Essay Exams – Self-Assessment

Circle or underline the choice that best fits your case.

1. I (ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER) prefer to take essay tests instead of multiple-choice or true-false tests.

2. When I write fast, my handwriting is (EASY, SO-SO, DIFFICULT, IMPOSSIBLE) for other people to read.

3. When I write under pressure, my ability to make reasonably well-formed sentences is (POOR, FAIR, GOOD).

4. When my essay tests are returned, the grade (OFTEN, SOMETIMES, NEVER) indicates that I should have gone into more detail in my answers.

5. I (ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER) look over all the essay questions before starting to write.

6. For long, complex essay questions, I (ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER) make a brief outline before beginning to write an answer.

7. I (NEVER, SELLDOM, USUALLY, ALWAYS) have time to do justice to all the essay question on a test.

Sometimes students do poorly on essay test because they misunderstand the directions. Below are listed some words often found in the directions for essay questions. Match each of these words with the appropriate sentence (the word “compare” with the sentence that compares, and so forth).

Answer Key: 1)B.; 2) C.; 3) E.; 4) D.; 5) A.