

Versant placement test – Detailed view

Section	Task description	Examples	No. of questions	Approx. time
Part A: Read aloud	Read a passage aloud for 30 seconds. Candidates may not be able to finish reading the entire passage in 30 seconds, but this is not counted against them.	Australia is a very large country. It is the sixth largest country in the world. It is also a continent and is sometimes called the 'island continent'. It is surrounded by two oceans. Most of Australia is a desert so it is very flat and dry, but it also has rain forests and mountains. It is home to many different kinds of animals.	02	2 mins
Part B: Repeats	Listen to a sentence and repeat the sentence word-for-word. The sentences are presented in approximate order of increasing difficulty.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He's a great teacher. 2. It's not too late to change your mind. 3. People know how easy it is to get lost in thought. 	16	5 min
Part C: Sentence builds	Listen to a group of three short phrases presented in random order and then rearrange the phrases to make a sentence.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. my boss/to London/moved 2. of your family/any pictures/do you have 3. to their leader/listened carefully/the young men 	10	3 mins
Part D: Conversations	Listen to a conversation between two speakers and then answer a comprehension question.	<p>Speaker 1: Congratulations on graduating!</p> <p>Speaker 2: Thanks! It was a lot of work.</p> <p>Speaker 1: I know. You deserve a party.</p> <p>Question: Why does the man deserve a party?</p>	12	2 mins
Part E: Typing	Type a given passage exactly as displayed in 60 seconds. This is an assessment of typing speed and accuracy and allows candidates to familiarize themselves with the keyboard.	Many people do not like public speaking. They are afraid to speak in front of a large group of people. There are many ways to get better at public speaking. First, it is good to know the room. You should know where to stand and where to set up your computer...(etc.)	1	1 min
Part F: Sentence completion	Read a sentence that has a word missing, and then supply an appropriate word to complete the sentence. Candidates are given 25 seconds for each item.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Her favorite hobby is _____. She has so many books. 2. He arrives _____ and is often the first one here. 3. I asked a coworker to take over my _____ because I wasn't feeling well. 	20	8 mins
Part G: Dictation	Listen to a sentence and then type the sentence exactly as it is heard. Candidates are given 25 seconds for each item.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I'll see you on Thursday. 2. How long can I keep this book? 3. She apologized to all her friends several times. 	16	7 mins
Part H: Passage reconstruction	Read a short paragraph for 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, the paragraph disappears. Then, reconstruct the paragraph in 90 seconds, including the main points and as many details as possible.	Robert went to a nice restaurant for dinner. When the waiter brought the bill, Robert reached for his wallet, but it wasn't in his pocket. He remembered having his wallet when he came into the restaurant. The waiter looked around the floor near his table. He found the wallet under the table.	3	6 mins
Part I: Summary and opinion	Read a passage. Then, write a summary of the author's opinion in 25-50 words and give your own opinion on the topic presented in the passage in at least 50 words. Candidates are given 18 minutes to read the passage and write both responses.	Some children grow up in a big city while other children grow up in the countryside. Childhood experiences can be very different depending on where a person is raised. Although the countryside can be more peaceful than a big city, it is better for children to grow up in a big city...(etc.)	1	18 mins