

VIRGINIA
STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

Spring 2002 Released Test

END OF COURSE
ENGLISH: WRITING

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DIRECTIONS

Read the passage in each shaded box. Read each question after the passage. Choose the best answer. Then mark the space in the answer booklet for the answer you have chosen.

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, his name is Ben. (2)He has always been there to help me out and has been there for me when I needed him.

How is sentence 1 *best* rewritten?

- 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, his name is Ben. (2)He has always been supportive of me.

How has Sarah improved the second sentence in this draft?

- 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.

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

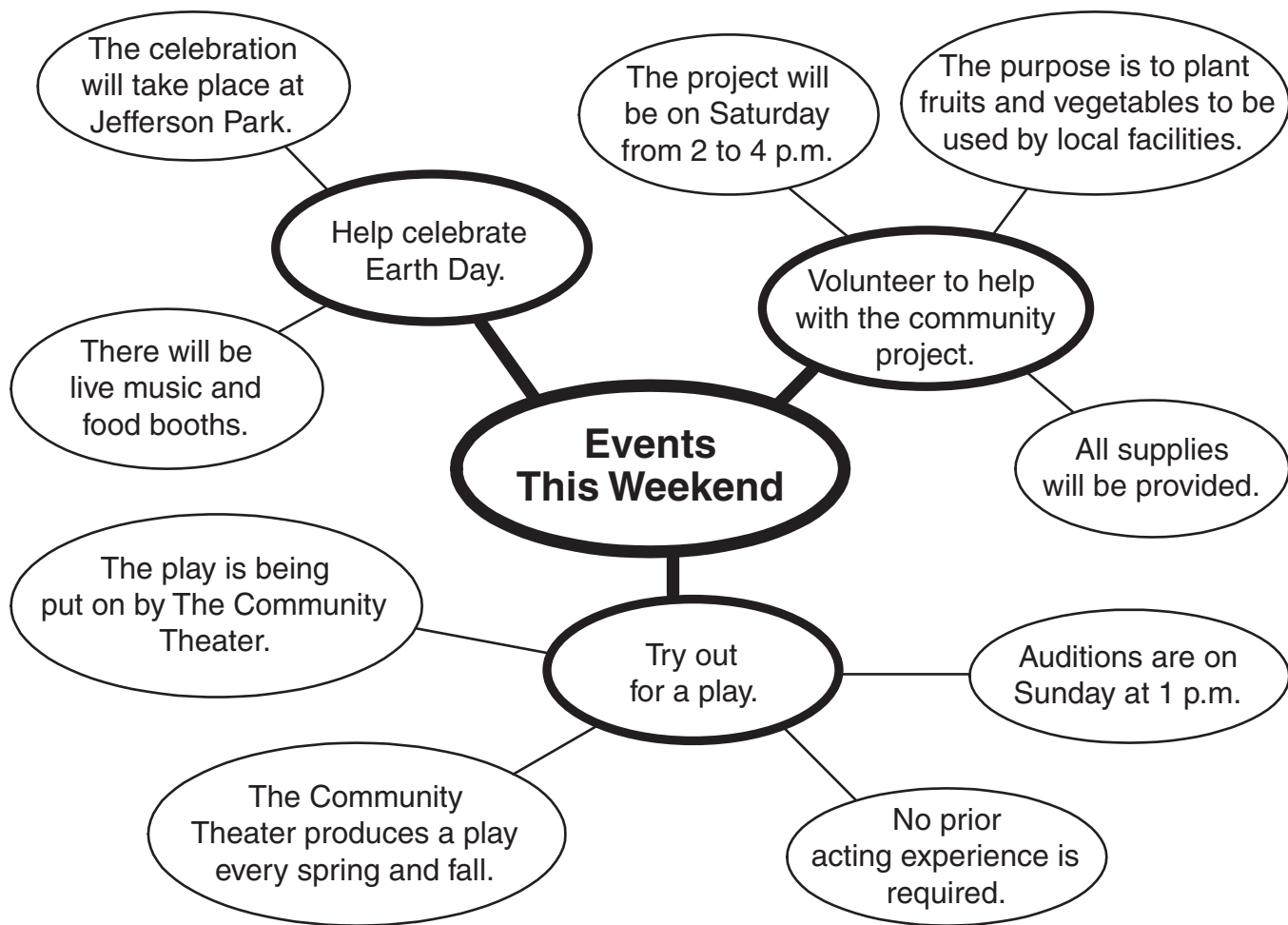
In sentence 3, he helps is correctly written —

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

A Weekend of Opportunity

Stephanie writes a column for her high school's newspaper. The purpose of Stephanie's column, "What's Going On?," is to highlight a few of the upcoming weekend events.

Stephanie made a web of the information she collected. Use it to answer questions 1–3.



1 When Stephanie rereads the information under Volunteer to help with the community project, she will most likely add information that tells —

- A why fruits and vegetables are important to grow
- B what supplies are needed to complete the project
- C where the project will take place
- D what other community projects will be completed this year

2 Which of these on Stephanie's web is *least* relevant to her article?

- F The Community Theater produces a play every spring and fall.
- G No prior acting experience is required.
- H There will be live music and food booths.
- J The celebration will take place at Jefferson Park.

3 Stephanie's web will *best* help her to —

- A concentrate on using colorful and descriptive language as she writes
- B focus on the information her readers will need to know
- C decide what she likes most about writing for the school newspaper
- D verify the accuracy of the information she will include in her article

Here is the first part of Stephanie’s rough draft of her article. Use it to answer questions 4–6.

(1)The events around town this weekend promise a little something for everyone. (2)You can watch a parade, roll up your sleeves to help a local organization, or snag a leading role in an upcoming community-produced play. (3)Read on for details!

(4)Our sleepy town will awaken Saturday when the Earth Day parade kicks off at 9 a.m. (5)The parade will start at Davis and Parmer and will wind its way through town until it reaches Jefferson Park, and the Earth Day celebration will be held there. (6)The celebration will include a number of demonstrations to help us learn more about protecting our environment. (7)Chairperson Allison McGee suggests that we bring along our toxic household cleaners. (8)These hazardous cleaners can be traded in for Earth-friendly cleaners. (9)The Earth-friendly cleaners have been donated by the nonprofit organization For Life. (10)Live music and food booths will also be part of the festivities. (11)Jefferson Park is my favorite location for many events each year because of its size and pleasant surroundings. (12)The Earth Day celebration will continue until 5 p.m.

(13)Calling all caring citizens! (14)The nonprofit organization Plants and Gardens is looking for volunteers to help with this year’s community project. (15)The organization will be planting fruits and vegetables to harvest this fall. (16)These fruits and vegetables will then be donated to soup kitchens, senior citizen communities, and similar facilities. (17)Volunteers for this project need not be experienced gardeners. (18)James Evans of Green Nursery will provide a short demonstration at 2 p.m. to help guide less-experienced volunteers. (19)All gardening supplies will be provided, and snacks will be served. (20)Those interested in assisting should go to Green Nursery on O’Connor and Davidson between 2 and 4 p.m.

4 In writing paragraph 1, Stephanie *most* likely tried to —

- F** keep the reader interested by shifting the point of view
- G** include details so that the reader would not have to read her entire article
- H** state her ideas in a way that would grab the reader's attention
- J** write with a humorous tone so that the reader would want to participate in all the events

5 How can sentence 5 *best* be revised?

- A** Starting at Davis and Parmer, the parade will wind its way through town until it reaches Jefferson Park, where the Earth Day celebration will be held.
- B** The parade will, starting at Davis and Parmer, wind its way through town until it reaches Jefferson Park, where the Earth Day celebration will be held.
- C** The parade will wind its way through town starting at Davis and Parmer until it reaches Jefferson Park, where the Earth Day celebration will be held.
- D** Jefferson Park is where the Earth Day celebration will be held, and the parade will wind its way through town until it reaches there, starting at Davis and Parmer.

6 Which sentence is *least* relevant to Stephanie's article?

- F** 8
- G** 11
- H** 12
- J** 16

Read this next section of Stephanie’s rough draft and answer questions 7–11. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(21)The Community Theater is gearing up for its spring production, and auditions will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday. (22)This year, Phyllis McMurray, the director, has chosen *Our Town* because of popular requests. (23)This Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Thornton Wilder is considered a classic portrayal of small-town American life. (24)McMurray needs help with all aspects of the theatrical production including lighting, sound, and scenery. (25)“Students are definitely encouraged to read for a main role, or they can volunteer their time to the production aspect of the play,” McMurray said during a telephone interview. (26)Many of us are very familiar with *Our Town* because we have read the play in our English class as sophomores. (27)For those who want to audition, break a leg! (28)The parts of main characters George Gibbs and Emily Webb might just go to two of Davis High Schools’ talented students! (29)You and I, however, will have to wait over a month to see who will get the parts. (30)The actors selected for *Our Town* is scheduled to rehearse every weekend for at least a month. (31)No opening date has been set, watch for updates in this column to know when the curtain will open on *Our Town*.

7 In sentence 24, how is theatrical production including lighting, correctly written?

- A Theatrical Production, including lighting
- B theatrical production including, lighting,
- C theatrical production, including lighting,
- D As it is

8 In sentence 25, how is definitely encouraged to read for a main role, correctly written?

- F definitely encouraged to read for a main role,
- G definitely encouraged to read for a main roll
- H definitely encouraged to read for a main roll,
- J As it is

9 In sentence 28, how is Davis High Schools' talented students correctly written?

- A Davis High School's talented students
- B Davis high school's talented students
- C Davis High Schools talented students
- D As it is

10 In sentence 30, how is The actors selected for *Our Town* is scheduled correctly written?

- F The actors' selected for *Our Town* is scheduled
- G The actors, selected for *Our Town*, are scheduled
- H The actors selected for *Our Town* are scheduled
- J As it is

11 In sentence 31, how is date has been set, watch correctly written?

- A date has been set; watch
- B date has been set; Watch
- C date has been set watch
- D As it is

Job Application Letter

Darlana read about a part-time job as a library assistant at her town's public library. The advertisement said that all applicants should write a letter of application. Darlana is very interested in the job, so she wants to start her letter right away.

12 In preparing her letter of application, Darlana should plan to do all of these EXCEPT —

- F** verify the name of the contact person and library's mailing address
- G** ask a teacher or peer to read her letter to check for errors
- H** call the library to ask if she can send a resume instead of a letter
- J** make sure that the information in her letter is concise, specific, and relevant

13 Darlana wants some advice on how her letter should look and what it should include. Which of these books is likely to offer her the *best* advice?

- A** *Handling a Job Interview*
- B** *Finding the Best Jobs in a Competitive World*
- C** *The Complete Guide to Résumés and Application Letters*
- D** *Looking for Part-Time Work with Full-Time Pay?*

Here is the first part of Darlena's rough draft of her letter. Use it to answer questions 14–16.

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

(1)While completing some research in the library last week. (2)I noticed the advertisement on the bulletin board that listed part-time work available to high school students. (3)Please allow me to explain briefly why I think I would be perfect for this job. (4)I would like to apply for the job of after-school library assistant.

(5)First, the advertisement mentioned that the after-school library assistant would be helping with the story hour for children. (6)I am very familiar with what story hour is because as a child, I loved to attend the library's story hour. (7)Each week it was exciting for me to see how the reader could make the story come alive for the audience. (8)As much as I did, I would welcome the opportunity to help young readers enjoy story hour. (9)In fact, some of my past experiences would make me a good story hour host. (10)I read to my younger brothers and sister often, and I also read bedtime stories to the children I baby-sit. (11)Moreover, I can use the vocal changes and facial expressions I learned in my drama classes to make the stories exciting. (12)Keeping children interested is certainly an important part of story hour. (13)I could prevent a room full of screaming children from climbing the walls.

(14)Next, I noticed that you are looking for someone who will be able to help students and community members use information sources and other library services. (15)I am a student who uses the library often. (16)I have come to know these sources and services well. (17)I could help library users locate books using the online inventory system, search for information on the Internet, or fill out interlibrary loan forms and other requests, just to name a few. (18)I am eager to learn about the services that are unfamiliar to me. (19)Doing so would equip me with the information necessary to answer almost any question a library user might have.

14 Which of these should be revised because it is *not* a complete sentence?

- F** 1
- G** 6
- H** 10
- J** 12

15 Sentence 3 is *not* in the correct sequence. Sentence 3 is *best* placed directly after —

- A** sentence 4
- B** sentence 7
- C** sentence 13
- D** sentence 17

16 How is sentence 8 *best* rewritten?

- F** I would welcome the opportunity, as much as I did, to help young readers enjoy story hour.
- G** Welcoming the opportunity to help young readers enjoy story hour as much as I did.
- H** Helping young readers to enjoy story hour as much as I did, I would welcome the opportunity.
- J** I would welcome the opportunity to help young readers enjoy story hour as much as I did.

Read this next section of Darlena's rough draft and answer questions 17–20. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(20) Finally, I am sure that you are looking for someone who is responsible, dependable, and helpful. (21) I am all of this things. (22) Most of all, I love books, and I would really enjoy helping other reading enthusiasts like me. (23) Last summer, in fact, I was part of a reading club hosted by Read Indeed Bookstore. (24) There I met the manager, Rita Forester, and I often stayed after the meetings to help her shelve books, creating displays for new books, and plan poetry readings. (25) My volunteer work at the bookstore is likely to make me an even better candidate for the library assistant position.

(26) Two letters of recommendation is enclosed for your reveiw. (27) If you are interested in talking with me about the position, please let me know by calling 555-0193. (28) I look forward to the possibility of hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Darlena Adams

17 In sentence 21, how is this things correctly written?

- A these things
- B them things
- C these thing's
- D As it is

18 In sentence 24, how is shelve books, creating displays for new books, and plan poetry readings correctly written?

- F shelve books, create displays for new books, and planning poetry readings
- G shelve books, create displays for new books, and plan poetry readings
- H shelving books, creating displays for new books, and plan poetry readings
- J As it is

19 In sentence 26, how is Two letters of recommendation is enclosed correctly written?

- A** Two letters, of recommendation, are enclosed
- B** Two letters of recommendations is enclosed
- C** Two letters of recommendation are enclosed
- D** As it is

20 In sentence 26, how is your reveiw correctly written?

- F** you're review
- G** your review
- H** you're reveiw
- J** As it is

Save Our Parks!

Aaron read an article describing the problems of America's national parks. The article indicated that the quality of the parks was declining due to the large numbers of visitors and a lack of money. Aaron has decided to write to his congressperson to share his concerns.

- 21 Which of these strategies would be the *most* helpful to Aaron before he begins writing his letter?
- A Making a list of camping gear you would need when visiting a park
 - B Reading his local newspaper to find other problems that concern him
 - C Researching the process for being elected to Congress
 - D Focusing on what he could say that would be the most important and persuasive

Here are two rough drafts of the first part of Aaron’s letter. Use them to answer questions 22–25.

DRAFT A

Dear Congressman Schuyler:

I am worried about our national parks; you will be too after you read my letter. Recently I read a very upsetting article that said the quality of our national parks is getting worse because too many people visit each year. I live just an hour away from Shenandoah National Park. I can’t tell you how much it means to me to go there with my family. Every time I go, I see something wonderful. Last time it was an eagle soaring above the snow-covered mountains until it was just a speck in the deep blue sky. The worst thing I can imagine is to have the quality of Shenandoah go downhill.

I’m glad that so many people are enjoying our nation’s wild places, but the large numbers can mean problems. Park Ranger Manuel Ortega points out that visitors aren’t always responsible. They may litter or take things out of the park. Even if they’re careful and don’t mean to cause damage, it’s not good for some plants and animals that live in the park to be around humans too much. Amusement parks also suffer from high attendance, making it difficult for all visitors to have a good time. Even worse, national parks don’t have enough money to operate as they should. We can’t continue to ignore these problems. We must join together and take action now!

22 Which paragraph contains information that is off the topic?

- F** Paragraph 1 of Draft A, because it mentions Shenandoah National Park
- G** Paragraph 2 of Draft A, because it mentions amusement parks
- H** Paragraph 1 of Draft B, because it mentions a park ranger by name
- J** Paragraph 2 of Draft B, because it contains a quote

23 The last sentence of Draft A is more effective than the last sentence of Draft B because it —

- A** shifts the point of view for emphasis
- B** uses more descriptive language
- C** makes a direct, persuasive appeal to the reader
- D** provides more specific detail

DRAFT B

Dear Congressman Schuyler:

I am very concerned about the state of our national parks. Recently I read an article in my local newspaper titled “Crisis in Our National Parks” in which several park rangers stated that they felt the quality of our national parks is declining. I talked to Manuel Ortega, a park ranger at Shenandoah National Park, and he agrees that the parks are in trouble. The main reason, Ortega said, is that the parks do not have enough money to meet the demands of a constantly increasing number of visitors.

The number of people who use the parks gets larger every year, causing one reporter to remark that we are “loving our parks to death.” These crowds cause enormous wear and tear on the resources of the park. The more people who visit a park, the more possibilities there are for accidental damage to that park’s plants and animals. The situation is made worse by the fact that the parks are operating on a low budget and don’t have much money. They can’t fix the problems caused by too many people, let alone make improvements.

24 Which of these sentences found in either Draft A or Draft B contains the *most* descriptive vocabulary?

- F** Last time it was an eagle soaring above the snow-covered mountains until it was just a speck in the deep blue sky.
- G** The worst thing I can imagine is to have the quality of Shenandoah go downhill.
- H** Recently I read an article in my local newspaper titled “Crisis in Our National Parks” in which several park rangers stated that they felt the quality of our national parks is declining.
- J** The more people who visit a park, the more opportunities there are for accidental damage to that park’s plants and animals.

25 The situation is made worse by the fact that the parks are operating on a low budget and don’t have much money. In paragraph 2 of Draft B, which of these is a problem with the sentence?

- A** It contains highly technical language.
- B** It should be moved to the beginning of the paragraph.
- C** It expresses Aaron’s personal opinion about the parks.
- D** The phrase “don’t have much money” repeats information already given in the sentence.

Read this next part of Aaron’s rough draft and answer questions 26–30. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

The solution set forth by National Park Service officials is to limit the amount of visitors allowed into the parks. But how can we turn people away from their own parks? A better plan is to allow the parks to raise the entry fees. Although fees have recently gone up, they are still quite low, and polls show that most people are willing to pay more. The money would allow parks to repair damage and improve campsites and trails. It also could pay for programs to teach people how to enjoy the outdoors while preserving its beauty for future visitors.

Congressman Schuyler, won’t you please make our national parks one of your prioritys this year? I want to be sure that my father and me can go on hiking in Shenandoah for a long time to come. As cities grow bigger and noisier and swallow up more and more precious green space, we must take steps to keep our parks peaceful beautiful, and open to everyone. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Aaron Goldman

Aaron Goldman

26 How is the amount of visitors allowed correctly written?

- F the number of visitors allowed
- G the amount of visitors aloud
- H the number of visitors allow
- J As it is

27 How is Although fees have recently gone up, they are correctly written?

- A Although, fees have recently gone up, they are
- B Although, fees have, recently, gone up, they are
- C Although fees have, recently, gone up they are
- D As it is

28 How is your prioritys this year?
correctly written?

- F** your prioritys this year.
- G** your priorities this year?
- H** you're prioritys this year?
- J** As it is

29 How is my father and me can go
correctly written?

- A** me and my father can go
- B** my Father and I can go
- C** my father and I can go
- D** As it is

30 How is peaceful beautiful, and open to
everyone correctly written?

- F** peaceful, beautiful, and open to everyone
- G** peaceful beautiful and open, to everyone
- H** peaceful, beautiful and open, to everyone
- J** As it is