Others concerned by the invading species are industry, public utilities, and boat owners. Zebra mussels cluster in huge colonies, being anchored themselves to any intake pipes of electric and water treatment plants. Fishery specialists are currently casting about and baiting their hooks to gun down control methods that will cause the lowest amount of damage to water supplies and other aquatic species. Two of the alternatives exploring are interrupting the species reproductive cycle and finding a bacterium harmful only to zebra mussels. (End of Essay)

SAMPLE NUMERICAL SKILLS QUESTIONS
Averages: Means, Medians, and Modes 1. What is the average (arithmetic mean) of 8, 7, 7, 5, 3, 2, and 2?
A. 3 4/7 B. 4 5/6 C. 4 6/7 D. 5 E. 6 4/5

Basic Operations with Decimals 2. Ben is making wooden toys for the next arts and crafts sale. Each toy costs Ben $1.80 to make. If he sells the toys for $3.00 each, how many will he have to sell to make a profit of exactly $36.00?
A. 12 B. 20 C. 30 D. 60 E. 108

ANSWERS
Reading: 1.A 2.C

For more information, contact:
Central Carolina Technical College:
▶ Main Campus Testing Center, (803)774-3306
▶ Base Education Office, (803)666-2422
▶ F. E. DuBose Campus, (803)473-2531
▶ Lee County Site, (803)483-2282
▶ Kershaw County Campus, (803)425-8388

Central Carolina Technical College does not discriminate in admissions or employment on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin or certain legally defined physical or mental abilities.
WHAT IS COMPASS AND HOW IS IT USED?
Developed by American College Testing (ACT), COMPASS (Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support Services), Central Carolina Technical College’s computerized adaptive placement test, is used to evaluate your skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. From your test results, the admissions counselor determines your course placement.

There is no time limit for the tests. The computer selects questions for you based on your answers to previous questions. No experience with computers is needed.

WHO NEEDS TO TAKE THE COMPASS TEST?
- Students who have not taken the SAT or ACT or did not attain satisfactory scores on the SAT or ACT (composite or section).
- Students who do not have transfer credits in appropriate college-level Math or English courses.

IS THERE A CHARGE FOR THE TEST?
No, there is no charge the first time you take the COMPASS test. A fee is required for re-testing on any section of the Admissions Placement Test. The re-test fee is required for all subsequent testing and must be paid to the Cashier prior to re-testing.

IS SPECIAL TESTING AVAILABLE?
Special testing can be arranged for individuals with impairments (i.e., vision, hearing, speech, learning and mobility). Contact Disabilities Services at (803)778-7871 for assistance with special accommodations. Medical documentation will be required.

WHEN IS THE TEST OFFERED?
Testing is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. An appointment may be scheduled by calling (803)778-1961, ext. 306 or (803)774-3306 at the Main Campus Testing Center.

Testing is available Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M., Friday from 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. and Saturday 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Testing hours at outreach campuses may vary. You should allow approximately two hours to complete the COMPASS test. You must be finished prior to the closing of the Testing Center.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE FOR TESTING?
- Self-study – See sample questions in this brochure.
- Log onto www.cctech.edu, click on the Testing Center page. Click on the Placement Test link and choose the COMPASS Study Guides.

SAMPLE READING PLACEMENT TEST QUESTIONS
Regular tune-ups of your heating system will cut heating costs and will most likely increase the lifetime and safety of the system. When a service technician performs a tune-up, he or she should test the efficiency of your heating system.

The technician should measure the efficiency of your system both before and after servicing it and provide you with a copy of the results. Combustion efficiency is determined indirectly, based on some of the following tests: 1) temperature of the flue (or chimney); 2) percent carbon dioxide or percent oxygen in the atmosphere; 3) presence of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere; and 4) draft.

Incomplete combustion of fuel is the main contributor to low efficiency. If the technician cannot raise the combustion efficiency up to at least 75% after tuning your heating system, you should consider installing a new system or at least modifying your present system to increase its efficiency. Adapted from Alex Wilson and John Morrill, Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings. ©1993 by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

Reasoning
1. The passage suggests that the presence of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere:
   a. can provide information regarding combustion efficiency.
   b. is found in 75% of heating systems tested.
   c. can be reduced by decreasing heating system draft.
   d. is the main cause of low efficiency in heating systems.
   e. is more reliable than flue temperature as an indicator of combustion efficiency.

Referring
2. According to the passage, when performing a tune-up of a heating system, the service technician should:
   a. ensure that the combustion efficiency is at least 25%.
   b. modify the heating system before initially measuring efficiency.
   c. measure combustion efficiency both before and after servicing the system.
   d. provide his or her supervisor with a written report of the system’s efficiency.
   e. ignore the age of the heating system.

SAMPLE WRITING PLACEMENT TEST QUESTIONS
Examinees are presented with an essay similar to the one below and are asked to look for errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style. When examinees find what they believe to be errors, they move the mouse pointer to the appropriate part of the text and click the mouse. On the right side of the screen five options appear for revising that area of text. Note that the first option is always identical to the original wording in the text, and thus represents a NO CHANGE option. Examinees can choose to revise any section of the essay. After revising the essay, examinees are routed to two items focusing on rhetorical strategies.

The essay below contains the same number and types of errors that an actual Writing Skills Test unit would contain; however, for demonstration purposes, only a handful of the segments below have been selected for revision. These segments are indicated by bold type, and the items associated with them are shown below. (Note: There are additional errors in the essay that are not in bold that a student in an actual testing situation would need to respond to.)

An increasing number of lakes and rivers in the northern United States invaded are being by a mussel no larger than a fingernail. The zebra mussel probably steamed aboard a transatlantic ship sometime in the mid-1980s from the Caspian Sea into U.S. waters. Despite its growth was explosive, partly because the species was preyed upon by very few native predators in its new environment. As a consequence, the zebra mussels did find a plentiful food supply. They eat huge amounts of phytoplankton, which tiny free-floating sea organisms that dwell in water.

Scientists are concerned when the mussels may compete aggressively with other species that depend on the same food supply.