

South Carolina SC READY 2018
Grade 6 English Language Arts
Practice

Exam & Answer Key Materials
Pages 2 - 27



South Carolina College- and
Career-Ready Assessments



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SAMPLE ITEMS

Introduction

The South Carolina Department of Education provides districts and schools with tools to assist in delivering focused instruction aligned with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards (SCCCRS). This document contains a set of nineteen SC READY test items that have been written to align with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards. These items were reviewed for content and bias prior to being field tested and approved for release to the public.

Purpose

This document is intended to be a resource for educators; it is not designed to be a practice test for students. The sample items are examples of college- and career-ready assessment items. These items were chosen to reflect the increased rigor of assessing the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards. SC READY assesses content standards in a variety of ways. This document does not include all item types or standards.

Item Information Format

Indicator Alignment	SCCCR
Indicator Description	text from SCCCR
Answer Key	correct answer
Depth of Knowledge	cognitive demand
Estimated Difficulty	estimate based on student responses

Links

South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards

<https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/programs-services/59/documents/ELA2015SCCCRStandards.pdf>

Norman Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge for the Four Content Areas

<http://www.webbalign.org/Webbs-DOK-Levels-Summary.pdf>

1. A student is writing a report about castles in the United Kingdom and found the following source.

Many castles in the United Kingdom have fallen into ruin at some point in time. Some castles have been returned to their original states because of individuals interested in preserving history. Some were rebuilt by royalty who wanted to put the castles back into use for defensive purposes. Sadly, others have been left to rot, crumbling away as if no one even cares if they stand or fall. The ironic thing is that these neglected castles often become the most photographed of the entire country.

Which sentence in the source **best** reveals the author's bias?

- A. Some castles have been returned to their original states because of individuals interested in preserving history.
- B. Some were rebuilt by royalty who wanted to put the castles back into use for defensive purposes.
- C. Sadly, others have been left to rot, crumbling away as if no one even cares if they stand or fall.
- D. The ironic thing is that these neglected castles often become the most photographed of the entire country.

SC READY ELA Sample Item 1	Indicator Alignment	6.1.0.3.3
	Indicator Description	Gather information from a variety of primary and secondary sources and evaluate sources for perspective, validity, and bias.
	Answer Key	C
	Depth of Knowledge	3
	Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

2. A student made a plan for a research report. Read the plan.

Research Report Plan

Topic: home computers

Audience: teacher and classmates

Purpose: to inform

Research Question: How have home computers changed since they were first introduced?

The student found several sources. Which source would most likely have information that would be useful in the student's report?

- A. a website that explains how to upgrade old computers to make them work like new
- B. a magazine article titled "How Computers Can Help Solve Everyday Problems"
- C. a book titled *Where Do We Go from Here? The History and Future of Computers*
- D. a website that shows people how to safely get rid of old computers

Use the following Sample Passages with Sample Items numbers 3 – 8.

The Cave

“Make sure the rope is tight, Maria,” cautioned Mr. Sawyer. He and Ms. Chen, the two sponsors of the Outdoor Club at Newton Middle School, were taking the members on the first field trip of the school year.

Maria, aided by Tony, pulled a thick rope around the trunk of a wide tree, tied it off, and tugged on it.

“All set, Mr. Sawyer,” said Maria.

“Good. Now, everyone tighten your helmet strap, cinch up your elbow and knee pads, and put on your gloves. Then grab onto the rope, and we’ll head inside.”

Forming a line, the six hikers waited for Mr. Sawyer to lead the way. Half a dozen flashlights flicked on, throwing sharp beams of light into a dark cave. Deep shadows stretched along the walls of the jagged opening.

“Let the rope slip through your gloves as Mr. Sawyer uncoils it on the way into the cave,” said Ms. Chen from the back of the line. “The floor is slippery inside, so watch your step and hold onto the rope.”

“Will we see any bats?” asked Charlie.

“We might,” said Mr. Sawyer. “Onward!”

With a deep breath, each explorer crossed from the sun-drenched hillside into the cramped quarters of the cool, damp cave. Like ducklings trailing their mother, the hikers trekked quietly after Mr. Sawyer, holding on tightly to the rope.

The passageway of the cave took an immediate left and slanted downhill. Each time Mr. Sawyer stopped to point out a feature of the cave, Ms. Chen cautiously pulled the rope tight to make sure it was still tied to the tree.

“Look at all the bats hanging from the ceiling!” Mr. Sawyer remarked. “Charlie, your question has been answered.”

The students walked slowly while gazing at the bats above them. Suddenly, Maria lost her footing and slipped, pulling the rope down with her.

“Are you OK, Maria?” Mr. Sawyer asked.

“I think so,” Maria said. “So far, nothing hurts!”

Tony helped her to stand up, and she brushed off her hands.

Ms. Chen gave the rope a sharp yank, expecting it to pull taut, but it hung loose in her hands. Evidently, Maria’s quick movements had loosened the rope from the tree.



“Uh-oh,” said Ms. Chen.

“What’s wrong?” asked Mr. Sawyer, a frown spreading across his face.

“The knot must’ve come untied from around the tree,” Ms. Chen said.

“Can we make it back?” Kevin asked.

Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Chen glanced at each other, but before either of them could answer, Charlie spoke up.

“Just follow the rope out,” he offered. “Ms. Chen has been checking it regularly, so the end should still be near the entrance. Even with all the twists and turns, we should be able to reach the opening.”

“I think Charlie’s right,” said Mr. Sawyer. “Let’s turn around. Everyone link hands and follow me.”

Each hiker grabbed a hand and followed Ms. Chen in a single-file line as she slowly followed the rope toward the entrance. The shuffling of feet filled the cave.

Several minutes later, they spotted the faint glow of the cave entrance ahead.

“We made it!” Tony shouted.

“That’s good news, because here is the rope’s end,” said Ms. Chen.

The hikers walked out into the sunlight and stopped to catch a breath.

“Mr. Sawyer,” Charlie asked, “can we come do this again? I didn’t get a good look at those bats.”

Chuckling, Mr. Sawyer replied, “Sure, Charlie, but how about next week? I need a little time to recover!”

The Climb

“Where am I?” Mikela asked herself. She knew that the area where her family had set up camp was near the base of two hills, situated along a winding stream. No matter where she looked, nothing looked familiar. Dejected, she turned around, desperately searching for any signs of the camp.

She had left it only a short time ago. Her father had pointed out an owl’s nest at the top of an old rotted tree, just one hill over from where the camp was located. She had gone for what she thought would be a quick visit to the tree, but now, each hilltop looked just like another, and she had never even found the tree with the nest.

The sun was beginning to settle behind the trees, and it would soon be getting dark; Mikela started to worry.

“Where is our camp?” whispered Mikela between clenched teeth. She knew that her mom and dad would be searching for her, but they had no way of knowing where to look. She wished now that she had told them where she was going. She had thought she would be back before anyone even missed her.

“Think, Mikela! Think!” she said aloud. The rumble in her stomach reminded her that she had not eaten since noon, and now she was missing supper.

“Wait a minute. . .” she said after a moment, standing straight up. “Supper means a fire, and fire means smoke, so I’ll look for the smoke!” Mikela looked out across the hilltops again, scanning them systematically, looking up and down small sections of each one. After a few minutes, she spotted a wispy column of smoke rising above a group of trees.

“Maybe that’s our camp!” Mikela exclaimed. The smoke appeared to be coming from a valley only two hills away.

Steadily, Mikela worked her way down the hill and then up and down the next. As she approached the top of the last hill, she heard a rustling to her left.

Oh no. . . Now what? Mikela thought to herself, her heart full of dread.

Out stepped Mikela’s father and older brother. Seeing her, they both yelled, “Mikela!”

“I’m here!” Mikela yelled, running toward them.

Wrapping his arms around her, Mikela’s father asked, “Are you all right?”

Mikela looked up at her dad and replied, “I’m fine, but the next time I want to see an owl’s nest, I might just check out a book from the library!”

4. How are Charlie in “The Cave” and Mikela in “The Climb” similar in their reactions to the challenges they each face?
- A. Neither character panics when faced with a difficult situation.
 - B. They both help others understand a solution to a problem.
 - C. Neither character understands what has caused a dangerous situation.
 - D. They both rely on special training they have received.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	4	Indicator Alignment	6.RL.MC.8.1
		Indicator Description	Describe how a plot in a narrative or drama unfolds and how characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution; determine the impact of contextual influences on setting, plot, and characters.
		Answer Key	A
		Depth of Knowledge	3
		Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

5. In “The Cave,” which factor most likely contributes to the conflict?
- A. Ms. Chen may not have checked the tightness of the rope enough times while inside the cave.
 - B. The rope may not have been tied tightly enough to the tree at the mouth of the cave.
 - C. Mr. Sawyer may not have led the students and Ms. Chen down the correct path in the cave.
 - D. The students may not have followed closely enough behind Mr. Sawyer through the cave.

SC READY ELA Sample Item 5	Indicator Alignment	6.RL.MC.8.1
	Indicator Description	Describe how a plot in a narrative or drama unfolds and how characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution; determine the impact of contextual influences on setting, plot, and characters.
	Answer Key	B
	Depth of Knowledge	3
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

7. Read this sentence from “The Cave”.

Like ducklings trailing their mother, the hikers trekked quietly after Mr. Sawyer, holding on tightly to the rope.

How does the figurative language in the sentence impact the meaning?

- A. The figurative language suggests that the group is in more danger than they may realize.
- B. The figurative language creates an image of the students as orderly.
- C. The figurative language suggests that the students do not behave in a mature way.
- D. The figurative language creates a controlling image of the teacher.

SC READY ELA Sample Item 7	Indicator Alignment	6.RL.LCS.9.1
	Indicator Description	Determine the figurative and connotative meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text; analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone.
	Answer Key	B
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

8. In paragraph 1 of “The Climb,” what is the meaning of the word dejected?
- A. angry
 - B. ashamed
 - C. disgusted
 - D. discouraged

SC READY ELA Sample Item 8	Indicator Alignment	6.RL.LCS.10.1
	Indicator Description	Use the overall meaning of a text or a word’s position or function to determine the meaning of a word or phrase.
	Answer Key	D
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

Use the following Sample Passage with Sample Items numbers 9 – 16.

Self-Made Man

Modest Beginnings

When Dave Thomas was born in New Jersey in 1932, his future seemed uncertain. At six-weeks old, he was adopted by Rex and Auleva Thomas. Throughout his childhood, he had to move to different cities and towns so that Rex could find work.

When Thomas was twelve, he and his family were living in Knoxville, Tennessee, and Thomas got a job at a local restaurant. They moved yet again and three years later, when the family had been living for a while in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Thomas found out that they would soon be moving again. Thomas had a job at a restaurant and did not want to go. He made the difficult decision stay in Fort Wayne.

It would be difficult to make it on his own. Thomas had to search until he found a place to stay. Next, he had to make another hard choice. He could no longer work full time and go to school. There just were not enough hours in the day. Thomas quit high school so that he could support himself.

Finding Success

For the next several years, Thomas continued to learn about the restaurant business by working at the Hobby House Restaurant in Fort Wayne. He learned a great deal from his boss and from a helpful man named Colonel Harland Sanders, the founder of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants. When Thomas was thirty years old, he was assigned an important job. He would need to solve some challenging problems at four Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in Ohio. With hard work and many long hours, Thomas made those restaurants a success. When the restaurants were sold to another owner, Thomas earned enough to become a millionaire at the age of thirty-five.

Two years later, in 1969, Thomas opened his first restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. He did things that no other fast food restaurant was doing. He introduced the square meat patty, grilled it fresh, and added the toppings each customer requested. He also decided to get rid of the plastic chairs and plain tabletops found at most fast-food restaurants. He carpeted his eating area, brought in wooden chairs, and decorated his store with colorful lamps. By now a man with a family of his own, Thomas named his restaurant “Wendy’s” after one of his daughters.

Thomas’s innovative ideas grew more and more popular with the people in Columbus. He extended further into Ohio to open more restaurants. His delicious square burgers became everyone’s favorite for hundreds of miles around. Eventually, Thomas’s restaurants sprang up in all fifty states and across the border into Canada. A man who began with very little in life earned more money than he ever imagined. In addition, he earned every award possible in the restaurant business.



Finishing What He Started

For a lot of people, that would have been enough, but Thomas's story does not end there. He always regretted quitting school, so in 1993, he went back to finish high school. Not only did he finish his degree, but at the age of sixty-one, he was actually named "Most Likely to Succeed" by his classmates. Finally, Thomas no longer had to regret the decision that he had made in his youth.

Giving Back

Back at work, he starred in many of his own commercials, and his face often appeared on America's television screens. Even with all his fame and fortune, he did not forget his own rocky start in the world. Thomas believed that all children deserved good homes, so he gave both his time and money to the cause of adoption. He was named the director of the White House Initiative on Adoption. Shortly after that, he began his own adoption foundation. In the 1990s, his work led to several changes in American laws that made it easier for families to adopt children. Thomas's love for children also showed in his support of hospitals and children's homes.

Dave Thomas passed away in 2002, but not before changing the fast food market. He had brought his restaurants to America's big cities and small towns. He was not just a man striving for success but also a man striving to make a difference.

9. Which piece of evidence from the passage supports the inference that Dave Thomas wanted to help young people?
- A. Thomas had to search until he found a place to stay.
 - B. He carpeted his eating area, brought in wooden chairs, and decorated his store with colorful lamps.
 - C. Not only did he finish his degree, but at the age of sixty-one, he was actually named “Most Likely to Succeed” by his classmates.
 - D. In the 1990s, his work led to several changes in American laws that made it easier for families to adopt children.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	9	Indicator Alignment	6.RI.MC.5.1
		Indicator Description	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
		Answer Key	D
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

10. Which is the most complete summary of the passage?

- A. When Dave Thomas was young, money was scarce. As a teenager, Thomas worked in a local restaurant and quit school in order to support himself. He learned the restaurant business from other successful restaurant owners, including the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Thomas opened his own restaurant, which he named after one of his daughters, Wendy. Thomas's restaurant became a huge success and he opened new locations around the country. Thomas donated some of his fortune to help others less fortunate.
- B. When Dave Thomas was young, he began to learn about the restaurant business. His family moved a lot. Eventually, Thomas decided to live in Fort Wayne, Indiana, so that he could learn more about how to be a successful restaurant owner from the man who started the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants. Thomas started a chain of restaurants called Wendy's and decorated them with wooden chairs and colorful lamps. He placed carpet in the eating area because he did not like to see dirty floors. Thomas became a millionaire when he was thirty-five years old.
- C. Dave Thomas was born in New Jersey in 1932 and would go on to become a millionaire. He worked in the restaurant business for many years. He learned a lot about the business from Colonel Harland Sanders, the man who started the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain. Thomas's restaurants were very successful because he worked a lot of hours trying to make his restaurants better than other restaurants. People liked his restaurants because they looked nicer than others. His restaurants had wooden chairs, colorful lamps, and carpet on the floor.
- D. Dave Thomas was born in New Jersey in 1932. His family moved a lot when he was young because of his father's job. Thomas started to learn the restaurant business when his family lived in Knoxville, Tennessee. After a while, his family moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana. While there, Thomas continued to learn about the restaurant business from Colonel Harland Sanders, the man who started the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants. Dave Thomas eventually became very successful and used his money to help others.

SC READY ELA Sample Item

10

Indicator Alignment 6.RI.MC.6.1

Indicator Description Provide an objective summary of a text with two or more central ideas; cite key supporting details.

Answer Key A

Depth of Knowledge 2

Estimated Difficulty High Difficulty

11. Which sentence from the passage supports the key idea that Dave Thomas was successful in business?
- A. Thomas had a job at a restaurant and did not want to go.
 - B. He introduced the square meat patty, grilled it fresh, and added the toppings each customer requested.
 - C. In the 1990s, his work led to several changes in American laws that made it easier for families to adopt children.
 - D. He had brought his restaurants to America's big cities and small towns.

SC READY ELA Sample Item

11

Indicator Alignment 6.RI.MC.6.1

Indicator Description Provide an objective summary of a text with two or more central ideas; cite key supporting details.

Answer Key D

Depth of Knowledge 2

Estimated Difficulty Medium Difficulty

12. Which sentence does the author use to exaggerate Dave Thomas's success?

- A. He would need to solve some challenging problems at four Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in Ohio.
- B. Two years later, in 1969, Thomas opened his first restaurant in Columbus, Ohio.
- C. His delicious square burgers became everyone's favorite for hundreds of miles around.
- D. For a lot of people, that would have been enough, but Thomas's story does not end there.

12	Indicator Alignment	6.RI.LCS.8.1
	Indicator Description	Determine figurative, connotative, and technical meanings of words and phrases used in a text; analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone.
	Answer Key	C
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

13. Read the sentence from the passage.

Eventually, Thomas’s restaurants sprang up in all fifty states and across the border into Canada.

What does the phrase “sprang up” imply about the restaurants?

- A. the restaurants were difficult to operate
- B. the number of restaurants grew quickly
- C. the restaurants dominated the fast-food industry
- D. the locations of the restaurants were the reason for their success

SC READY ELA Sample Item

13

Indicator Alignment	6.RI.LCS.8.1
Indicator Description	Determine figurative, connotative, and technical meanings of words and phrases used in a text; analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone.
Answer Key	B
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

14. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Read the sentence from the passage.

Thomas's innovative ideas grew more and more popular with the people in Columbus.

What does the word innovative mean?

- A. something that makes a lot of money
- B. something that is new or different
- C. something that is approved by others
- D. something that becomes very important

Part B

Which sentence from the passage supports the answer in part A?

- A. When Thomas was thirty years old, he was assigned an important job.
- B. When the restaurants were sold to another owner, Thomas earned enough to become a millionaire at the age of thirty-five.
- C. He did things that no other fast food restaurant was doing.
- D. By now a man with a family of his own, Thomas named his restaurant "Wendy's" after one of his daughters.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	14	Indicator Alignment	6.RI.LCS.9.1
		Indicator Description	Determine the meaning of a word or phrase using the overall meaning of a text or a word's position or function.
		Answer Key	Part A: B; Part B: C
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

15. Read the claim from the passage.

It would be difficult to make it on his own.

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the claim?

- A. Throughout his childhood, he had to move to different cities and towns so that Rex could find work.
- B. He could no longer work full time and go to school.
- C. A man who began with very little in life earned more money than he ever imagined.
- D. He was not just a man striving for success but also a man striving to make a difference.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	15	Indicator Alignment	6.RI.LCS.11.2
		Indicator Description	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
		Answer Key	B
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

16. Read the claim from the passage.

Even with all his fame and fortune, he did not forget his own rocky start in the world.

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the claim?

- A. When Thomas was twelve, he and his family were living in Knoxville, Tennessee, and Thomas got a job at a local restaurant.
- B. For the next several years, Thomas continued to learn about the restaurant business by working at the Hobby House Restaurant in Fort Wayne.
- C. In addition, he earned every award possible in the restaurant business.
- D. Thomas believed that all children deserved good homes, so he gave both his time and money to the cause of adoption.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	16	Indicator Alignment	6.RI.LCS.11.2
		Indicator Description	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
		Answer Key	D
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

17. A student is writing a report on Labrador retrievers. Read part of the report.

Labrador retrievers are the best dogs in the world. They are friendly and extremely smart animals. Their gentle personalities make them perfect pets for families with children. They also have a deep desire to please their owners. For this reason, they are easy to train and make excellent rescue dogs and guide dogs for the blind. Labrador retrievers, however, do have some qualities that some people do not enjoy. For example, even if regularly groomed, Labrador retrievers shed a lot of hair.

Which sentence provides the **best** concluding statement for the information in the report?

- A. Although Labrador retrievers shed a lot of hair, they have many positive qualities that make them great pets.
- B. For some reason, Labrador retrievers shed a lot of hair, but many people do not seem to mind.
- C. Any family with children should think about getting a Labrador retriever or some other kind of dog for a pet.
- D. Professional pet groomers can teach owners the best ways to take care of Labrador retrievers.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	6.W.MCC.1.1h
	Indicator Description	Write arguments that provide a conclusion that follows from and supports the argument.
	17 Answer Key	A
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

18. A student is writing a report on the connection between color and feelings. Read the paragraph.

Some scientists believe that colors can have an effect on people's moods. This belief has led to designers choices about how to decorate rooms. Many office buildings are painted beige, white, and brown tones to help the employees concentrate. To encourage creativity, a writer might choose to use yellows and oranges in the room. Cool tones like blues and greens may have a calming effect in a baby's bedroom. A recent study reported that "early findings show a baby will be fussier when surrounded by the color red than it is in a pure white room."

Which sentence provides the **best** conclusion for the paragraph?

- A. Right now my room is painted blue, but after writing this paper it seems like yellow would be a better color to use.
- B. Some people like to paint every room in a house a different color, but other people prefer to have the whole house look the same.
- C. Many people do not use a decorator when deciding on the colors to use in a room, but information about how color can affect mood is available on the Internet.
- D. The reasons for these effects is still being studied, but evidence that the colors we use to paint our walls can change the way we feel is all around us.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	18	Indicator Alignment	6.W.MCC.2.1m
		Indicator Description	Write informative/explanatory texts that provide a concluding statement or section that follows the information or explanation presented.
		Answer Key	D
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

19. Read the sentences.

1. He was very happy about getting a summer job delivering pizzas.
2. Hans was looking for something to do over the summer.
3. The next day he got a call to come to the restaurant for information and training.
4. Hans worked on his resume and submitted it to the pizza restaurant.
5. His mom found an article in the local newspaper looking for people to deliver pizzas.

What is the **best** order for organizing the sentences into a paragraph?

- A. 4, 3, 2, 1, 5
B. 2, 5, 4, 3, 1
C. 2, 4, 3, 5, 1
D. 4, 1, 5, 2, 3

<div> <div>19</div> <div>SC READY ELA Sample Item</div> </div>	Indicator Alignment	6.W.MCC.3.1c
	Indicator Description	Gather ideas from texts, multimedia, and personal experience to write narratives that organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
	Answer Key	B
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Low Difficulty