

CUNY ASSESSMENT TESTS MADE EASY

These tips have helped other students pass the test! Good luck!

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CUNY ASSESSMENT TESTS (CAT) IN WRITING AND READING

- Get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast, and drink plenty of water. Your brain needs rest, nutrition, and hydration in order to function at peak levels on test day.
- Take the tests seriously. They can affect your admission to John Jay.
- Prepare for the tests so you feel confident (see the link to tutorials in the box below).
- If you feel anxious before or during the test, take a minute to close your eyes and focus on breathing slowly.

CUNY ASSESSMENT TEST IN WRITING

For this test, you write an essay summarizing a passage and responding to it. You have 90 minutes to read the passage and write the essay.

- Read the passage at least twice. The second time you read it, underline the main idea and supporting points.
- Make sure you use mostly your own words when you summarize the passage.
- When you respond to an idea in the text, refer back to what the author said, but say something new about the idea that the author didn't discuss. For example, if the author discusses two negative effects of multitasking, write about two other effects the author did not mention.
- Write a complete essay with at least a few sentences introducing your essay, a summary of the passage, at least two paragraphs responding to an idea from the passage, and a short conclusion.

CUNY ASSESSMENT TEST IN READING

Relax and don't rush. There is no time limit.

- Read the passage carefully and read it again if you need to.
- Give yourself a short break between each passage. It will help keep you focused.
- Take notes (bring a pen and ask for paper).
- Read the questions before you read the text.
- Select your answers carefully. Don't just choose the first answer that looks right. Make sure all the other answers are not correct.

For tutorials to prepare you for the CAT in Writing and Reading, go to <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/sasp/cat> Select "Read More" under "How can I prepare for the CAT?"