

**OVERVIEW OF CORRELATION BETWEEN ARIZONA'S INSTRUMENT TO  
MEASURE STANDARDS (AIMS) IN WRITING AND  
HOW TO WRITE CLEAR SENTENCES: A SELF-PACED TEXT**

### **Composition of Sample Test**

We have reviewed sample test items from Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) in Writing. The sample test consists of eighteen questions. Thirteen of these questions are multiple choice items. The remaining five questions consist of four short writing samples and one extended writing sample. In the sample test, the writing samples account for sixty-five percent of a student's final score. The extended sample by itself accounts for one third of a student's final score.

### **Grading of Extended Writing Sample**

The extended writing sample is graded according to a six-point scoring rubric that assesses the student's grasp of all of the following concepts: conventions; sentence fluency; word choice; voice; organization; and ideas.

- X Under conventions, the skills assessed are spelling; punctuation; grammar and usage; capitalization; and paragraphing. As the attached correlation chart indicates, *How To Write Clear Sentences: A Self-Paced Text* teaches all of these skills except paragraphing.
- X Under sentence fluency, the skills assessed are the ability to write clear sentences, use a variety of formations, and correctly construct sentences. As the attached correlation chart indicates, *How To Write Clear Sentences: A Self-Paced Text* teaches each of these skills.
- X *How To Write Clear Sentences: A Self-Paced Text* does not directly teach word choice; voice; organization; and ideas. However, the text does emphasize clarity in writing. An understanding of clarity is essential to demonstrating fluency with all four of these concepts.

### **Grading of Short Writing Samples**

In compiling our correlation, we assumed that students would have to use correct punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and sentence structure to earn the maximum number of points on the short writing samples.

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AIMS Writing Skill	Number of Questions in 18-Question Sample	Points for Question Out of a Total of 37	Reference in <i>How To Write Clear Sentences</i>
Formation of compound sentence	2	2	Units 1, 2, and 3
Capitalization	1	1	Unit 9
Identification and formation of correct verb tense	1	1	Unit 5
Identification and formation of correct person	1	1	Unit 5
Use of correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and clear and varied sentence structure in short writing sample	4	12	All units
Use of correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and clear and varied sentence structure in extended writing sample	1	12	All units
Vocabulary and/or recognition of audience	1	1	No reference
Documentation	1	1	No reference
Paragraph development*	2	2	No reference
Essay development	1	1	No reference
Literary terms	3	3	No reference

\* = This skill is covered in *Written Communication for Staff Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text*.