



Component Descriptions

Written Communication

The Written Communication component involves two tasks – a Reporting task and an Argument task. Each task is assessed on:

- Language and Expression (e.g. control of language conventions, clarity and effectiveness of expression)
- Organisation (e.g. effectiveness and purposefulness of organisation)
- Thought (depth of analysis of issues or information)

Problem Solving

The Problem Solving component focuses on the abilities of students to interpret information and apply it to problems that are generally accessible and applicable.

The following aspects of problem solving are addressed:

- Identify, Comprehend, Restate the problem
- Identify and Analyse information relevant to the problem
- Translate and Represent features of the problem
- Reorganise, Synthesise and Apply information relevant to the problem
- Conceptualise/Generate/Identify problem solution
- Evaluate solution strategies and their outcomes

Critical Thinking

Students are asked to comprehend, analyse and evaluate statements and passages that present viewpoints of the kind they would come across in the real world.

The material in GSA Critical Thinking can be categorised as follows:

- Comprehension in order to identify meaning and point of view
- Analysis in order to identify lines of reasoning, evidence, conclusions, arguments, assumptions, logical flaws, consequences, rhetorical devices, analogies, etc.
- Evaluation in order to judge the credibility and validity of evidence, lines of reasoning, conclusions, arguments, etc.

Interpersonal Understandings

Interpersonal Understandings material in the GSA focuses on the ability of students to:

- Show insight into the feelings, motivation and behaviour of other people, and into issues related to working with or helping others
- Recognise how such insight may be applied in order to effectively work with or help others, including effective negotiation, communication, teamwork and leadership

TEST REPORT

October / November 2000

Name: _____

ID Number: _____

Field of Study: _____

University: _____

Dear Student

The Graduate Skills Assessment (GSA) assesses student skills in the following areas:

- Report Writing
- Argument Writing
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Interpersonal Reasoning

Please refer to the information provided in this report and information bulletins for a description of the components.

Your result on each component is displayed in the format shown on the right. Inside this report, each of your results is indicated with a ■. The shading indicates the distribution of the results for the middle 60% of students from fields of study similar to yours (if such information was available). The dashed lines indicate the results of the middle 60% of all students in a general reference group.

Descriptions illustrating different levels of achievement are provided for each component.

The results in this report must be interpreted carefully, preferably in conjunction with other information.

A result may be missing if your Student ID Number was not clearly recorded for both parts of the test.

