

# Victoria University of Wellington

## Special Admission English Practice Assessment

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Tēnā koutou, talofa lava, hello,

Kia ora/thank you for your interest in studying at Victoria University.

This assessment will look at aspects of your English proficiency in order to give an indication of your capability to succeed at degree level and provide admission advice to Victoria University of Wellington.

Please note that this assessment does not represent what is expected in your first year of university study, but is simply assessing how well you meet the university entrance requirements.

**Please fill out the details below, to the best of your knowledge, and attempt to answer each question.**

FULL Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

**The assessment should take up to 60 minutes to complete.**

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**Reading:** *You are advised to spend 20 minutes on this section.*

**Read the passage carefully and answer all of the questions to the best of your ability.**

### Water on Tap

Most New Zealanders take a ready supply of fresh running water for granted and, during a very wet spring, any thoughts of summer droughts are banished to the recesses of the mind. However, the 7.1 magnitude earthquake which rocked Christchurch in September has jolted the complacency of many New Zealanders when, suddenly, some of that city's residents lost access to water. People are reconsidering their attitude to water supply as, in the event of a major disaster, some pundits suggest that it could take up to two years to restore systems fully. The installation of residential water storage tanks, however, would provide a simple, cost-effective means of addressing the need for emergency water storage. 1

There are also other benefits. The collection of water run-off from roofs would alleviate pressure on the storm water system, thereby reducing the flow into harbours and streams, a contributing factor to the deterioration of our marine environment. And the flooding of streets during torrential downpours would be a less common sight. Households would have a greater appreciation of their water consumption, especially those containing gardening enthusiasts who insist on watering their lawns in the height of summer or car fanatics whose greatest weekend entertainment is restoring their pride and joy to a pristine condition. 2

Although we are not in the same position as many areas of Australia where not only potable water is collected but also grey water, there are areas of New Zealand which do suffer from drought. In March 2010 the Far North was in the throes of its worst drought in 60 years. Kaitia's water supplies were at such a critical level that fines of \$20,000 were implemented for those who flouted water restrictions. 3

There have frequently been water restrictions on the Kapiti Coast in the last decade. As a result, the Kapiti Coast District Council is making water tanks mandatory on new houses and has committed financial incentives for water services such as tanks. Waitakere City Council also subsidises rain water tanks. With Wellington relying on the Hutt River flow which at times has fallen below the lower limits for safety of supply, surely the Greater Wellington Regional Council should be considering similar proposals? But, although the Council has identified water as a key issue in its ten year plan and is developing a regional water strategy, it recently rejected a proposal for a loan scheme to encourage households to install rain water tanks. Wellington is constantly touted as a major contender for "the big one". A simple measure of encouraging people to install tanks would ensure that water, this most basic of essentials, would always be on tap. 4

**SECTION A: READING TASK**

*This section will examine how well you comprehend, interpret, and analyse what you read. It is important to attempt to answer all questions. For short answers, limit your response to one or two sentences.*

1. Identify in **which paragraphs** the following points are made. Write the paragraph number in the spaces provided.

Statement	Paragraph
a. People must become more aware of the environmental impact of their water usage.	
b. Providing loans for water tanks is a sensible move.	
c. Dry summers can cause major water supply problems.	
d. People are looking afresh at the availability of water.	

(2 marks)

2. Which of these statements, in the **author's view**, **best** conveys the benefits of storage tanks as described in paragraph 2?

- a. There is reduced impact on our water supplies and householders can keep their lawns watered.
- b. Householders can have well-watered lawns and clean cars all year round.
- c. The pollution of our natural waterways would be reduced and people might use water more wisely.
- d. Our harbours and streams would be clean and we would all have green lawns and clean cars.

(1 mark)

3. Quote the **one word** that has been used in the passage that allows the author to avoid the necessity of providing a named source.

\_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

4. What two natural features of the Wellington regions does the author suggest are the main incentives for installing water storage tanks in Wellington residences?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)

5. What is the author's purpose in the sentence, "Waitakere City Council also subsidises rain water tanks."

- a. Offer a solution to the problem
- b. Show cause and effect
- c. Present a viewpoint
- d. Present supporting evidence

(1 mark)

6. Give reasons why you think the Greater Wellington Regional Council might have rejected the loan proposal for installing water tanks. Can you suggest another benefit of storage tanks that the author has not included?

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*(3 marks)*

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TOTAL SECTION A: 

/10
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## SECTION B: WRITING TASK

You are advised to spend 40 minutes planning and writing an essay on the following topic.

*TOPIC:*

**Drawing on the ideas about water in the text you have just read, and any other relevant information such as your own experience, write an essay of at least 300 words on the following:**

***Should the individual take more responsibility on his/her use of natural resources? Argue for or against.***

- *Your essay should have an introduction, body and conclusion.*
- *Support your arguments with reasons and specific examples.*
- *This is a piece of formal writing, therefore:*
  - Avoid slang;*
  - Avoid using contractions (for example: can't, don't, I'll);*
  - Avoid using abbreviations (such as abbrev., etc.).*
- *Write in full sentences.*
- *Use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.*

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**You will be marked on the following:**

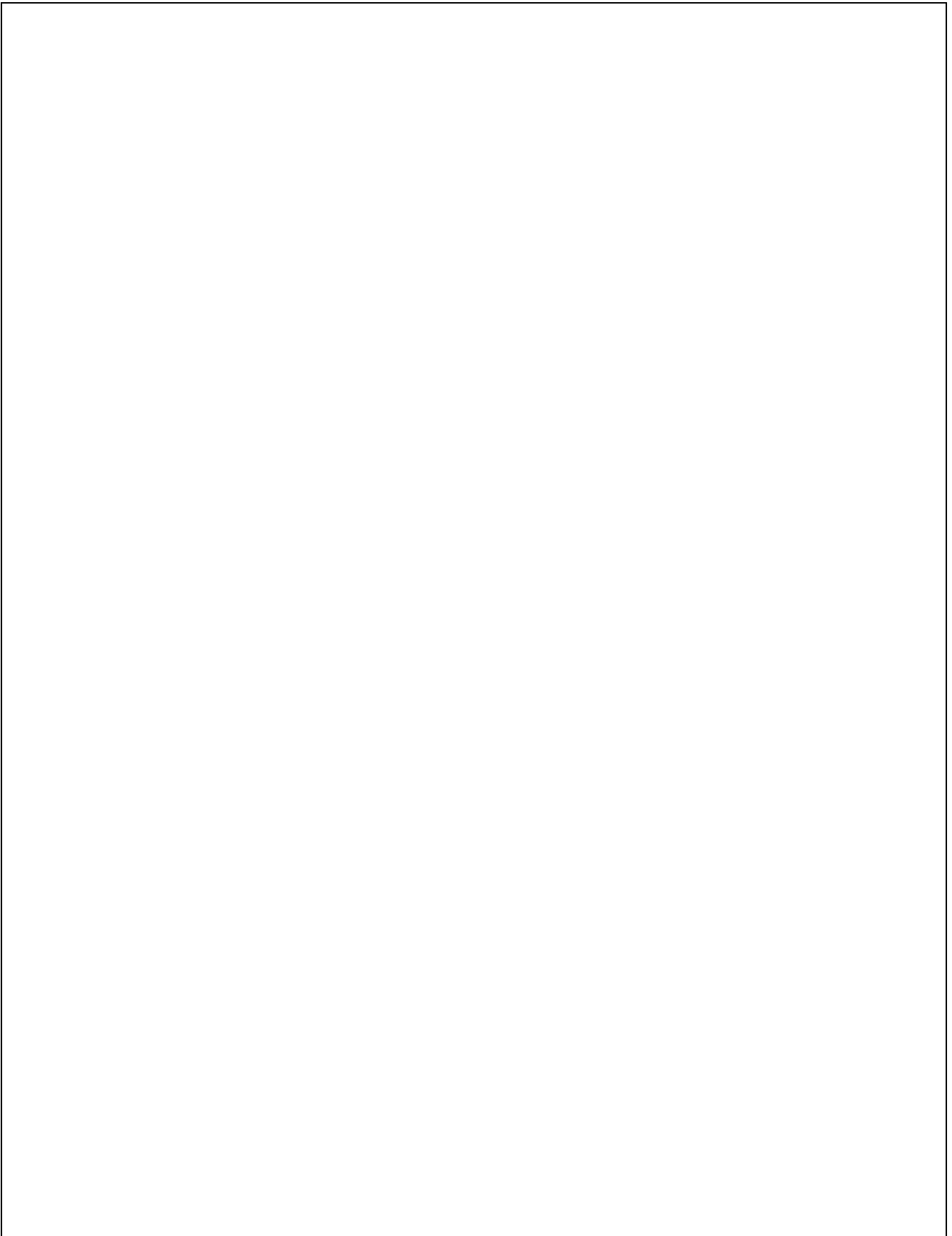
- **Communication**
- **Content and structure**
- **Vocabulary, word choice**
- **Sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and spelling**
- **Critical thinking and analysis**

TOTAL SECTION B: 

/20
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Use this page to map or plan your ideas. This page will **not** be assessed.

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A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for students to map or plan their ideas, as indicated by the text above it.

Begin your essay on this page.

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Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal lines for text entry.



