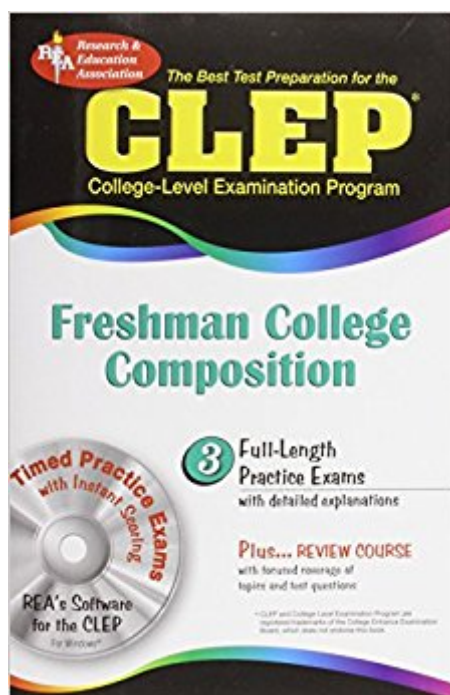


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# CLEP Freshman College Composition (CLEP Test Preparation)



## Synopsis

Earn College Credit with REA's Test Prep for CLEP® Freshman College Composition. Everything you need to pass the exam and get the college credit you deserve. CLEP® is the most popular credit-by-examination program in the country, accepted by more than 2,900 colleges and universities. For over 15 years, REA has helped students pass CLEP® exams and earn college credit while reducing their tuition costs. Our CLEP® test preps are perfect for adults returning to college (or attending for the first time), military service members, high-school graduates looking to earn college credit, or home-schooled students with knowledge that can translate into college credit. The CLEP® Freshman College Composition test prep assesses the skills tested on the official CLEP® exam. Our comprehensive review chapters cover: college writing, the reading process, language skills, and more. The book includes 3 full-length practice tests. Each exam comes with detailed feedback on every question. We don't just say which answers are right—we explain why the other answer choices are wrong—so you can identify your strengths and weaknesses while building your skills. Two of the book's practice tests are also offered on our interactive TestWare CD and give you the added benefits of timed testing, automatic scoring, and diagnostic feedback. We help you zero in on the topics and types of questions that give you trouble now, so you'll succeed when it counts. REA is the acknowledged leader in CLEP® preparation, with the most extensive library of CLEP® titles available. Our test preps for CLEP® exams help you earn college credit, save on tuition, and get a college degree.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Chapter 1 - PASSING THE CLEP FRESHMAN COLLEGE COMPOSITION CBT  
About this Book and TESTware  
This book provides you with an accurate and complete representation of the CLEP Freshman College Composition Computer-Based Test, or CBT. Inside you will find a complete review of college composition, as well as tips and strategies for test-taking. We also provide three full-length practice tests, all based on the official CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT. REA's practice tests contain every type of question that you can expect to encounter on the actual exam. Following each practice test you will find an answer key with detailed explanations designed to help you master the CLEP CBT. The practice tests presented in this book and software package are included in two formats: in printed form in the book, and in TESTware format on the enclosed CD. We recommend that you begin your preparation by first taking the practice exams on your computer. The software provides timed conditions, automatic scoring, and scoring information, all of which makes it easier to pinpoint your strengths and weaknesses.

About the Exam  
Who takes the CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT and what is it used for?  
CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) examinations are usually taken by people who have acquired knowledge outside the classroom and wish to bypass certain college courses and earn college credit. The CLEP Program is designed to reward students for learning—no matter where or how that knowledge was acquired. The CLEP is the most widely accepted credit-by-examination program in the United States. Although most CLEP examinees are adults returning to college, many graduating high school seniors, enrolled college students, and international students also take the exams to earn college credit or to demonstrate their ability to perform at the college level. There are no prerequisites, such as age or educational status, for taking CLEP examinations. However, you must meet any specific requirements of the particular institution from which you wish to receive CLEP credit. There are 34 CLEP examinations. Of these, five—English Composition (with or without essay), Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences and History—cover material usually taken as requirements during the first two years of college.

Who administers the exam?  
The CLEP is developed by the College Board, administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS), and involves the assistance of educators throughout the United States. The test development process is designed and implemented to ensure that the content and difficulty level of the test are appropriate.

When and where is the exam given?  
The CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT is administered throughout the year at more than 1,400 test centers in the United States and can be

arranged for candidates abroad on request. To find the test center nearest you and to register for the exam, you should obtain a copy of the free booklets CLEP Colleges and CLEP Information for Candidates and Registration Form, which are available at most colleges where CLEP credit is granted, or by contacting: CLEP Services P.O. Box 6601 Princeton, NJ 08541-6601 Phone: 1-800-257-9558 Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

### How to Use this Book

#### What do I study first?

Read over the course review and the suggestions for test-taking. Then take the first practice test to determine your area(s) of weakness. Those areas should constitute the focus of your study efforts. Studying our topical survey thoroughly will reinforce the basic skills you will need to do well on the exam. Make sure to take the practice tests to become familiar with the format and procedures involved with taking the actual exam. To best utilize your study time, follow our Independent Study Schedule, which you'll find in the front of this book. The schedule is based on a six-week program but can be condensed to a three-week plan if necessary by making a single week's study unit out of every two weeks' coverage.

#### When should I start studying?

It is never too early to start studying for the CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT. The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to sharpen your skills. Do not procrastinate! Cramming is not an effective way to study, since it does not allow you the time needed to learn the test material. The sooner you learn the format of the exam, the more time you will have to familiarize yourself with it.

#### Format of the CLEP Freshman college composition CBT

The CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT covers the material one would find in most first-year English courses. It measures a candidate's understanding of both mechanics and style, with questions concerning the structure of sentences, the logical development of essays, and the ability to recognize rhetorical purpose and strategies in prose and poetry. Candidates must also demonstrate familiarity with research papers and reference skills. There are 90 multiple-choice questions, each with five possible answer choices, to be answered in 90 minutes. Coverage is apportioned approximately as follows:

- 65% Recognizing logical development in student drafts as well as published prose
- 20% Recognizing and using standard written English
- 15% Demonstrating the ability to use resource materials

There is also an optional free-response section to the CLEP Freshman College Composition that you will take only if your college requires it. If you sit for this section, you will need to respond to two essay questions, with a combined time limit of 95 minutes. Candidates must respond to the first essay topic, while the second essay may choose to write on one of two topics. The College Board advises candidates to spend between 35 and 40 minutes on the first essay and between 50 and 55 minutes on the second. We have not included sample essay questions within our practice tests. Since the scoring is left to the college that requests this portion of the exam, it is impossible to determine what a

satisfactory answer would be in every case. Below, however, are three topics similar to the ones you can expect to find on the exam.

**Sample Topic A** Our use of language differs depending on the manner or conditions in which it is used. Our language may differ in use of syntax, inflection, vocabulary, and pronunciation, dependent on circumstances. Write an essay describing the differences in the language you would use in two different circumstances—a conversation with a friend and a job interview, for instance. Your essay should indicate what purposes the differences in your use of language serve.

**Sample Topic B** Polls of American youth suggest that they want high-paying jobs, not necessarily satisfying careers. This reflects the current cultural value implied in the popular media that money is the key which opens the golden door to satisfaction, unlike the traditional value of work for its own reward. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your opinion with specific examples from history, current events, literature, or personal experience.

**Sample Topic C** Because of increased crime involving teenagers at area malls and other places of recreational activity, local city councils and many concerned citizens have recently proposed curfews, hoping to stem the tide of teen crime. Write an essay, to be read by the city council and concerned citizens, approving or disapproving of the proposed curfews for teenagers.

**About Our Course Review** REA's review for the CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT is divided into two areas. The first is an introduction that covers all the major styles of college writing, the tools used by effective writers, and useful techniques for handling a college research paper. This portion of the review will prove to be effective in scoring well on the second half of the exam and will serve as a good preparation tool for college-level work in general. The skills review in this book provides a comprehensive study of the mechanics of writing, including diction, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. The drills in this section will sharpen your knowledge of all aspects of grammar, thus putting you in a strong position to score well on the first half of the exam.

**Scoring Your Practice Tests** The CLEP Freshman College Composition Exam is scored on a scale of 20 to 80. To score your practice tests, count up the number of correct answers and enter the result on the scoring worksheet below. The number of correct answers represents your raw score. Finally, convert your raw score to a scaled score using the conversion table that follows. Note that the CLEP exams are scored only according to correct answers; no credit will be lost for incorrectly answered items.

**When will I receive my score report?** A scoring printout will be made available to you immediately after you finish the CLEP CBT. Scores for the essay section of the CLEP CBT will be available about three weeks after the day of your test. Your scores are reported only to you, unless you ask to have them sent elsewhere. If you want your scores reported to a college or other institution, you must fill in the correct code number on your answer sheet at the time

you take the examination. Since your scores are kept on file for 20 years, you may also request transcripts from ETS at a later date.

### Studying for the CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT

It is crucial for you to choose the time and place for studying that works best for you. Some students set aside a certain number of hours every morning, while others choose to study at night before going to sleep. Only you can determine when and where your study time will be most effective. But be consistent and use your time wisely. Work out a study routine and stick to it! When you take our practice tests, try to make your testing conditions as much like the actual test as possible. Turn off the television or radio, and sit down at a quiet table or desk free from distraction. Use a timer to ensure that each section is accurately clocked. As you complete each practice test, score it and thoroughly review the explanations for the questions you answered incorrectly; but don't review too much at one sitting. Concentrate on one problem area at a time by reviewing the question and explanation, and by studying our review until you are confident that you completely understand the material. Keep track of your scores and mark them on the scoring worksheet. By doing so, you will be able to gauge your progress and discover general weaknesses in particular sections. You should carefully study the review sections that cover your areas of difficulty, as this will build your skills in those areas.

### Test-Taking tips

Although you may not be familiar with standardized tests such as the CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT, there are many ways to acquaint yourself with this type of examination and help alleviate your test-taking anxieties. Listed below are ways to help you become accustomed to the CLEP, some of which may be applied to other standardized tests as well.

#### Know the format of the CBT.

CLEP CBTs are not adaptive but rather fixed-length tests. In a sense, this makes them kin to the familiar paper-and-pencil exam in that you have the same flexibility to go back and review your work in each section. Moreover, the format hasn't changed a great deal from the paper-and-pencil CLEP. For this exam, you can expect to encounter 90 questions that need to be answered within 90 minutes. You are likely to see some so-called pretest questions as well, but you won't know which they are and they won't be scored.

#### Read all the possible answers.

Just because you think you have found the correct response, do not automatically assume that it is the best answer. Read through each choice to be sure that you are not making a mistake by jumping to conclusions.

#### Use the process of elimination.

If you don't immediately see the correct answer among the choices, systematically scan the list and eliminate as many as you can by simple inspection. Confidently casting aside choices will help you isolate the correct response, or at least knock your choices down to just a few strong contenders. This approach has the added benefit of keeping you from getting sidetracked and distracted by what in fact may be just an occasional tricky question. Importantly, your score on a CLEP CBT is based only

on the number of questions you answer correctly. Work quickly and steadily. You will have just 90 minutes to work on the 90 questions you'll be facing, so take a steady-as-she-goes approach to avoid spending an inordinate amount of time on any one question. Taking our practice tests-which feature the same number of items as the actual test-will help you learn to budget your time wisely. Learn the directions and format for each section of the test. This will put extra time on your side that you can use to review your work on test day. Acquaint yourself with the CBT screen. Familiarize yourself with the CLEP CBT screen beforehand by logging on to the official College Board Website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Waiting until test day to see what the CBT screen looks like in the pretest tutorial risks injecting needless anxiety into your testing experience. One caveat: The tutorial, while a useful tool to acclimate yourself to the type of test you'll be taking, should not be taken literally in all its details, including the number of sample choices you may see. In its totality, however, it should lend greater confidence to your test-taking experience. Be sure that your answer registers before you go to the next item. Check the screen to see that your mouse-click causes the pointer to darken the proper oval. This takes far less effort than darkening an oval on paper, but don't lull yourself into taking less care! Throw it in reverse. One of the more unusual ways you can turn a multiple-choice format to your advantage is to work backwards from the answer choices to the question. While we do not recommend using this strategy all the time, it can be helpful if you need to plug the choices into a given formula, equation, or word problem. Consider that the answers can serve as a series of clues, often narrowing the scope of your search for the correct responses. You may even be able to make an educated guess based on eliminating choices that you know do not fit the problem. Again, however, use this approach sparingly.

### The Day of the Exam

#### Taking the CLEP CBT

On the day of the test, you should wake up early (after a decent night's rest, one would hope) and have a good breakfast. Dress comfortably so that you are not distracted by being too hot or too cold while taking the test. Plan to arrive at the test center early. This will allow you to collect your thoughts and relax before the test, and will also spare you the anxiety that comes with being late. No one will be allowed into the test session after the test has begun. Before you set out for the test center, make sure that you have your admission form, Social Security number, and a photo ID with your signature (e.g., driver's license, student identification card, or current alien registration card). You need proper ID to get into the test center. You may wear a watch to the test center, but it cannot make any noise, which could disturb your fellow test-takers. No calculators, computers, dictionaries, textbooks, notebooks, scrap paper, briefcases, or packages will be permitted; drinking, smoking, and eating are prohibited. Good luck on the CLEP Freshman College Composition CBT!

This test was replaced by the Modular Composition exam if I remember right. I used this book, Grammar for Dummies, and the Little Brown Book to study for the Modular Composition CLEP with essay. Just before I took the test I realized there was a newer version, but I still got a 65 on the multiple choice section. My school requires the Compass eWriting essay portion with only one (untimed?) essay. I felt fairly prepared for the test and there was no poetry comprehension portion of the test that I took. I recommend taking the first practice test in the book to find your problem areas and studying before taking the next in line. The tests on the disc only prepare you for a timed electronic test, they'll tell you what you got wrong but won't explain why.

I was disappointed in this book and especially with the software. Over half the book is practice test with answers, if you don't use the software I guess this would be ok. Of the three remaining chapters, one is about the test structure and strategy (worthwhile read); the second is an introduction to college composition (not a study guide). Only the third chapter, containing about 50 pages or 25% of the book, is an actual study guide. The study material is ok, but not great. The software is another story. The UI is a kludge, the program is buggy, and tech support is non-responsive. There is a known issue with Windows XP and later that requires you to download and register a custom DLL. To make matters worse, the instructions they give are wrong. Good luck if you're not computer savvy. I could never get mine to print the results and have yet to receive a response from tech support. Also, there is no analysis of your results to help you focus study. Rather, you can manually review the explanations for each question in the test. I did pass the test, but would not give much credit to this guide beyond familiarizing me with the format. If you want a quick check to see if you are ready for the test, this will help. If you don't pass the practice exam, I'd suggest taking the course rather than relying on this guide to help you study.

This book is OK, but not nearly as good as the other REA CLEP Prep books. The authors did something odd in this one - it's as if they were writing it as a study guide or to accompany a class. There were many references to "according to your professor's specifications" and "professors ... will demand." Who cares about professors?!!! I'm studying for an exam, not trying to do better in a class. The information provided is not very specific either. Most items are covered in general terms and will need to be researched elsewhere to get the specifics. The computerized tests do not completely match up to the ones in the book, so if you use both as a reference this becomes more time consuming. There were also many typos (i.e. p. 50 "a student may writes a paper" and p. 51 "the next section ... usually discusses the extant of published knowledge"). This is unacceptable in a



book that is supposed to be sharpening your English/grammar skills. I supplemented with Grammar for Dummies (good book) and also looked on the internet for rules of citing references. Scored a 75 on the CLEP, mostly due to a strong background in this subject.

I just took College composition Modular CLEP exam and received a score of 54. FYI I am a senior majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. I only took one writing class freshman year of college, and the rest of the classes during my college years were all MATH, CALCULUS, LOGICS, CIRCUITS, and more CALCULUS! So as you can imagine my English is not up to par as my Math. Also, I always hated English, I found it very boring. So as you can imagine I was not looking forward to this CLEP exam. This book really helped me refresh my mind, and gave me somewhat of an idea of how the test will be like. I didn't really "study" I just took 90 minutes everyday for 5 days and took the sample tests in the book. I'm sure if you study longer and put your mind to it more than I did, you will get a higher score. I noticed that when I took the exam some of the questions were nothing like the REA book. It took me by surprise but nevertheless I was able to pass, so I'm freaking HAPPY!! Some advice: Don't take too long answering the questions...you have 90 minutes for 90 questions. I ended up taking "educated guesses" at the end lol

CLEP Freshman College Comp is a quick, easy-to-read study guide, with practice tests that are, technically, almost exactly like the actual CLEP exam. In fact I already took and passed the test, and this book really did help quite a bit. My disappointment lies in the fact that much of the text information is not on the quizzes or tests themselves. (ex: nothing about fiction and drama were in the practice or the real exam re: plot, characterization, style), so I felt that it was a waste of my time, as I could have concentrated more on MLA information, which is minimal in the text, but present in all tests. The other thing that was disappointing was the Software disc. It is compatible solely with Windows, information not found on , but in fine print. Anyway, it is what it is, but you asked and I figured this info could be helpful.

There are obvious grammatical mistakes in this book, which is a little scary considering the content it's supposed to be teaching. However, if you can look past that, the Freshman Comp review section is pretty decent. I didn't use the tests in the book but I did use one of the tests on the CD. It doesn't work on Mac so I had to switch over to the Windows side. Not a big deal but kind of annoying. You don't need the CD past installation so that's nice. Overall, I read probably 3/4 of the review section and got a 74 on the multiple choice test. I thought it was easy, but then again, I'm a recent grad and

took a semester of AP English. The book / test CD was an easy (if not a little boring) way to prep.

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