

Sample Questions

Punctuation

The famous governor never thought he would be subjected to such humiliating pranks, however, someone thought otherwise and threw a pie at the governor.

- Correct
- The famous governor never thought he would be subjected to such humiliating pranks, however, someone thought **otherwise, and threw** a pie at the governor.
- The famous governor never thought he would be subjected to such humiliating **pranks; however,** someone thought otherwise and threw a pie at the governor.
- The famous governor never thought he would be subjected to such humiliating pranks **but,** someone thought otherwise and threw a pie at the governor.

Diction

The brightly colored beach towel was _____ on the sandy beach.

- Laying
- Lying

The _____ of books I will need for school this semester is incredible.

- Number
- Amount

Answers: d (subject/verb agreement), b (pronoun/antecedent agreement); c (comma splice); b, a (diction).



ALPHA Center

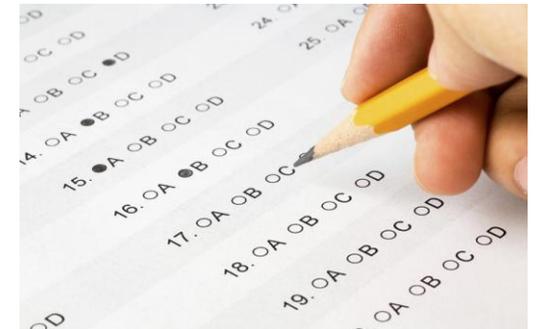
Nazareth Hall
Room 4012
651-628-3316
<http://nwc.edu/alpha>

Hours (during the school year):

Monday – Thursday 8am - 8pm
Friday 8am - 4:30pm
Closed during chapel

Northwestern College

The Editing Competency Exam



ALPHA Center

Frequently Asked Questions about the ECE:

What is the ECE?

It is an assessment tool which the English Department uses to measure students' grammar comprehension. It is a 75-question multiple-choice exam covering three specific aspects of writing: usage, punctuation, and diction. To pass the test, you must answer 56 out of the 75 questions correctly (i.e. 75%).

Why do I need to take the ECE?

The most common reason students need to take the ECE is to be able to register for English Composition II (ENG2205)—a requirement for graduation. There are also other reasons: to register for any course which contains a writing concentration emphasis, to get into the Teacher Education Program, or to take any upper-level literature or English courses.

Where and when can I take the ECE?

If you are a registered student, you can take the ECE in the ALPHA Center whenever it is open, not just during normal testing hours. Make sure that you bring a photo ID, that you know your school ID number, and that you allow yourself 1-2 hours to take the exam. During the school year, the ECE can be taken any weekday from 8 am to 8 pm (4:30 pm on Fridays), except during chapel. Summer hours can be found online.

Do I have to make an appointment to take the ECE?

No, you don't have to make an appointment to take the ECE, unless you need to take it in the quiet room.

What happens if I fail the ECE?

Anyone who fails the ECE is required to undergo a remediation process with the ALPHA Center writing tutors. Students who are remediating receive tutoring and take quizzes for each of the areas in which they missed questions on the ECE. They can begin the remediation process by scheduling tutoring appointments online. The remediation process can last anywhere from 5 to 25 hours depending on the student.

How can I prepare for the ECE?

Obtain the *Guide for Rapid Revision* from the campus bookstore. Download the ECE Guidebook, available online under the "Resource Links" tab at <http://nwc.edu/alpha> or under the "Campus Services" tab on theROCK. Take a 50-question Moodle quiz for the ECE available through a Moodle course titled "English All."

Also, if you'd like someone to help you prepare for the exam, make an appointment with the ALPHA Center. The writing tutors are more than willing to help you prepare for the exam. Access our online schedule under the "Campus Services" tab on theROCK.

Sample Questions

Usage

Each of those delicious chocolate chip cookies are made with real butter.

- Correct
- Each of **these delicious** chocolate chip cookies are made with real butter.
- Every one** of those delicious chocolate chip cookies are made with real butter.
- Each of those delicious chocolate chip cookies **is** made with real butter.

After roaming the theme park for hours, everyone threw their souvenirs on the couch and sat down to rest.

- Correct
- After roaming the theme park for hours, everyone threw **his or her** souvenirs on the couch and sat down to rest.
- After roaming the theme park for hours, **everyone throws** their souvenirs on the couch and sat down to rest.
- Everyone threw their souvenirs on the couch and sat down to rest **after roaming the theme park for hours**.