EXAM INFORMATION
This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers topics such as types of writing; elements of effective writing; reading and writing arguments and using secondary sources.

The exam contains 64 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

Form Codes: SS301, ST301, SY301, SZ301

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS
The American Council on Education’s College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent: Principles of Advanced English Composition
Level: Lower-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Minimum Score: 400
Source: www.acenet.edu

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE
The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. Types of Writing – 4%
   a. Narrative
   b. Informative
   c. Argumentative and Persuasive
   d. Critical response

II. Elements of Effective Writing – 32%
   A. Audience and purpose analysis
      i. Identify purpose
      ii. Analyzing the audience (what do they know, what do they need to know)
      iii. Determine medium and format of composition
   B. Pre-Writing strategies / Content generation
      i. Critical reading, critical thinking, analyzing, discussion
      ii. Invention techniques: (Brainstorming, Free Writing, questioning, hypothesizing)
      iii. Organizing ideas: mind mapping, clustering.
   C. Drafting
      i. Draft Outline
      ii. Paper organization
      iii. Paragraph Structure
      iv. Sentence Structure
   D. Revising and Editing
      i. Content comprehension and clarity
      ii. Cohesiveness and relevance
      iii. Peer review
      iv. Proofreading
III. Reading and Writing Arguments – 32%

A. Identifying elements of Arguments
   i. Claims
      a. Thesis (Main claim)
      b. Main Points (Sub claim)
   ii. Claims support
B. Analyzing Arguments
   i. Supporting or opposing data (types of sufficient evidence)
      a. Logic
      b. Anecdote
      c. Sources
   ii. Identifying key terms
   iii. Warrants / Assumptions
   iv. Identifying conclusions (based upon evidence)

IV. Using Secondary Sources – 32%

a. Finding sources
   i. Appropriate sources (currency, completeness)
   ii. Types of sources
b. Evaluating sources
   i. Relevance
   ii. Credibility (author, source)
c. Using sources
   i. Summary
   ii. Paraphrase
   iii. Quotation
d. Citing and documenting
   i. Choosing a documentation style (MLA, APA and CMS)
   ii. In-text
   iii. References/Bibliography/Works cited

REFERENCES
Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles or textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference more than one textbook on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should begin by checking textbook content against the content outline provided before selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:
SAMPLE QUESTIONS
All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. The following are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam.

1. An author would summarize a text when
   (A) a source’s ideas are being reordered.
   (B) a source’s ideas are being restated.
   (C) a lengthy passage is being condensed.
   (D) a lengthy passage is being quoted.

2. Papers written in MLA style should be formatted using
   (A) single spacing.
   (B) a title page.
   (C) a centered title.
   (D) Roman numeral page numbering.

3. A paraphrase
   (A) may reorder a source’s ideas.
   (B) compares and contrasts ideas from various sources.
   (C) condenses a lengthy passage into one sentence.
   (D) states a main idea simply and briefly.

4. The term used to refer to the relationship between writer and audience is
   (A) rhetorical.
   (B) referential.
   (C) contextual.
   (D) positional.

5. When an author is using a source to support a claim, it is typically effective to cite the passage that
   (A) restates the claim in a similar fashion as the author.
   (B) demonstrates the importance of the related issue.
   (C) presents related reasons or evidence.
   (D) explains how related evidence or data was obtained.

Answers to sample questions:
1-C, 2-C, 3-A, 4-A, 5-C