

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

Spring 2009 Released Test

END OF COURSE ENGLISH: WRITING

Form W0119, CORE 1

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Directions

Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage and choose the best answer.

SAMPLE A

A Special Person

In English class, Sarah has been asked to write a description of someone special to her. Sarah wants to write about her older brother.

Which of these would *best* help Sarah write her description of her older brother?

- A** Calling his friends and telling them about him
- B** Thinking about all the things she likes about him
- C** Making a list of things she wants him to do for her
- D** Asking him to take her to the library

SAMPLE B

Here is the first part of Sarah's rough draft.

Draft A

(1)A special person in my life is my big brother. (2)His name is Ben. (3)He has always been there to help me out and has been there for me when I needed him.

How are sentences 1 and 2 *best* combined?

- F** A special person in my life is Ben, my big brother.
- G** A special person in my life is Ben, he is my big brother.
- H** In my life a special person is my big brother, his name is Ben.
- J** My big brother Ben, he is a special person in my life.

SAMPLE C

Sarah has written a second draft of the first part of her essay.

Draft B

(1)A special person in my life is my big brother. (2)His name is Ben. (3)He has always been supportive of me.

In rewriting sentence 3 of Draft A, how has Sarah improved sentence 3 of Draft B?

- A** She has created a fragment.
- B** She has changed the meaning entirely.
- C** She has expressed the idea more concisely.
- D** She has shifted the point of view.

SAMPLE D

Here is the next part of Sarah’s rough draft.

(4)The best thing about my brother is that he helps me with my homework. (5)He’s a really good student.

In sentence 4, he helps is correctly written

- F** he were helping
- G** he help
- H** he have helped
- J** As it is

Directions

You do not need to read a passage to answer the following question. Read and answer the question.

SAMPLE E

Read this sentence.

The race proved that Lee was a more fast runner than Bob.

In this sentence, more fast should be written

- A faster
- B fastest
- C more faster
- D As it is

Career Day

Paul is writing a letter to invite speakers to participate in his school's upcoming Career Day.

Before starting his letter to a local lawyer, Paul made the following outline. Use it to answer question 1.

Career Day

I. When and where

- A. Saturday, Nov. 12
- B. William Taft High School

II. Why we're having it

- A. To help students learn about different careers
- B. To allow students to talk to professionals

III. What will happen

- A. Students will attend panels of speakers
- B. Students and speakers will have lunch together

IV. Why you should participate

- A. Need a lawyer for panel
- B. Lawyers have interesting opinions

1 Which of these does *not* belong in Paul's outline?

- A** I. A.
- B** II. B.
- C** III. A.
- D** IV. B.

Here is the first part of Paul’s rough draft of his letter. Use it to answer questions 2–7.

Dear Ms. Campbell:

(1)My name is Paul Freedman. **(2)**I am a student council member at William Taft High School. **(3)**Currently, we are organizing “Career Day” as part of our school’s fall schedule of seminars and visiting speakers. **(4)**This event will introduce high school students to what is out there. **(5)**Career Day is aimed at high school seniors who will soon be out in the work force. **(6)**Students from all grade levels are being encouraged to attend. **(7)**I am writing to ask you to please consider participating in this event.

(8)Career Day will take place on Saturday, November 12, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. **(9)**We have two main goals for this event. **(10)**First, we hope to encourage students to think seriously about which career path they may wish to follow after graduation. **(11)**I personally plan to become a health care professional. **(12)**Our second goal is to begin to form ties between students and professionals. **(13)**All too often, to high school juniors and seniors, it can sometimes feel out of reach and the working world seems mysterious. **(14)**We think Career Day will change this. **(15)**It will give students a chance to interact with speakers and become familiar with local businesses.

(16)Our format is to present six one-hour panel discussions to students. **(17)**The topics will be business, health care, criminal justice, computers, the arts, and the environment. **(18)**Each panel will consist of four speakers who will discuss the different jobs they have within their industries. **(19)**From noon to 1 P.M., students and panelists have a chance to mingle during lunch in the cafeteria. **(20)**For all of our speakers and students, providing a tasty lunch will be the Fresh Bread Sandwich Shop.

2 How is sentence 4 *best* rewritten to make the meaning more precise?

- F** This event will introduce high school students to different kinds of things they could do.
- G** This event will introduce high school students to ways they can make money.
- H** This event will introduce high school students to the many career options available to them.
- J** This event will introduce high school students to jobs they could look for.

3 How can Paul *best* combine sentences 5 and 6 without changing their meaning?

- A** Although the event is aimed at high school seniors who will soon be out in the work force, students from all grade levels are being encouraged to attend.
- B** Because the event is aimed at high school seniors who will soon be out in the work force, students from all grade levels are being encouraged to attend.
- C** The event is aimed at high school seniors who will soon be out in the work force since students from all grade levels are being encouraged to attend.
- D** The event is aimed at high school seniors who will soon be out in the work force, so students from all grade levels are being encouraged to attend.

4 How is sentence 13 *best* revised for clarity?

- F** The working world to high school juniors and seniors can sometimes feel out of reach, and mysterious all too often it seems.
- G** To high school juniors and seniors, it can sometimes feel out of reach, and all too often the working world seems mysterious.
- H** It can sometimes feel out of reach, and the working world all too often seems mysterious to high school juniors and seniors.
- J** All too often, the working world seems mysterious and sometimes out of reach to high school juniors and seniors.

5 Which sentence does *not* belong in Paul’s draft?

- A** Sentence 11
- B** Sentence 12
- C** Sentence 14
- D** Sentence 16

6 Which sentence should Paul add after sentence 18 to *best* support his ideas?

- F** Many panels are boring, but with a little luck, we will find people who know how to amuse the audience.
- G** We would like each panelist to speak for about ten minutes, after which students will have the opportunity to ask questions.
- H** Being asked to serve as a speaker on our panel is an honor that you should not turn down.
- J** I could see myself participating on a panel one day, after a long and successful career spent practicing medicine.

7 How is sentence 20 *best* rewritten for clarity?

- A** The Fresh Bread Sandwich Shop will be providing a tasty lunch for all of our speakers and students.
- B** Providing a tasty lunch will be the Fresh Bread Sandwich Shop for all of our speakers and students.
- C** A tasty lunch will be the Fresh Bread Sandwich Shop providing for all of our speakers and students.
- D** For all of our speakers and students will be the Fresh Bread Sandwich Shop providing a tasty lunch.

Read the next part of Paul’s rough draft and use it to answer questions 8–12. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(21)We would like you to be a part of the criminal justice panel. (22)This panel is scheduled to have met from 10 to 11 A.M. (23)Mike O’Brien, Stoughton’s police chief, has already agreed to serve on the panel. (24)Nancy Reinhart, a prominent county judge, has also been invited to speak. (25)We would like you to be the attorney on our panel. (26)The fourth speaker will be a legal secretary. (27)We have not yet chose a legal secretary for the panel. (28)Would someone from your firm be willing to fill this spot?

(29)Though our community has many lawyers, you have a reputation as a tough, yet caring, public defender. (30)It would truely mean so much if someone of your status would take part in our event. (31)I know you must be very busy, but please consider the important service you would be providing. (32)Too many young people graduate from high school with no idea what profession they want to pursue; this event could help to change that.

(33)If you are able to participate, your 10-minute speech should describe the many different areas in which lawyers can specialize. (34)You may also want to explain: what kind of educational background is required to practice law. (35)Finally, it would be wonderful if you will describe some interesting or humorous moments from your career.

(36)Career Day promises to be a practical, entertaining, and educational event. (37)If you are able to participate, please respond to me at my home address by September 30. (38)Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Paul Freedman
Paul Freedman

8 In sentence 22, how is scheduled to have met correctly written?

- F** scheduled to meet
- G** scheduled to have been meeting
- H** scheduled to be met
- J** As it is

9 In sentence 27, how is chose correctly written?

- A** chooses
- B** chosen
- C** choosing
- D** As it is

10 In sentence 30, how is truely correctly written?

- F** trueley
- G** truly
- H** truley
- J** As it is

11 In sentence 34, how is explain: what correctly written?

- A** explain what
- B** explain, what
- C** explain; what
- D** As it is

12 In sentence 35, how is you will describe correctly written?

- F** you were describing
- G** you could describe
- H** you had described
- J** As it is

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page and continue
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Not Your Average Historic Site

Joe has been assigned to write a report about a historic landmark for his geography class. He has selected the town of Riverside, Illinois, as the topic of his report.

Before writing his report, Joe makes these notes. Use them to answer question 13.

	1. Frederick Law Olmsted chosen to plan city
	2. Established along the Des Plaines River
	3. Born in 1822 in Hartford, CT
	4. Built on 1,600 acres in Illinois
	5. Urban and rural environments merged
	6. Riverbanks designated for parks

13 Which statement does *not* belong in the notes?

- A** Frederick Law Olmsted chosen to plan city
- B** Born in 1822 in Hartford, CT
- C** Built on 1,600 acres in Illinois
- D** Urban and rural environments merged

14 In order to complete his task, what will Joe need to do in his report?

- F** Give examples of other cities that are built along rivers
- G** Provide details about what it takes to qualify as a historic landmark
- H** Describe some of the people who live in Riverside
- J** Explain why Riverside is designated as a historic landmark

Here is the first part of Joe’s rough draft. Use it to answer questions 15–16.

(1)Most cities contain at least one historic landmark: a famous author’s home, a building where an important document was signed, or a field that was once the site of a pioneer camp. **(2)**Many such locations have been designated National Historic Landmarks, and a large city might have dozens of them. **(3)**Riverside, Illinois, however, has a distinction that sets it apart from the cities: the entire town has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

(4)From way back, Riverside, Illinois, was planned to be totally awesome. **(5)**The person behind the development of Riverside was America’s foremost city planner and landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. **(6)**Olmsted was most famous for having designed New York City’s Central Park. **(7)**He believed everyone should live within walking distance of a park. **(8)**Even people who lived in cities could enjoy local parks. **(9)**The merging of urban and rural environments was a novel concept in the 1860s, and it was the guiding principle behind the planning of Riverside. **(10)**Olmsted completed his plans for Riverside in 1869, and construction was soon underway.

(11)The Riverside project gave Olmsted the chance to design an entire community from beginning to end. **(12)**His goal was to integrate the natural surroundings with the new town he was constructing. **(13)**Consequently, the town began with an unusual blueprint. **(14)**The plans called for Riverside to be built on 1,600 acres of land alongside the Des Plaines River. **(15)**Olmsted envisioned the river as an important structural component of the town itself. **(16)**This scenic area along the river would be preserved and available to all residents. **(17)**He designated the riverbanks for parks.

(18)In addition, he designed the streets in accordance with the land and the river. (19)For this reason, Riverside does not have a traditional grid pattern of blocks. (20)Instead, the streets follow the contours of the river and surrounding landscape. (21)Olmsted also created what he termed a "Grand Park System." (22)The system featured a number of large parks; it also contained forty-one smaller parks placed throughout the new community. (23)Fundraisers are held annually to help buy playground equipment.

15 Which sentence needs to be revised for appropriate tone?

- A** Sentence 4
- B** Sentence 5
- C** Sentence 9
- D** Sentence 11

16 Which sentence does *not* belong in Joe's report because it is off topic?

- F** Sentence 20
- G** Sentence 21
- H** Sentence 22
- J** Sentence 23

Read the next part of Joe’s rough draft and use it to answer questions 17–21. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(24)In Riverside, Olmsted realized his dream of creating a town that blended with the natural world. **(25)**The town itself was only eleven miles outside of Chicago, but the beauty of the parks and river made it feel like a remote country village.

(26)In the nineteenth century, there was no other town like it in America.

(27)Riverside was incorporated in 1875 and thereby became an official township.

(28)However, people began moving to Riverside even before that time. **(29)**After the great Chicago fire in 1871 people began to move away from the loud and crowded atmosphere of the city. **(30)**Many were seeking a safer and more peaceful environment. **(31)**Since Riverside was the last stop on the commuter train that ran from Chicago to the surrounding areas, it quickly became a popular choice. **(32)**The location benefited people who wanted to work in Chicago but live in a place that was far away from all the traffic and noise of the big city.

(33)In 1970 the entire town was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States secretary of the Interior. **(34)**As a result, gas lamps still line the streets today instead of electric streetlights, offering residents a scene that is a delightful reminder of earlier times. **(35)**Most importantly, all the green space that was so important to Olmsted was still there. **(36)**Of the original 1,600 acres on which Riverside was to be built, only 1,000 acres were developed, providing the town with an amazing park system that has lasted to this day. **(37)**In fact, Olmsteds’ plans for Riverside are still used to guide the development of the community today.

(38)Riverside is a beautiful and historic landmark that is not just a wonderful place to visit, but also a great place to live.

17 In sentence 27, how is incorporated correctly written?

- A** incorporated
- B** incorporeated
- C** incorporated
- D** As it is

18 In sentence 29, how is in 1871 people correctly written?

- F** in 1871; people
- G** in 1871 people,
- H** in 1871, people
- J** As it is

19 In sentence 33, how is United States secretary of the Interior correctly written?

- A** United States Secretary of the Interior
- B** United States secretary of the interior
- C** United States Secretary of the interior
- D** As it is

20 In sentence 35, how is Olmsted was correctly written?

- F** Olmsted is
- G** Olmsted has been
- H** Olmsted will have been
- J** As it is

21 In sentence 37, how is Olmsteds' plans correctly written?

- A** Olmsteds plans
- B** Olmsteds's plans
- C** Olmsted's plans
- D** As it is

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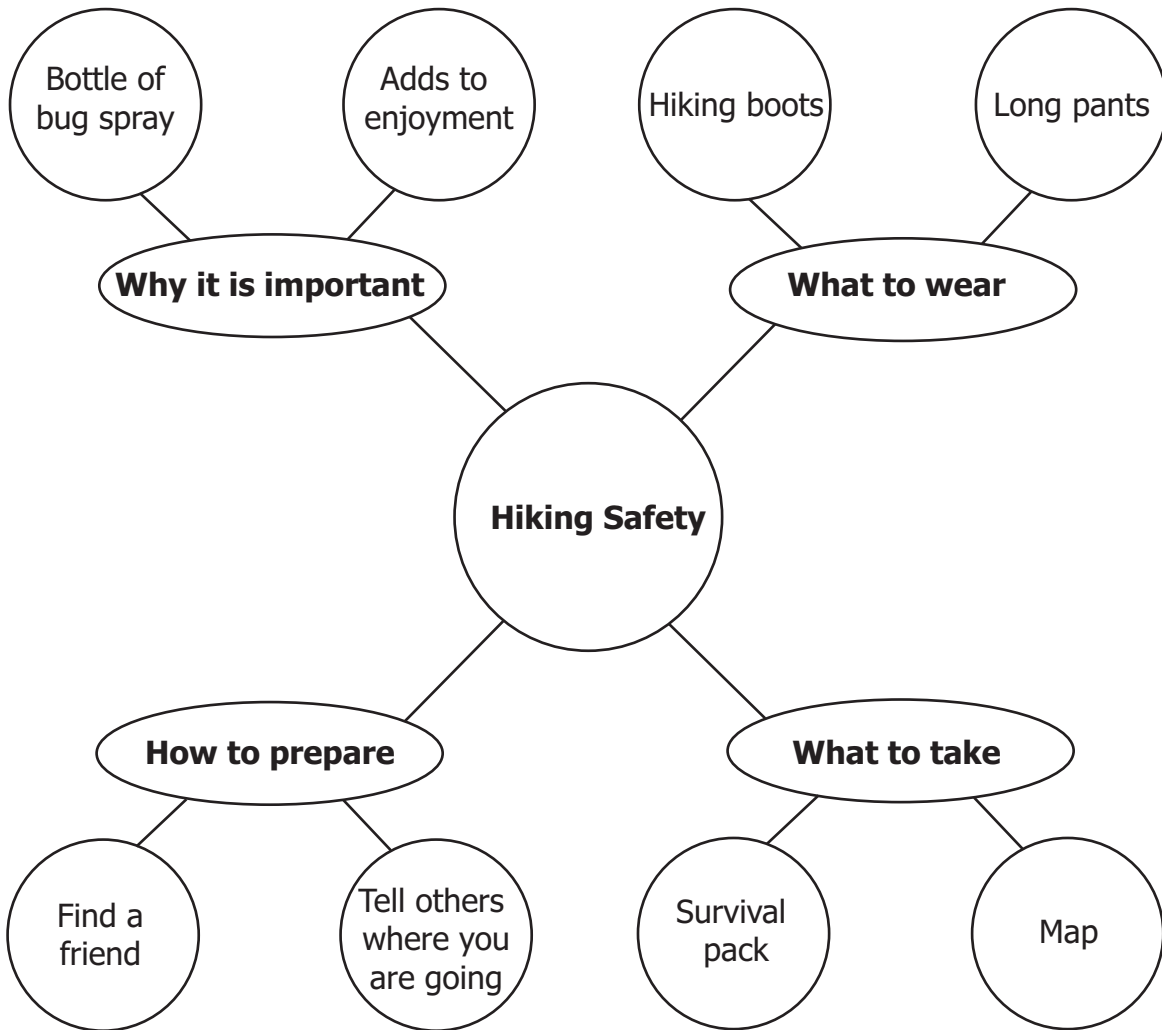
Hiking Safety

Esther is writing an informational article about hiking for her school newspaper. She decides to focus her article on hiking safety tips.

22 Given the purpose of her article, which topic should Esther address?

- F** The history of recreational hiking
- G** Biographies of famous hikers
- H** Suggestions to help hikers avoid injury
- J** A favorite hiking experience

Esther made this web. Use it to answer question 23.



23 Which of these is in the wrong place in Esther's web?

- A** Bottle of bug spray
- B** Adds to enjoyment
- C** Long pants
- D** Survival pack

Here is the first part of Esther’s rough draft. Use it to answer questions 24–26.

(1)The heat of the summer has cooled, and water sports are no longer an option. (2)Why not head out on some of our state’s many beautiful hiking trails? (3)Fall, with its crisp, cool air, is the ideal time to rediscover the pleasures of hiking. (4)The changing foliage and colorful leaves will dazzle and inspire any hiker. (5)People who live in tropical places may not experience the changing seasons. (6)Despite the enjoyable aspects of being outdoors, hiking does have some fundamental dangers.

(7)Hiking is like other physical activities. (8)It offers many rewards, but it also requires hikers to observe safety precautions. (9)Hiking for recreation is fairly safe. (10)However, there is always the chance a hiker might become lost or injured. (11)Potential risks can be minimized by following the guidelines outlined below.

(12)One important point to remember is always to hike with a companion. (13)No one wants to be stranded on a mountaintop. (14)Leave your travel plans with a responsible adult. (15)You and your hiking partner should write down exactly where you will be hiking. (16)Be sure to tell someone when you plan to set out and approximately when you plan to return. (17)Many parks that provide hiking trails require hikers to complete a form before heading out on a trail. (18)This information can be useful if it becomes necessary to look for you.

(19)Before leaving home, check your backpack to make sure it contains all the necessary supplies. (20)The American Red Cross recommends that hikers carry a “survival pack.” (21)This pack should consist of water, a pocket knife, a compass, a whistle, water purification tablets, a candle and matches, and a light blanket. (22)Other recommended items include food, extra socks, and a first aid kit. (23)Anyone who has ever become lost and has had to spend a night outdoors knows how important it is to bring these items along. (24)If you want to endanger your life by foolishly not carrying these things, that’s your business.

24 Which sentence does *not* belong in Esther’s draft?

- F** Sentence 5
- G** Sentence 7
- H** Sentence 8
- J** Sentence 10

25 Esther noticed that sentence 14 is out of sequence. She should place it after —

- A** sentence 9
- B** sentence 11
- C** sentence 15
- D** sentence 22

26 How can Esther *best* revise sentence 24 for appropriate tone?

- F** If you want to endanger your life pointlessly, you’ll be sorry.
- G** You should carry this stuff if you don’t want to put your life in danger for no good reason.
- H** You shouldn’t risk your life just because you’re too lazy to carry these supplies.
- J** Choosing not to carry these supplies may needlessly endanger your life.

Read the next part of Esther’s rough draft and use it to answer questions 27–30. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(25)Appropriate clothing should be worn when hiking. **(26)**Boots are better than shoes because they will support your ankles and protect against thorns and snakebites. **(27)**Insect repellent can be applied to clothes; this protects against ticks, mosquitoes, and other stinging insects.

(28)Before you begin your hike, look on a map to find the trail you want to follow. **(29)**Carry this map when hiking and refer to it often. **(30)**It may sound like fun to leave the trail and going exploring, but this temptation should be resisted.

(31)Virginia’s woods are home to many creatures; red squirrels, gray foxes, and black bears are just a few. **(32)**Spotting these animals is one of the most rewarding aspects of hiking. **(33)**Once again, however, please use common sense. **(34)**Never attempt to touch a wild creature, as it may feel it has to defend themselves. **(35)**If you see a bear, freeze. **(36)**Slowly back up and avoid any sudden movements; try to stay calm. **(37)**Never run from a bear. **(38)**Bears may look more slower and clumsy than humans, but they can move much faster. **(39)**The same is true for snakes. **(40)**As any park ranger will tell you, creatures in the wild may identify you as a threat regardless of your intentions, so it is best to leave them alone.

(41)If you follow these simple tips, hiking can be a safe and rewarding experience.

27 In sentence 30, how is to leave the trail and going exploring correctly written?

- A** leaving the trail and to go exploring
- B** leaving the trail and to go explore
- C** to leave the trail and go exploring
- D** As it is

28 In sentence 34, how is themselves correctly written?

- F** theirsself
- G** themselves
- H** itself
- J** As it is

29 In sentence 38, how is more slower and clumsier correctly written?

- A** more slow and clumsier
- B** slower and clumsier
- C** slower and more clumsier
- D** As it is

30 In sentence 41, how is a safe and rewarding experience correctly written?

- F** safe and a rewarding experience
- G** a safe experience and rewarding
- H** safe and a reward
- J** As it is

