida are required to afford students the opportunity to acquire the skills that are measured in the CLAST as a part of freshman and sophomore courses.

Additionally, each community college and state university has an individual who coordinates all activities involved in the administration of the CLAST. That person in each institution will refer students to the help they may need.

Q. What do students need for the CLAST?
A. Students need an admission ticket from the institution; two forms of identification with at least one showing a picture; several soft-lead pencils with erasers, and ballpoint pens with black or blue ink.

Q. What specific skills are measured by the CLAST?
A. The following skills, which have been agreed upon by community college and state university faculty members, are measured by the CLAST:

- **Math Skills**
  - Use standard mathematical language
  - Recognize the correct mathematical operation in a word problem
  - Solve linear and quadratic equations

- **Reading Skills**
  - Recognize main ideas
  - Identify supporting details
  - Determine meaning of words

- **Critical Thinking Skills**
  - Recognize attempted fallacies
  - Recognize the logical structure of an argument

- **Writing Skills**
  - Recognize good writing
  - Recognize poor writing

- **Essay Skills**
  - Select a subject that lends itself to development
  - Determine the purpose and audience for writing
  - Limit a subject to requirements of time, purpose, and audience
  - Formulate a thesis or main idea statement
  - Provide adequate supporting details
  - Arrange ideas and details in a logical pattern appropriate to the purpose and focus
  - Write unified prose with relevant supporting material
  - Write coherent prose with effective transitions between parts
  - Avoid slang, jargon, clichés, and pretentious expressions
  - Use a variety of sentence patterns
  - Avoid abusive or passive construction
  - Maintain consistent point of view
  - Revise, edit, and proofread for clarity, consistency, and conformity to standard American English

*All of the skills tested on the English language skills subtest are also tested on the essay subtest.*

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS**

**Word Choice Skills**
- Use words which convey the meaning required by context
- Avoid wordiness

**Sentence Structure Skills**
- Place modifiers correctly
- Coordinate and subordinate sentence elements
- Use parallel expressions for parallel ideas
- Avoid fragments, comma splices, and fused sentences

**Grammar, Spelling, Capitalization, and Punctuation Skills**
- Use standard verb forms
- Maintain agreement between subject and verb, pronoun and antecedent
- Use proper case forms
- Use adjectives and adverbs correctly
- Avoid inappropriate shifts in verb tenses
- Make logical comparisons
- Use standard spelling, punctuation, and capitalization

**READING SKILLS**

**Lateral Comprehension Skills**
- Recognize main ideas
- Identify supporting details
- Determine meaning of words

**Critical Comprehension Skills**
- Recognize author’s purpose
- Identify author’s overall organizational pattern
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Detect bias
- Recognize author’s tone
- Recognize relationships between sentences
- Recognize valid arguments
- Draw logical inferences and conclusions
Mathematics Skills

Arithmetic Skills
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers in fractional form
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers in decimal form
- Calculate percent increase and percent decrease
- Solve “a% of b is c,” where two of the variables are given
- Recognize the meaning of exponents
- Recognize the role of the base number in the base-ten numeration system
- Identify equivalent forms of decimals, percents, and fractions
- Determine the order relation between real numbers
- Identify a reasonable estimate of a sum, average, or product
- Infer relations between numbers in general by examining number pairs
- Solve real-world problems that do not involve the use of percent
- Solve real-world problems that do involve the use of percent
- Solve problems that involve the structure and logic of arithmetic

Geometry and Measurement Skills
- Round measurements
- Calculate distance, area, and volume
- Identify relationships between angle measures
- Classify simple plane figures by recognizing their properties
- Recognize similar triangles and their properties
- Identify units of measurement for geometric objects
- Infer formulas for measuring geometric figures
- Select applicable formulas for computing measures of geometric figures
- Solve real-world problems involving perimeters, areas, and volumes of geometric figures
- Solve real-world problems involving the Pythagorean property

Statistics Skills, Including Probability
- Identify information contained in graphs
- Determine the mean, median, and mode
- Use the fundamental counting principle
- Recognize properties and interrelationships among the mean, median, and mode
- Choose the most appropriate procedures for selecting an unbiased sample
- Identify the probability of a specified outcome
- Infer relations and make accurate predictions from studying statistical data
- Interpret real-world data involving frequency and cumulative frequency tables
- Solve real-world problems involving probabilities

Logical Reasoning Skills
- Deduce facts of set inclusion or set non-inclusion from a diagram
- Identify negations of simple and compound statements
- Determine equivalence and nonequivalence of statements
- Draw logical conclusions from data
- Recognize invalid arguments with true conclusions
- Recognize valid reasoning patterns shown in everyday language
- Select applicable rules for transforming statements without affecting meaning
- Draw logical conclusions when facts warrant them

Further Information Is Available From:

The unedited definitions of the skills listed above are contained in State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.0316, Florida Administrative Code.