

STAR Test Sample Questions

8th Grade English - Language Arts

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8th Grade English - Language Arts

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Standardized Testing and Reporting - STAR

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 01

Murphy

from “Dogs That Have Known Me”

How I Got to Be Perfect

by Jean Kerr

1 The dog that gave us the most trouble was a beagle named Murphy. As far as I'm concerned, the first thing he did wrong was to turn into a beagle. I had seen him bounding around on the other side of a pet-shop window, and I went in and asked the man, “How much is that adorable fox terrier in the window?” Did he say, “That adorable fox terrier is a beagle”? No, he said, “Ten dollars, lady.” Now, I don't mean to say one word against beagles. They have rights just like other people. But it is a bit of a shock when you bring home a small ball of fluff in a shoebox, and three weeks later it's as long as the sofa.



- 2 Murphy was the first dog I ever trained personally, and I was delighted at the enthusiasm with which he took to the newspaper. It was sometime later that we discovered, to our horror, that—like so many dogs—he had grasped the letter but not the spirit of the thing. Until the very end of his days he felt a real sense of obligation whenever he saw a newspaper—any newspaper—and it didn't matter where it was. I can't bring myself to go into the details, except to mention that we were finally compelled to keep all the papers in the bottom of the icebox.
- 3 He had another habit that used to leave us open to a certain amount of criticism from our friends who were not dogophiles. He never climbed up on beds or chairs or sofas. But he always sat on top of the piano. In the beginning we used to try to pull him off of there. But after a few noisy scuffles in which he knocked a picture off the wall, scratched the piano, and smashed a lamp, we just gave in—only to discover that, left to his own devices, he hopped up and down as delicately as a ballet dancer.

Continue 

4 It's not just our own dogs that bother me. The dogs I meet at parties are even worse. I don't know what I've got that attracts them; it just doesn't bear thought. My husband swears I rub chopped meat on my ankles. But at every party it's the same thing. I am sitting with a group in front of the fire when all of a sudden the large mutt of the host appears in the archway. Then, without a single bark of warning, he hurls himself upon me. He settles down peacefully on my lap. I blow out such quantities of hair as I haven't swallowed and glance at my host, expecting to be rescued. He murmurs, "Isn't that wonderful? You know, Brucie is usually so distant with strangers."

5 At a dinner party last week, after I had been mugged by a large sheepdog, I announced quite piteously, "Oh dear, he seems to have swallowed one of my earrings." The hostess looked really distressed for a moment, until she examined the remaining earring. Then she said, "Oh, I think it will be all right. It's small and round."

6 Nowadays if I go anywhere I just ask if they have a dog. If they do, I say, "Maybe I'd better keep away from him—I have this bad allergy." This does not really charm the lady of the house. In fact, she behaves rather as though she'd just discovered that I was back in analysis for my kleptomania. But it is safer. It really is.

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In paragraph 6, why does the author avoid contact with dogs?

- ☐ A Exposure to dogs causes her to sneeze.
- ☐ B Dogs cause mishaps to occur.
- ☐ C Hosts insist on saving her from their dogs.
- ☐ D She dislikes most types of dogs.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 02

The Blind Men and the Elephant
by John Godfrey Saxe

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
5 That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.
The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
10 At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"
The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried "Ho! what have we here
15 So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"
The Third approached the animal,
20 And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is Overly like a snake!"
25 The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
30 Is very like a tree!"
The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man

Continue



Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
35 This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
40 That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
45 Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

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My Fingers
by Mary O'Neill

My fingers are antennae.
Whatever they touch:
Bud, rose, apple,
Cellophane, crutch—
5 They race the feel
Into my brain,
Plant it there and
Begin again.
This is how I knew
10 Hot from cold
Before I was even
Two years old.
This is how I can tell,
Though years away
15 That elephant hide
Feels leathery grey.
My brain never loses
A touch I bring:
Frail of an eggshell,
20 Pull of a string,
Beat of a pulse
That tells me life
Thumps in a person
But not in a knife.
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"Please do not touch,"
Disappoint me
Very much.

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The first stanza in “The Blind Men and the Elephant” has which rhyming pattern?

A abcabc

B abbacc

C abcbdb

D aabbcc



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 03

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The speaker in “My Fingers” and the men in “The Blind Men and the Elephant” both touch things

A because they don't know what an elephant is.

B because it is the only way they can discover anything.

C in order to remember what things feel like.

D in order to learn things about their world.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 01

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In paragraph 3 of the essay, the setting is important because it helps the reader understand

- ☒ A the author's attitude.
- ☐ B how people react to Murphy.
- ☐ C Murphy's character.
- ☐ D why Murphy's owners love him.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 02

Read the following two selections. Think about how they are alike and how they are different.

Reminiscing
by Ralph Cortez

1 Watermelons were so much sweeter then,
2 When boys were the stuff of super men,
3 And summers seemed so much longer too,
4 With nothing pending and nothing due.
5 We were swordsmen—swashbuckling heroes,
6 Eternal victors—never zeroes;
7 Second basemen and clean-up hitters;
8 Forever winners, never quitters.
9 Play was a ritual in those days,
10 To go on magical mind forays,
11 To play the game with aplomb and ease,
12 To venture forth when and where we'd please.
13 We would feign death, and then rise up again.
14 Watermelons were so much sweeter then.



Continue



Piano
by D. H. Lawrence

1 Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me:
2 Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see
3 A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the
 tingling strings
4 And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother
 who smiles as she sings.
5 In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song
6 Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to be
 long
7 To the old Sunday evenings at home, winter out
 side
8 And hymns in the cozy parlor, the tinkling piano our
 guide.
9 So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamor
10 With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour
11 Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast
12 Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.



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In lines 11 and 12 of “Piano,” the words “my manhood is cast down in the flood of remembrance” mean that the speaker feels

- A proud of what he has accomplished.
- B strongly connected to his father.
- C that his mother relied on him when he was a child.
- D as if he were a child.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 03

Read the following two selections. Think about how they are alike and how they are different.

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12 Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.



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The structure of “Reminiscing” is similar to that of “Piano” in that both poems

- A separate ideas into stanzas.
- B alternate the length of lines.
- C organize lines into rhyming couplets.
- D use the same number of syllables per line.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 04

The Blind Men and the Elephant
by John Godfrey Saxe

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
5 That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.
The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
10 At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"
The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried "Ho! what have we here
15 So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"
The Third approached the animal,
20 And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
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25 The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
30 Is very like a tree!"
The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
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Continue



Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
35 This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
40 That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
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45 Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
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My Fingers
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My fingers are antennae.
Whatever they touch:
Bud, rose, apple,
Cellophane, crutch—
5 They race the feel
Into my brain,
Plant it there and
Begin again.
This is how I knew
10 Hot from cold
Before I was even
Two years old.
This is how I can tell,
Though years away
15 That elephant hide
Feels leathery grey.
My brain never loses
A touch I bring:
Frail of an eggshell,
20 Pull of a string,
Beat of a pulse
That tells me life
Thumps in a person
But not in a knife.
25 Signs that say:
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Disappoint me
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At the end of “The Blind Men and the Elephant,” the reader is left with the impression that

A the men will never resolve their argument.

B the men will decide to examine the elephant again.

C each man does not really mind that the others disagree with him.

D each man is willing to listen to the opinions of the others.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 05

The Blind Men and the Elephant
by John Godfrey Saxe

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To learning much inclined,
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Read these lines from “My Fingers.”

Frail of an eggshell,
Pull of a string,

These lines suggest that the speaker

A is a very small child.

B cannot see very well.

C appreciates life’s little details.

D is a painter or photographer.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 06

The Blind Men and the Elephant
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How does the speaker in “My Fingers” resemble the first man in “The Blind Men and the Elephant”?

- ☐ A They both misunderstand what an elephant is like.
- ☐ B They have both felt the skin of an elephant.
- ☐ C They both know what an elephant looks like.
- ☐ D They both have strong opinions about the nature of an elephant.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 01

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from “Dogs That Have Known Me”
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3 He had another habit that used to leave us open to a certain amount of criticism from our friends who were not dogophiles. He never climbed up on beds or chairs or sofas. But he always sat on top of the piano. In the beginning we used to try to pull him off of there. But after a few noisy scuffles in which he knocked a picture off the wall, scratched the piano, and smashed a lamp, we just gave in—only to discover that, left to his own devices, he hopped up and down as delicately as a ballet dancer.

Continue



4 It's not just our own dogs that bother me. The dogs I meet at parties are even worse. I don't know what I've got that attracts them; it just doesn't bear thought. My husband swears I rub chopped meat on my ankles. But at every party it's the same thing. I am sitting with a group in front of the fire when all of a sudden the large mutt of the host appears in the archway. Then, without a single bark of warning, he hurls himself upon me. He settles down peacefully on my lap. I blow out such quantities of hair as I haven't swallowed and glance at my host, expecting to be rescued. He murmurs, "Isn't that wonderful? You know, Brucie is usually so distant with strangers."

5 At a dinner party last week, after I had been mugged by a large sheepdog, I announced quite piteously, "Oh dear, he seems to have swallowed one of my earrings." The hostess looked really distressed for a moment, until she examined the remaining earring. Then she said, "Oh, I think it will be all right. It's small and round."

6 Nowadays if I go anywhere I just ask if they have a dog. If they do, I say, "Maybe I'd better keep away from him—I have this bad allergy." This does not really charm the lady of the house. In fact, she behaves rather as though she'd just discovered that I was back in analysis for my kleptomania. But it is safer. It really is.

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Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the story.

But it is a bit of a shock when you bring home a small ball of fluff in a shoebox, and three weeks later it's as long as the sofa.

The author uses a hyperbole to illustrate that the dog grew

A surprisingly affectionate.

B comfortable in the house.

C too large to fit on a couch.

D larger than expected.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 02

The Blind Men and the Elephant
by John Godfrey Saxe

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
5 That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.
The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
10 At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"
The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried "Ho! what have we here
15 So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"
The Third approached the animal,
20 And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is Overy like a snake!"
25 The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
30 Is very like a tree!"
The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man

Continue



Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
35 This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
40 That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
45 Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

[Public Domain]



My Fingers
by Mary O'Neill

My fingers are antennae.
Whatever they touch:
Bud, rose, apple,
Cellophane, crutch—
5 They race the feel
Into my brain,
Plant it there and
Begin again.
This is how I knew
10 Hot from cold
Before I was even
Two years old.
This is how I can tell,
Though years away
15 That elephant hide
Feels leathery grey.
My brain never loses
A touch I bring:
Frail of an eggshell,
20 Pull of a string,
Beat of a pulse
That tells me life
Thumps in a person
But not in a knife.
25 Signs that say:
"Please do not touch,"
Disappoint me
Very much.

*From FINGERS ARE ALWAYS BRINGING ME NEWS by Mary O'Neill. Copyright © 1969 by Mary O'Neill.
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Why did the six men in “The Blind Men and the Elephant” arrive at different conclusions about what an elephant was like?

A The men were all different heights, so they touched the elephant at different levels.

B Each man touched a different part of the elephant and assumed it to be the whole elephant.

C The men were all touching different animals that they had been told were elephants.

D They were from different countries so the men had different objects in mind for comparison.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Literary Response and Analysis (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 01

The Blind Men and the Elephant
by John Godfrey Saxe

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To learning much inclined,
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This is how I can tell,
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Feels leathery grey.
My brain never loses
A touch I bring:
Frail of an eggshell,
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In line 1 of “My Fingers,” the speaker is referring to her fingers’

A length.

B color.

C sensitivity.

D shape.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 01

Should students do the grading?

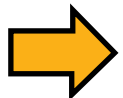
The Supreme Court says the practice doesn't violate a student's right to privacy, but is it right for students to grade one another?

Document A

Pro

- 1 The Supreme Court was absolutely correct to say it's OK for students to grade one another's homework, quizzes, and tests; in fact, it's a great idea.
- 2 By grading one another's papers and seeing the problems their peers encounter, as well as their own, students double their exposure to the troubles that they may meet on future exams and tests. The basic purpose of school is to learn not just what others have done right, but to learn from what they have done wrong. How better to teach this than to put it directly into the lives of students?
- 3 Teachers are underappreciated and underpaid for the number of hours they have to work to be able to really teach well. Grading all their students' papers can take hours on end. Some of that time and energy can be saved by spending a few minutes in class, while providing an invaluable learning experience.
- 4 I understand that some individuals are sensitive to their classmates seeing their work or grades. School is a place where every mistake can be learned from, and self-esteem can be built. Any good teacher would make allowances for students who don't want their classmates to grade their assignments.
- 5 Grading one another's papers may be one of the best ways for students to reinforce within themselves the ways to respond to the most difficult parts of what they are learning. It simply can't be denied that in-class grading of assignments is a great way to learn, and those with personal issues can resolve those issues if they just present their problems to their teachers. Allowing students to learn in the best way they are able should be the responsibility of society. If learning in school upsets some students and their parents, perhaps they don't really realize what they are upset about.

Continue



Document B

Con

- 1 A girl cringes as her classmate announces her failing test grade and hands her the paper, bathed in the red ink of the student grader. The composure of the classroom gradually deteriorates.
- 2 With the increase in student grading over the past few years, scenes like this have become a bitter reality in schools across the nation. Teachers are not only instructing their students to grade one another's papers, but also to announce the final grades to the class, subjecting them to the harsh judgment of their peers. Teachers and schools should not advocate student grading and public announcement of grades because it provides a traumatizing breach of privacy for students and families and it subjects students to harsh judgments and treatment by their peers.
- 3 Since 1974, a law known as the Buckley Amendment has prohibited the release of education records maintained by schools in order to preserve the privacy of students and their families. I strongly disagree with the Court's ruling that this law [the Buckley Amendment] does not pertain to student grading.
- 4 I can think of no greater breach of privacy than the exposure of one's personal information to a group of peers. This can be very embarrassing and cause unfair judgment by one's colleagues. Releasing this sort of personal information should be avoided, especially by institutions that seek to provide a supportive environment conducive to mutual learning during essential years of human development.

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The argument in Document B could be most strengthened if the author addressed

- A the great educational benefits of student grading.
- B how student grading could be done without causing students to become upset.
- C the problems teachers would face if student grading were not permitted.
- D how embarrassment in the classroom can affect self-esteem.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 02

Should students do the grading?

The Supreme Court says the practice doesn't violate a student's right to privacy, but is it right for students to grade one another?

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- 2 By grading one another's papers and seeing the problems their peers encounter, as well as their own, students double their exposure to the troubles that they may meet on future exams and tests. The basic purpose of school is to learn not just what others have done right, but to learn from what they have done wrong. How better to teach this than to put it directly into the lives of students?
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Continue



Document B

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Consider the main support the author of Document B offers for his position. Which of these statements best contradicts his supporting points?

- ☐ A There are other methods of student grading that do not cause embarrassment.
- ☐ B Some students do not mind sharing their work with others.
- ☐ C Many teachers do not allow their students to grade each other.
- ☐ D Student grading has been performed in schools for many years.



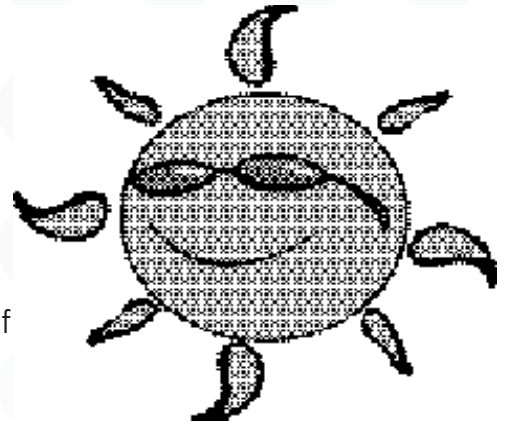
Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 01

Document A

Sun Veil Sunscreen 30
Don't Go Out Without It.

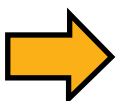
- Every day you run the risk of skin damage caused by the sun. Harmful ultraviolet rays are dangerous even on cold, cloudy days. Sunscreen is important year-round no matter where you live.
 - Sun Veil is the ultimate in sun and skin care products. Sun Veil Sunscreen reduces the harmful effects of the sun. Remember, you are being struck by the sun's powerful rays when you are . . .
- DRIVING A CAR
 - WALKING TO THE STORE
 - PLAYING ON THE PLAYGROUND
 - RELAXING AT THE BEACH OR POOL
 - PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR SPORTS OR RECREATION



Sun Veil Sunscreen protects you so you can have fun in the sun, young or old.

Sun Veil Sunscreen is guaranteed 100% effective or your money back.

Continue



Document B



Sunscreen 30



Sun Veil Sunscreen provides long-lasting waterproof protection from the sun's burning UVA and UVB rays that will last for a full six hours in or out of water. Sun Veil's nonirritating and mild formula is ideal for youngsters.

DIRECTIONS:

Apply Sun Veil's disappearing blue-colored sunblock liberally to completely cover all exposed skin. The blue color disappears as you rub Sun Veil Sunscreen into the skin. The coloring is safe and easily washes from most clothing. For best results, allow Sun Veil Sunscreen to dry for 15 minutes before exposure to the sun.

NOTE: Prolonged swimming, excess sweating, or frequent towel drying may reduce the effectiveness of sunscreen. Reapplication is recommended when these circumstances exist.

WARNING:

Avoid contact with eyes.

If the skin becomes irritated or a rash develops, discontinue use immediately.

In case of accidental swallowing, contact the poison control center immediately.

Sun Veil Sunscreen is NOT recommended for infants under the age of 6 months.

SUN ALERT:

According to the National Council of Dermatologists, limiting sun exposure, wearing protective clothing, and using sunscreens may reduce the risk of skin damage and other harmful effects of the sun. Questions or Comments? Call 1-311-555-0132 Monday–Friday 9 AM–5 PM South Shore Cosmetics, Inc.

Document A fails to explain

A where the sun's rays can strike.

B when the sun's rays are dangerous.

C why it is important to wear sunscreen.

D how Sun Veil protects better than other sunscreens.



Back

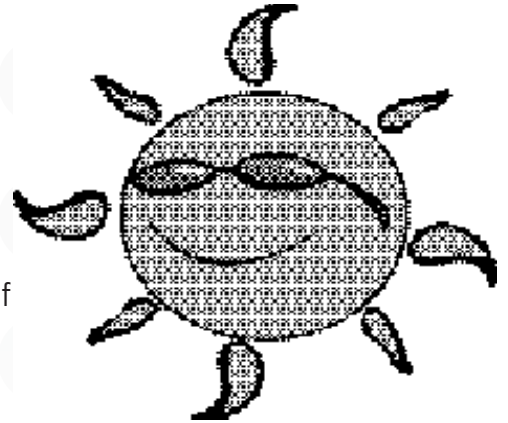
Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 01

Document A

Sun Veil Sunscreen 30
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- Every day you run the risk of skin damage caused by the sun. Harmful ultraviolet rays are dangerous even on cold, cloudy days. Sunscreen is important year-round no matter where you live.
 - Sun Veil is the ultimate in sun and skin care products. Sun Veil Sunscreen reduces the harmful effects of the sun. Remember, you are being struck by the sun's powerful rays when you are . . .
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Document B



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The purpose of including the list of activities in Document A is to illustrate to the consumer that Sun Veil Sunscreen 30 is

A for both adults and children.

B necessary almost all of the time.

C available almost everywhere.

D better than others on the market.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 01

Setting the Shutter Speed on the Higgins CS-12 Camera

The shutter is a mechanical device that opens and closes in front of the lens of the camera, allowing you to control the amount of light that strikes the film. The shutter dial indicates shutter speeds in fractions of a second ($1000 = 1/1000$ th of a second; $500 = 1/500$ th of a second). Beginning with 1000, each shutter speed gradation is approximately twice the preceding speed. The following chart serves as a general guide.

Brightness	Shutter Speed (seconds)
Indoors	1/30 to 1/60
Outdoors	1/125 to 1/250
Bright beach sands—snow-covered landscape	1/500 to 1/1000

In order to choose the correct shutter speed, you must consider two main factors: the brightness of the setting and the amount of movement in the subject.

For Indoor Photography:

- ◆ In a normally lit room—1/30 of a second
- ◆ In a brightly lit room—1/60 of a second

For Outdoor Photography:

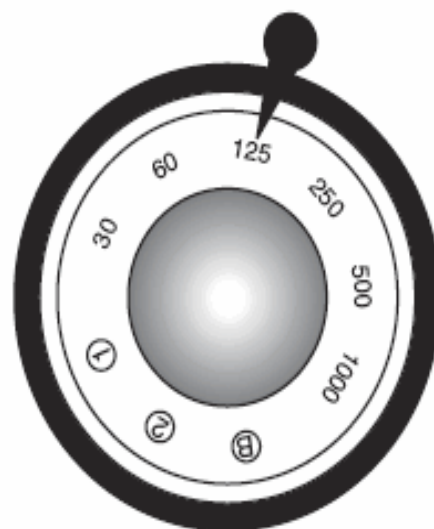
- ◆ Cloudy conditions—1/125 of a second
- ◆ Sunny conditions—1/250 of a second
- ◆ Extremely bright conditions—1/500 or 1/1000 of a second

For Photography in Very Dark Settings:

1—The “1” stands for 1 second.

2—The “2” stands for 2 seconds.

B—The “B” is for long exposures. The shutter remains open for as long as the shutter button is held down.



Continue



Generally, for indoor photography the shutter must

A remain open longer.

B open more quickly.

C close quickly.

D open only partially.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 02

Document A

Evergreen Teen Book Club Offer



The Evergreen Teen Book Club invites you to join us and take full advantage of our limited-time introductory offer. If you join our club, you will receive a certificate for 3 free books. These are yours to keep, even if you decide to cancel your membership. However, if you decide to purchase just one book at regular club price, you will receive a certificate for an additional 3 free selections after your first order is placed.

As our member, you can benefit from all of our super sales and our Bonus Program. You accumulate 2 bonus points with each cash purchase of one book. Every 6 bonus points will earn you a certificate for one free book!

To join our club, fill in the brief application listing your name, address, and phone number on the postage-paid card at the bottom of this page. Then drop the card in the mail and our current catalog will be immediately mailed out to you for your 3 free selections!

This catalog offers a wide selection of over 500 books in every issue, including mysteries, romances, adventures, biographies, cookbooks, crafts, sports, and many more. Our catalog also contains such highlights as interviews with your favorite authors, reviews of newly released novels, and a teen top-ten list for both fiction and nonfiction.

Once you are a member, you will receive our catalog bimonthly, but you are under no obligation to purchase any selections. We send you only exactly what you order.

If you join before June 30th, we will also provide complimentary shipping and handling on your first selections, even if you choose to order nothing except your 3 free books.

*You can build a great book collection!
Begin now by taking advantage of this phenomenal offer.*

Continue



Document B

Evergreen Teen Book Club Return Policy

When receiving your order, please check all items. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, you may return it to us within 21 days of receipt. This can be done by attaching the pre-addressed return label enclosed in every shipment.

Upon receiving a returned book or order, your refund will be processed, but you will not be reimbursed for shipping charges. You will receive a full refund for all returned items on the condition that they are unworn, undamaged, and returned within 21 days. You can choose to have a check mailed to your shipping address or to have the amount credited to your account. Your preference can be noted by checking the appropriate box on the return label.

Any return due to shipping error or product defect may be returned free of charge. Simply notify us of the problem, and we will be happy to include the shipping amount in your refund.

In this instance, contact our Customer Service Department by calling 1-800-613-XXXX between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST). Our customer representatives will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your business. Evergreen Teen values its customers, and your satisfaction is our goal!

Shipping charges for returns will be paid by the club when

A you return a book within 21 days.

B you request credit rather than a check.

C the wrong order was shipped.

D a book is not as interesting as advertised.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 03

Document A

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As our member, you can benefit from all of our super sales and our Bonus Program. You accumulate 2 bonus points with each cash purchase of one book. Every 6 bonus points will earn you a certificate for one free book!

To join our club, fill in the brief application listing your name, address, and phone number on the postage-paid card at the bottom of this page. Then drop the card in the mail and our current catalog will be immediately mailed out to you for your 3 free selections!

This catalog offers a wide selection of over 500 books in every issue, including mysteries, romances, adventures, biographies, cookbooks, crafts, sports, and many more. Our catalog also contains such highlights as interviews with your favorite authors, reviews of newly released novels, and a teen top-ten list for both fiction and nonfiction.

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Thank you for your business. Evergreen Teen values its customers, and your satisfaction is our goal!

How does the club know what to do about your refund?

- ☒ A You checked a box on the mailing label.
- ☐ B You listed it ahead of time on your application.
- ☐ C You called the Customer Service Department.
- ☐ D You indicated it on the certificate you used.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 04



Should teenagers work at a job while they are still in school?

Eva Korzinski attends school at Bloomfield High School and works after school and on weekends at All The Rage Fashion Shop in Crosstown Mall.

I think teenagers should think seriously about the benefits of working. The skills they develop and the sense of responsibility they acquire will help them in the process of becoming independent adults. Having a job gives teenagers the opportunity to function in a real workplace and helps narrow down career options. It gives them some experience and a reference they can use later when applying for a full-time job. Working a job while still in school also helps a teen learn to manage his or her money. Observing the skills required of people in the workplace helps teens see the need for taking practical courses in school, like bookkeeping and keyboarding.

Most working teens feel they are learning new skills and see their jobs as opportunities to meet people and become responsible, independent persons. Working develops the ability to cooperate with and work as a team with other people. It also teaches how to deal with stress and how to work without revealing one's negative emotions to co-workers, supervisors or customers. Having a job helps a teenager to become more responsible.

Working is fun, exciting, and builds good friendships. My job gives me something to do in my spare time, and it gives me the feeling that I'm doing something useful and receiving something for my time and effort.

Renata Gutiérrez attends school at San Lorenzo High School and assists on weekends with a landscape business.

My parents don't want me to have a job during school. They feel the added pressure from working would cause a slump in my grades. They prefer instead that I fully benefit from the educational opportunities I can enjoy now.

Parents who allow and even encourage their teens to get an after-school job "for the experience" are doing them a great disservice. Teens' education and high school experience are much more important and valuable than the little bit of spending money acquired from a minimum-wage job. Also, work takes up a lot of time that should be spent on homework and personal enjoyment. Work also limits the after-school activities they can enjoy with their classmates. There are only a few years in which they can participate in school plays, band, chorus, and sports activities. I think if I gave up such things now, I would later regret throwing away those opportunities.

I feel sorry for those who think that jobs are easy to cope with and who attempt a job when there really is no need for one. Usually, their desires for making money and gaining independence result in a lot of hard work and not enough sleep. They end up being tired and crabby the next day.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to say that teenagers shouldn't do any type of work until after they graduate. I think teenagers should learn teamwork and useful work skills by working for their own families. Their assistance at home is only a small compensation for the expenses their parents incur as a result of providing clothing, shelter, health care, and entertainment for at least 18 years. Even though they may not be paid for the work they do at home, it shows their appreciation for what their parents have done for them.

Continue 

According to the information in the passage, what decision has Renata Gutiérrez made regarding teenagers and work?

A Teenagers should not work until after they have graduated.

B Teenagers should not work if they have homework.

C Teenagers should work only if they are not paid for it.

D Teenagers should work only with their own families.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 01

Should students do the grading?

The Supreme Court says the practice doesn't violate a student's right to privacy, but is it right for students to grade one another?

Document A

Pro

- 1 The Supreme Court was absolutely correct to say it's OK for students to grade one another's homework, quizzes, and tests; in fact, it's a great idea.
- 2 By grading one another's papers and seeing the problems their peers encounter, as well as their own, students double their exposure to the troubles that they may meet on future exams and tests. The basic purpose of school is to learn not just what others have done right, but to learn from what they have done wrong. How better to teach this than to put it directly into the lives of students?
- 3 Teachers are underappreciated and underpaid for the number of hours they have to work to be able to really teach well. Grading all their students' papers can take hours on end. Some of that time and energy can be saved by spending a few minutes in class, while providing an invaluable learning experience.
- 4 I understand that some individuals are sensitive to their classmates seeing their work or grades. School is a place where every mistake can be learned from, and self-esteem can be built. Any good teacher would make allowances for students who don't want their classmates to grade their assignments.
- 5 Grading one another's papers may be one of the best ways for students to reinforce within themselves the ways to respond to the most difficult parts of what they are learning. It simply can't be denied that in-class grading of assignments is a great way to learn, and those with personal issues can resolve those issues if they just present their problems to their teachers. Allowing students to learn in the best way they are able should be the responsibility of society. If learning in school upsets some students and their parents, perhaps they don't really realize what they are upset about.

Continue



Document B

Con

- 1 A girl cringes as her classmate announces her failing test grade and hands her the paper, bathed in the red ink of the student grader. The composure of the classroom gradually deteriorates.
- 2 With the increase in student grading over the past few years, scenes like this have become a bitter reality in schools across the nation. Teachers are not only instructing their students to grade one another's papers, but also to announce the final grades to the class, subjecting them to the harsh judgment of their peers. Teachers and schools should not advocate student grading and public announcement of grades because it provides a traumatizing breach of privacy for students and families and it subjects students to harsh judgments and treatment by their peers.
- 3 Since 1974, a law known as the Buckley Amendment has prohibited the release of education records maintained by schools in order to preserve the privacy of students and their families. I strongly disagree with the Court's ruling that this law [the Buckley Amendment] does not pertain to student grading.
- 4 I can think of no greater breach of privacy than the exposure of one's personal information to a group of peers. This can be very embarrassing and cause unfair judgment by one's colleagues. Releasing this sort of personal information should be avoided, especially by institutions that seek to provide a supportive environment conducive to mutual learning during essential years of human development.

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Which summary of paragraph 3 of Document A is the most accurate?

- A Students can do a better job of grading than teachers can.
- B Teachers should be paid higher salaries for grading.
- C Teachers can devote more time to teaching duties if students do the grading.
- D Students learn more from one another than from teachers.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 02

Document A

Evergreen Teen Book Club Offer



The Evergreen Teen Book Club invites you to join us and take full advantage of our limited-time introductory offer. If you join our club, you will receive a certificate for 3 free books. These are yours to keep, even if you decide to cancel your membership. However, if you decide to purchase just one book at regular club price, you will receive a certificate for an additional 3 free selections after your first order is placed.

As our member, you can benefit from all of our super sales and our Bonus Program. You accumulate 2 bonus points with each cash purchase of one book. Every 6 bonus points will earn you a certificate for one free book!

To join our club, fill in the brief application listing your name, address, and phone number on the postage-paid card at the bottom of this page. Then drop the card in the mail and our current catalog will be immediately mailed out to you for your 3 free selections!

This catalog offers a wide selection of over 500 books in every issue, including mysteries, romances, adventures, biographies, cookbooks, crafts, sports, and many more. Our catalog also contains such highlights as interviews with your favorite authors, reviews of newly released novels, and a teen top-ten list for both fiction and nonfiction.

Once you are a member, you will receive our catalog bimonthly, but you are under no obligation to purchase any selections. We send you only exactly what you order.

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Begin now by taking advantage of this phenomenal offer.*

Continue



Document B

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When receiving your order, please check all items. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, you may return it to us within 21 days of receipt. This can be done by attaching the pre-addressed return label enclosed in every shipment.

Upon receiving a returned book or order, your refund will be processed, but you will not be reimbursed for shipping charges. You will receive a full refund for all returned items on the condition that they are unworn, undamaged, and returned within 21 days. You can choose to have a check mailed to your shipping address or to have the amount credited to your account. Your preference can be noted by checking the appropriate box on the return label.

Any return due to shipping error or product defect may be returned free of charge. Simply notify us of the problem, and we will be happy to include the shipping amount in your refund.

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Thank you for your business. Evergreen Teen values its customers, and your satisfaction is our goal!

Document A tries to do all of these except

A interest you in reading.

B convince you to buy something.

C offer you extra benefits.

D explain a warranty to you.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 03

Should students do the grading?

The Supreme Court says the practice doesn't violate a student's right to privacy, but is it right for students to grade one another?

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Continue



Document B

Con

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Given the structure and content of both of these documents, they can best be described as

- A expository.
- B narrative.
- C persuasive.
- D descriptive.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 01

The following passage is an advertisement for a new game. Use it to answer the following questions.



It's Fast! It's Fun!

It's a Hand-Held Electronic Pinball Game!

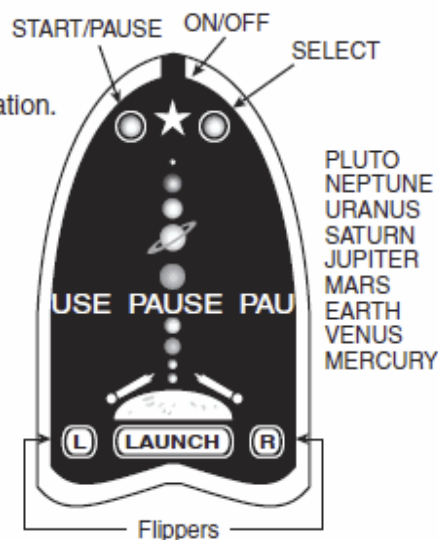
Feel the vibrations as your Rocket Ball glides through the universe, scoring points as it glances off Saturn's rings or skids past Jupiter. Whenever a comet, asteroid, or meteor takes a direct hit, your score will soar.

GETTING STARTED

1. Press ON/OFF to turn on power.
2. Press the clear plastic STAR ☆ button to control light, sound, and vibration.

Once	yellow	lights
Twice	blue	lights and sounds
Three Times	red	lights, sounds, and vibrations
Four Times	black	NO lights, sounds, or vibrations

3. Press START/PAUSE two times to begin play.
NOTE: You can press START/PAUSE once at any time.
Then the word P-A-U-S-E scrolls across the screen until you press START/PAUSE again to restart the game.
4. Press SELECT to play Game One.
Press SELECT two times to play Game Two.



PLAYING THE GAME

The object of the game is to score points by hitting as many of the planets as possible before the Rocket Ball drops into the blazing sun.

SCORING TABLE

OBJECT	POINTS
Mercury or Jupiter	10
Venus or Saturn	20
Earth or Uranus	30
Mars or Neptune	40
Pluto	50
Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors are BONUS OBJECTS worth 60 points each.	

If you reach 5,000 points before all three balls drop into the sun, you are a Rocket Ball Champ!

Game One is played with three balls. First, press the LAUNCH bar to send your Rocket Ball soaring into the solar system. Keep the Rocket Ball in orbit by using the right (R) and left (L) FLIPPERS to rebound the ball and prevent it from dropping into the sun and being destroyed.

Game Two is also played with three balls, but moving comets, asteroids, and meteors make it more exciting. Each time you are able to use your flippers to bounce your Rocket Ball off these moving objects, you score bonus points.

Continue

The most action-packed variation would be

A Game One with a blue star.

B Game Two with a black star.

C Game One with a yellow star.

D Game Two with a red star.



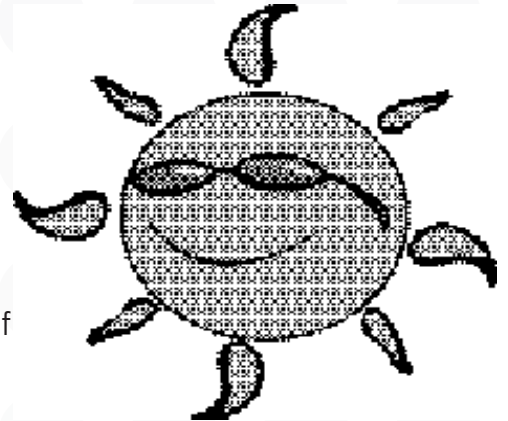
Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 02

Document A

Sun Veil Sunscreen 30
Don't Go Out Without It.

- Every day you run the risk of skin damage caused by the sun. Harmful ultraviolet rays are dangerous even on cold, cloudy days. Sunscreen is important year-round no matter where you live.
- Sun Veil is the ultimate in sun and skin care products. Sun Veil Sunscreen reduces the harmful effects of the sun. Remember, you are being struck by the sun's powerful rays when you are . . .
- DRIVING A CAR
- WALKING TO THE STORE
- PLAYING ON THE PLAYGROUND
- RELAXING AT THE BEACH OR POOL
- PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR SPORTS OR RECREATION



Sun Veil Sunscreen protects you so you can have fun in the sun, young or old.

Sun Veil Sunscreen is guaranteed 100% effective or your money back.

Continue



Document B



Sunscreen 30



Sun Veil Sunscreen provides long-lasting waterproof protection from the sun's burning UVA and UVB rays that will last for a full six hours in or out of water. Sun Veil's nonirritating and mild formula is ideal for youngsters.

DIRECTIONS:

Apply Sun Veil's disappearing blue-colored sunblock liberally to completely cover all exposed skin. The blue color disappears as you rub Sun Veil Sunscreen into the skin. The coloring is safe and easily washes from most clothing. For best results, allow Sun Veil Sunscreen to dry for 15 minutes before exposure to the sun.

NOTE: Prolonged swimming, excess sweating, or frequent towel drying may reduce the effectiveness of sunscreen. Reapplication is recommended when these circumstances exist.

WARNING:

Avoid contact with eyes.

If the skin becomes irritated or a rash develops, discontinue use immediately.

In case of accidental swallowing, contact the poison control center immediately.

Sun Veil Sunscreen is NOT recommended for infants under the age of 6 months.

SUN ALERT:

According to the National Council of Dermatologists, limiting sun exposure, wearing protective clothing, and using sunscreens may reduce the risk of skin damage and other harmful effects of the sun. Questions or Comments? Call 1-311-555-0132 Monday–Friday 9 AM–5 PM South Shore Cosmetics, Inc.

While the advertisement (Document A) is written to persuade the consumer, the purpose of the product label (Document B) is

A to influence.

B to encourage.

C to inform.

D to entertain.



Back

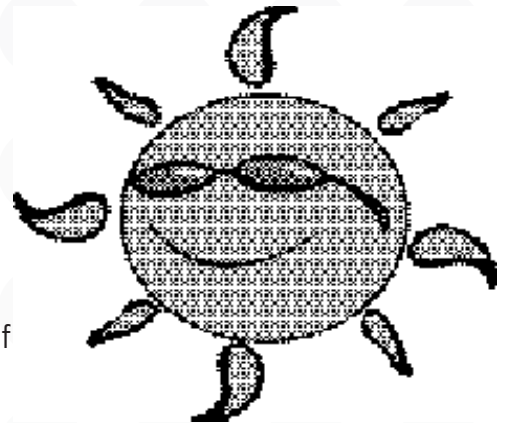
Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 03

Document A

Sun Veil Sunscreen 30
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The smiling face that serves as the Sun Veil logo implies that the product makes being in the sun

A fun.

B easy.

C practical.

D adventurous.



Back

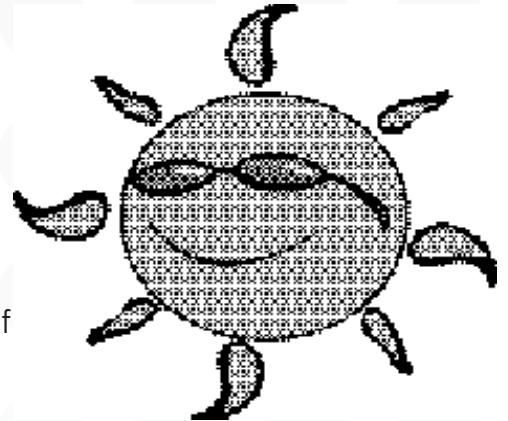
Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 04

Document A

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Continue



Document B



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Both documents tell the consumer

A how to use the Sun Veil product.

B how to contact the manufacturer.

C where to purchase the product.

D about the dangers of sun exposure.



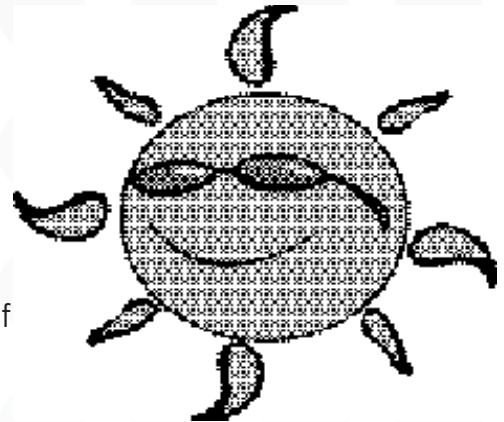
Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 05

Document A

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Document B



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What information appears in Document A that does not appear in Document B?

A directions for using the product

B the extent of the product guarantee

C how long the product lasts once applied

D what to do if the product causes a rash



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 06

Document A

Evergreen Teen Book Club Offer



The Evergreen Teen Book Club invites you to join us and take full advantage of our limited-time introductory offer. If you join our club, you will receive a certificate for 3 free books. These are yours to keep, even if you decide to cancel your membership. However, if you decide to purchase just one book at regular club price, you will receive a certificate for an additional 3 free selections after your first order is placed.

As our member, you can benefit from all of our super sales and our Bonus Program. You accumulate 2 bonus points with each cash purchase of one book. Every 6 bonus points will earn you a certificate for one free book!

To join our club, fill in the brief application listing your name, address, and phone number on the postage-paid card at the bottom of this page. Then drop the card in the mail and our current catalog will be immediately mailed out to you for your 3 free selections!

This catalog offers a wide selection of over 500 books in every issue, including mysteries, romances, adventures, biographies, cookbooks, crafts, sports, and many more. Our catalog also contains such highlights as interviews with your favorite authors, reviews of newly released novels, and a teen top-ten list for both fiction and nonfiction.

Once you are a member, you will receive our catalog bimonthly, but you are under no obligation to purchase any selections. We send you only exactly what you order.

If you join before June 30th, we will also provide complimentary shipping and handling on your first selections, even if you choose to order nothing except your 3 free books.

*You can build a great book collection!
Begin now by taking advantage of this phenomenal offer.*

Continue



Document B

Evergreen Teen Book Club Return Policy

When receiving your order, please check all items. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, you may return it to us within 21 days of receipt. This can be done by attaching the pre-addressed return label enclosed in every shipment.

Upon receiving a returned book or order, your refund will be processed, but you will not be reimbursed for shipping charges. You will receive a full refund for all returned items on the condition that they are unworn, undamaged, and returned within 21 days. You can choose to have a check mailed to your shipping address or to have the amount credited to your account. Your preference can be noted by checking the appropriate box on the return label.

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In this instance, contact our Customer Service Department by calling 1-800-613-XXXX between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST). Our customer representatives will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your business. Evergreen Teen values its customers, and your satisfaction is our goal!

What is the best thing to do first if you have a problem with shipping or a defective product?

- A Cancel your membership.
- B Call customer service.
- C Write to the president of the club.
- D Send back all of your books.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 07

Document A

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As our member, you can benefit from all of our super sales and our Bonus Program. You accumulate 2 bonus points with each cash purchase of one book. Every 6 bonus points will earn you a certificate for one free book!

To join our club, fill in the brief application listing your name, address, and phone number on the postage-paid card at the bottom of this page. Then drop the card in the mail and our current catalog will be immediately mailed out to you for your 3 free selections!

This catalog offers a wide selection of over 500 books in every issue, including mysteries, romances, adventures, biographies, cookbooks, crafts, sports, and many more. Our catalog also contains such highlights as interviews with your favorite authors, reviews of newly released novels, and a teen top-ten list for both fiction and nonfiction.

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Thank you for your business. Evergreen Teen values its customers, and your satisfaction is our goal!

The purpose of Document B is to explain

- A why damaged items cannot be returned.
- B why shipping charges for returns will not be paid.
- C how a return should be processed.
- D how customer representatives will help you.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 08

Document A

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*You can build a great book collection!
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Evergreen Teen Book Club Return Policy

When receiving your order, please check all items. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, you may return it to us within 21 days of receipt. This can be done by attaching the pre-addressed return label enclosed in every shipment.

Upon receiving a returned book or order, your refund will be processed, but you will not be reimbursed for shipping charges. You will receive a full refund for all returned items on the condition that they are unworn, undamaged, and returned within 21 days. You can choose to have a check mailed to your shipping address or to have the amount credited to your account. Your preference can be noted by checking the appropriate box on the return label.

Any return due to shipping error or product defect may be returned free of charge. Simply notify us of the problem, and we will be happy to include the shipping amount in your refund.

In this instance, contact our Customer Service Department by calling 1-800-613-XXXX between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST). Our customer representatives will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your business. Evergreen Teen values its customers, and your satisfaction is our goal!

Which phrase in Document A is meant to make readers act quickly?

A a great book collection

B on your first selections

C limited-time introductory offer

D invites you to join



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 01

The following passage is an advertisement for a new game. Use it to answer the following questions.



It's Fast! It's Fun!

It's a Hand-Held Electronic Pinball Game!

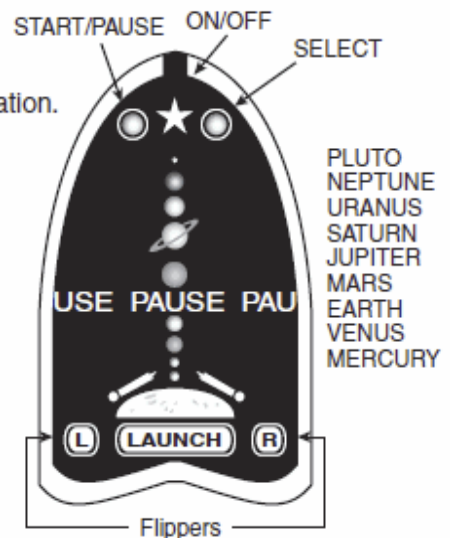
Feel the vibrations as your Rocket Ball glides through the universe, scoring points as it glances off Saturn's rings or skids past Jupiter. Whenever a comet, asteroid, or meteor takes a direct hit, your score will soar.

GETTING STARTED

1. Press ON/OFF to turn on power.
2. Press the clear plastic STAR ☆ button to control light, sound, and vibration.

Once	yellow	lights
Twice	blue	lights and sounds
Three Times	red	lights, sounds, and vibrations
Four Times	black	NO lights, sounds, or vibrations

3. Press START/PAUSE two times to begin play.
NOTE: You can press START/PAUSE once at any time.
Then the word P-A-U-S-E scrolls across the screen until you press START/PAUSE again to restart the game.
4. Press SELECT to play Game One.
Press SELECT two times to play Game Two.



PLAYING THE GAME

The object of the game is to score points by hitting as many of the planets as possible before the Rocket Ball drops into the blazing sun.

SCORING TABLE

OBJECT	POINTS
Mercury or Jupiter	10
Venus or Saturn	20
Earth or Uranus	30
Mars or Neptune	40
Pluto	50
Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors are BONUS OBJECTS worth 60 points each.	

If you reach 5,000 points before all three balls drop into the sun, you are a Rocket Ball Champ!

Game One is played with three balls. First, press the LAUNCH bar to send your Rocket Ball soaring into the solar system. Keep the Rocket Ball in orbit by using the right (R) and left (L) FLIPPERS to rebound the ball and prevent it from dropping into the sun and being destroyed.

Game Two is also played with three balls, but moving comets, asteroids, and meteors make it more exciting. Each time you are able to use your flippers to bounce your Rocket Ball off these moving objects, you score bonus points.

Continue

Which buttons directly control the movement of the Rocket Ball?

A LAUNCH and FLIPPERS

B STAR and FLIPPERS

C STAR/PAUSE and FLIPPERS

D LAUNCH and SELECT



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Reading Comprehension (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 02

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It's Fast! It's Fun!

It's a Hand-Held Electronic Pinball Game!

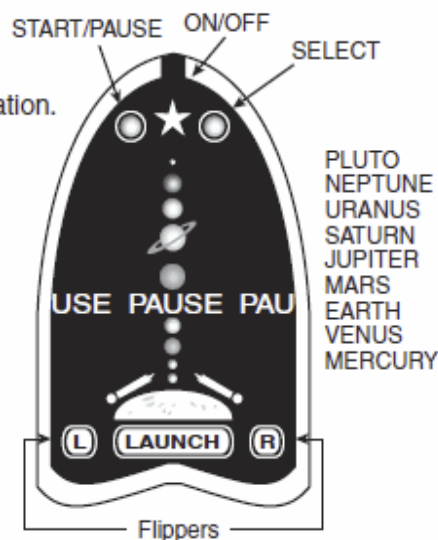
Feel the vibrations as your Rocket Ball glides through the universe, scoring points as it glances off Saturn's rings or skids past Jupiter. Whenever a comet, asteroid, or meteor takes a direct hit, your score will soar.

GETTING STARTED

1. Press ON/OFF to turn on power.
2. Press the clear plastic STAR ☆ button to control light, sound, and vibration.

Once	yellow	lights
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3. Press START/PAUSE two times to begin play.
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Game Two is also played with three balls, but moving comets, asteroids, and meteors make it more exciting. Each time you are able to use your flippers to bounce your Rocket Ball off these moving objects, you score bonus points.

Continue

Game Two would probably be preferred by someone who is

A a new player.

B a busy adult.

C an experienced player.

D a young child.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 01

Read the following two selections. Think about how they are alike and how they are different.

Reminiscing
by Ralph Cortez

1 Watermelons were so much sweeter then,
2 When boys were the stuff of super men,
3 And summers seemed so much longer too,
4 With nothing pending and nothing due.
5 We were swordsmen—swashbuckling heroes,
6 Eternal victors—never zeroes;
7 Second basemen and clean-up hitters;
8 Forever winners, never quitters.
9 Play was a ritual in those days,
10 To go on magical mind forays,
11 To play the game with aplomb and ease,
12 To venture forth when and where we'd please.
13 We would feign death, and then rise up again.
14 Watermelons were so much sweeter then.



Continue



Piano
by D. H. Lawrence

1 Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me:
2 Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see
3 A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the
 tingling strings
4 And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother
 who smiles as she sings.
5 In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song
6 Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to be
 long
7 To the old Sunday evenings at home, winter out
 side
8 And hymns in the cozy parlor, the tinkling piano our
 guide.
9 So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamor
10 With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour
11 Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast
12 Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.



[Public Domain]

The word “appassionato” in line 10 of “Piano” contains a Latin root that tells you that the music is played

A softly and quietly.

B loudly and humorously.

C with a gentle touch.

D with strong feeling.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

(Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 01

Setting the Shutter Speed on the Higgins CS-12 Camera

The shutter is a mechanical device that opens and closes in front of the lens of the camera, allowing you to control the amount of light that strikes the film. The shutter dial indicates shutter speeds in fractions of a second (1000 = 1/1000th of a second; 500 = 1/500th of a second). Beginning with 1000, each shutter speed gradation is approximately twice the preceding speed. The following chart serves as a general guide.

Brightness	Shutter Speed (seconds)
Indoors	1/30 to 1/60
Outdoors	1/125 to 1/250
Bright beach sands—snow-covered landscape	1/500 to 1/1000

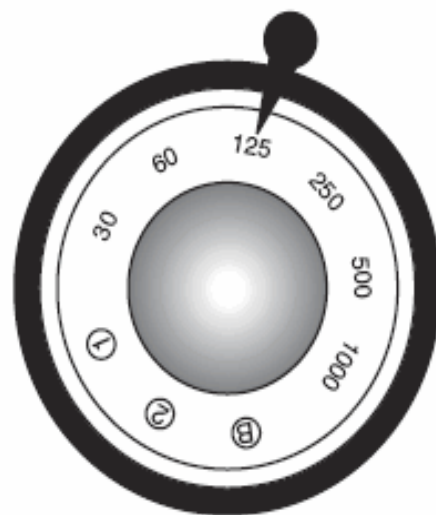
In order to choose the correct shutter speed, you must consider two main factors: the brightness of the setting and the amount of movement in the subject.

For Indoor Photography:

- ◆ In a normally lit room—1/30 of a second
- ◆ In a brightly lit room—1/60 of a second

For Outdoor Photography:

- ◆ Cloudy conditions—1/125 of a second
- ◆ Sunny conditions—1/250 of a second
- ◆ Extremely bright conditions—1/500 or 1/1000 of a second



For Photography in Very Dark Settings:

1—The “1” stands for 1 second.

2—The “2” stands for 2 seconds.

B—The “B” is for long exposures. The shutter remains open for as long as the shutter button is held down.

Continue



Which of the following words in the passage is based on a Latin root that means “break”?

A control

B exposure

C landscape

D fractions



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

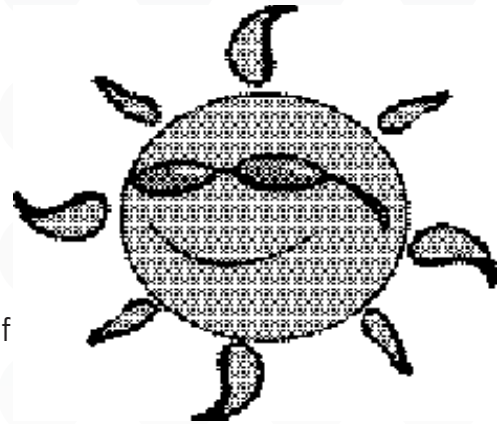
Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

(Performance Level: Basic) – Question 01

Document A

Sun Veil Sunscreen 30
Don't Go Out Without It.

- Every day you run the risk of skin damage caused by the sun. Harmful ultraviolet rays are dangerous even on cold, cloudy days. Sunscreen is important year-round no matter where you live.
 - Sun Veil is the ultimate in sun and skin care products. Sun Veil Sunscreen reduces the harmful effects of the sun. Remember, you are being struck by the sun's powerful rays when you are . . .
- DRIVING A CAR
 - WALKING TO THE STORE
 - PLAYING ON THE PLAYGROUND
 - RELAXING AT THE BEACH OR POOL
 - PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR SPORTS OR RECREATION



Sun Veil Sunscreen protects you so you can have fun in the sun, young or old.

Sun Veil Sunscreen is guaranteed 100% effective or your money back.

Continue



Document B



Sunscreen 30



Sun Veil Sunscreen provides long-lasting waterproof protection from the sun's burning UVA and UVB rays that will last for a full six hours in or out of water. Sun Veil's nonirritating and mild formula is ideal for youngsters.

DIRECTIONS:

Apply Sun Veil's disappearing blue-colored sunblock liberally to completely cover all exposed skin. The blue color disappears as you rub Sun Veil Sunscreen into the skin. The coloring is safe and easily washes from most clothing. For best results, allow Sun Veil Sunscreen to dry for 15 minutes before exposure to the sun.

NOTE: Prolonged swimming, excess sweating, or frequent towel drying may reduce the effectiveness of sunscreen. Reapplication is recommended when these circumstances exist.

WARNING:

Avoid contact with eyes.

If the skin becomes irritated or a rash develops, discontinue use immediately.

In case of accidental swallowing, contact the poison control center immediately.

Sun Veil Sunscreen is NOT recommended for infants under the age of 6 months.

SUN ALERT:

According to the National Council of Dermatologists, limiting sun exposure, wearing protective clothing, and using sunscreens may reduce the risk of skin damage and other harmful effects of the sun. Questions or Comments? Call 1-311-555-0132 Monday–Friday 9 AM–5 PM South Shore Cosmetics, Inc.

Read this sentence.

Every day you run the risk of skin damage caused by the sun.

Which word can best be used to replace the word run without changing the meaning of the sentence?

A stretch

B operate

C take

D flee



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 02

Document A

Sun Veil Sunscreen 30
Don't Go Out Without It.

- Every day you run the risk of skin damage caused by the sun. Harmful ultraviolet rays are dangerous even on cold, cloudy days. Sunscreen is important year-round no matter where you live.
- Sun Veil is the ultimate in sun and skin care products. Sun Veil Sunscreen reduces the harmful effects of the sun. Remember, you are being struck by the sun's powerful rays when you are . . .
- DRIVING A CAR
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- RELAXING AT THE BEACH OR POOL
- PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR SPORTS OR RECREATION

Sun Veil Sunscreen protects you so you can have fun in the sun, young or old.

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Continue



Document B



Sunscreen 30



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Read this sentence from Document B.

Sun Veil Sunscreen provides long-lasting waterproof protection from the sun's burning UVA and UVB rays that will last for a full six hours in or out of water.

In which sentence does the word burning have the same meaning as in the sentence above?

- ☐ A The burning candle gave off a wonderful scent.
- ☐ B What to have for lunch that day was the burning issue.
- ☐ C Lin had a burning need to know the outcome of the game.
- ☐ D Angeline ran barefoot across the burning pavement.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 01

Michael's social studies teacher has asked the class to write reports. Below are the first three paragraphs from Michael's rough draft. It may contain errors.

Faces of Stone

- 1 Easter Island is just a dot in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile. It is a relatively small island. It has a total area of only 63 square miles. It is volcanic. This is probably why it has no trees. The island is shaped like a boomerang, and each of its three corners has an extinct volcano.
- 2 Easter Island was relatively unknown until 1722, when Dutch Admiral Roggeveen arrived with the first Europeans ever to set foot on the island. To their surprise, they were greeted by hundreds of mammoth stone statues lining the shores. To the Europeans, the giant legless creatures appeared strange indeed. All were “figures of men with short square bodies and strangely oversized heads, many balancing red stone cylinder-like hats on their heads.” They were very similar to one another, each with a large nose and long ears, but they were not identical. Each face was taller than a human being, and many were as tall as a four-story building.
- 3 For an early society to have made these enormous figures with only stone tools was an amazing feat in itself. What was even more baffling was how the people moved the creations, some of which weighed many tons. The discovery of a large stone quarry unlocked clues. It was apparent that this was the site where the statues had been carved before being moved to their final resting places. Some statues appeared to be complete, while others were barely started. When work on these statues was suddenly abandoned, some were in the process of being moved. It was obvious that the statue builders had cut down the island's trees to make rolling logs and wooden scaffolds, which were then used to move the huge statues from the quarry to the island's perimeter.

Continue



Which research question would be most relevant to Michael's topic?

A Where is the world's largest stone quarry?

B Why is the island named Easter Island?

C Where are there other mysterious statues?

D Why was work on the statues abandoned so suddenly?



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 02

Michael's social studies teacher has asked the class to write reports. Below are the first three paragraphs from Michael's rough draft. It may contain errors.

Faces of Stone

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Continue



Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of Michael's report.

To their surprise, they were greeted by hundreds of mammoth stone statues lining the shores.

How should Michael change the underlined words to make the sentence the most dramatic?

A Much to their surprise,

B To their great surprise,

C To their utter amazement,

D Suddenly,



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Advanced) – Question 03

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Lost Art of Letter Writing

- (1) Many people use email today to communicate with each other. (2) If you have access to a computer, it's a great way to send messages easily, in a quick manner, and on as many occasions as you like. (3) No longer is it necessary to find a pen or paper, not to mention an envelope or a stamp.
- (4) Are we missing anything by not writing actual letters to people? (5) Is the experience of receiving such letters worth the trouble of writing them? (6) Most people would probably reply "No it was a waste of paper anyway; this is a much better system." (7) It's hard to argue against such a logical viewpoint. (8) However, I would like to try.
- (9) I believe that the kinds of letters people used to write tended to be more meaningful than the vast majority of the billions of emails sent today. (10) Of course, when it comes to sending quick messages to convey specific information, email is the best. (11) If time is important, email is particularly useful. (12) If, however, you want to really reach out and touch someone, a letter is more personal.
- (13) Handwritten letters are the most personal. (14) If you can type fast, you can fit a lot into a letter. (15) What's lacking is that special sense of the person that comes from seeing her or his handwriting. (16) As long as it's legible, it doesn't matter how tidy it is. (17) When someone sits down and writes just for you, you feel that when you're reading it.
- (18) Though I'm a teenager, I confess that I too feel thrilled to receive a letter in the mail. (19) I love seeing my name written by hand on an envelope. (20) You make yourself a nice cup of cocoa or lemonade, sit down in a cozy place, open your letter, and enjoy everything that the person put into those words just for you. (21) What a gift!

Continue



Which sentence would be the best thesis statement for the report?

- A Thanks to the convenience of email, we can keep in touch with family and friends who live far away.
- B Long ago, people had no choice but to write letters and mail them, not knowing if or when their messages would be received.
- C Creating handwritten letters and sending them to people we miss is an art that should be revived.
- D Scribbling brief notes is just not the same as writing long letters in which you pour out deep thoughts and feelings.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 01

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Continue



Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of Michael's report.

It is a relatively small island. It has a total area of only 63 square miles.

What is the best way to combine these sentences without changing the meaning?

A It is a relatively small island because it has a total area of only 63 square miles.

B It is a relatively small island with a total area of only 63 square miles.

C It has a total area of only 63 relatively small square miles on the island.

D It is only 63 square miles of total area on the relatively small island.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 02

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Jane Addams: A Woman of Character

- (1) When you think of women in history who have been true pioneers, the name Jane Addams should come to mind. (2) In the late 1800s, she founded Hull House, an institution called a settlement house, in Chicago, Illinois. (3) Hull House was established as a resource for immigrants as well as for any other residents of Chicago in need of assistance. (4) Its mission reflected the compassionate spirit of its founder, who had visited a similar institution, called Toynbee Hall, while visiting London, England.
- (5) Throughout her life, Jane Addams worked real hard. (6) She was a skillful fundraiser, and when an economic downturn occurred, it was up to her to acquire the funds necessary to keep Hull House running. (7) She did this task by writing and lecturing across the country. (8) She earned money through her hard work. (9) She continually used the money to improve the lives of others. (10) Fundraising, however, was certainly not her most noteworthy accomplishment.
- (11) Among her many accomplishments, Addams was a leader in the movement to secure voting rights for women. (12) In 1931 she was honored with one of the most important awards in the world, the Nobel Peace Prize. (13) This recognition was especially significant because Jane Addams was the first American woman ever to receive this prize. (14) Jane Addams's devotion and selflessness are qualities that will live on through others who are inspired by her sense of dedication and courage.

Continue



Which sentence best states the thesis of the report?

A Hull House served thousands of clients in its many years of existence in Chicago.

B Jane Addams is an inspiring person because she dedicated her life to helping others.

C Hull House was formed at a time in history when women had little power.

D Jane Addams received extensive recognition for all of her achievements during her life.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 03

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Lost Art of Letter Writing

- (1) Many people use email today to communicate with each other. (2) If you have access to a computer, it's a great way to send messages easily, in a quick manner, and on as many occasions as you like. (3) No longer is it necessary to find a pen or paper, not to mention an envelope or a stamp.
- (4) Are we missing anything by not writing actual letters to people? (5) Is the experience of receiving such letters worth the trouble of writing them? (6) Most people would probably reply "No it was a waste of paper anyway; this is a much better system." (7) It's hard to argue against such a logical viewpoint. (8) However, I would like to try.
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Continue



How should sentence 20 be changed to maintain a consistent point of view?

- A Eliminate it so that images already presented are not repeated.
- B Divide it into four short sentences, one for each action described.
- C Rewrite it in the first person to match the previous two sentences.
- D Omit the pronouns to transform descriptions into simple commands.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Proficient) – Question 04

Laura García is running for student council president. Brad Daniels wrote this letter for publication in the student newspaper. It contains errors.

Vote for Laura

Dear Glenview Junior High Student Body,

- 1 In two weeks, we will be voting for student council president. Don't let the sun set on election day without voting for Laura García. As the campaign manager for Laura, I would like to tell you why she is the best person to lead our student council and student body.
- 2 Laura is a good leader. As the vice president of the student council last year, Laura was able to accomplish a great deal for the students on our campus. She could see the value of pep rallies for football games; for example, she wanted other sports, clubs, and organizations to benefit from the spirit and encouragement our students show at pep rallies. It was Laura who organized the other rallies our students enjoyed last year. Laura was also responsible for the victory pizza parties and the picnics. As a student leader, Laura knows the importance of celebrating the successes of all the students at Glenview Junior High School.
- 3 If elected president this year, Laura promises to do even more for our student body. Laura wants Glenview to become more involved in our community. She believes that if our students become more involved in community activities, our community will become more involved in our school activities. Laura believes that there is no limit to what our campus can accomplish. She knows that we can achieve great things with our community's help.
- 4 With her proven record of achievement and dedication, Laura is the clear choice for student council president.

Sincerely,
Brad Daniels

Continue



Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

She could see the value of pep rallies for football games; for example, she wanted other sports, clubs, and organizations to benefit from the spirit and encouragement our students show at pep rallies.

In this sentence, ; for example, does not correctly link the ideas. Which of these should be used?

A , and

B , or

C ; since

D ; instead



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 01

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- 2 Laura is a good leader. As the vice president of the student council last year, Laura was able to accomplish a great deal for the students on our campus. She could see the value of pep rallies for football games; for example, she wanted other sports, clubs, and organizations to benefit from the spirit and encouragement our students show at pep rallies. It was Laura who organized the other rallies our students enjoyed last year. Laura was also responsible for the victory pizza parties and the picnics. As a student leader, Laura knows the importance of celebrating the successes of all the students at Glenview Junior High School.
- 3 If elected president this year, Laura promises to do even more for our student body. Laura wants Glenview to become more involved in our community. She believes that if our students become more involved in community activities, our community will become more involved in our school activities. Laura believes that there is no limit to what our campus can accomplish. She knows that we can achieve great things with our community's help.
- 4 With her proven record of achievement and dedication, Laura is the clear choice for student council president.

Sincerely,
Brad Daniels

Continue



How is the organization of Brad's letter best described?

A comparison/contrast

B main idea and supporting details

C sequence of events

D step-by-step process



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 02

Edward's English class was given an assignment to write a letter to the city council members about a community concern. Edward wrote the following letter. It contains errors.

Dear Greendale City Council Members:

- 1 I am writing about a problem that has arisen in my neighborhood. I live at 212 Parker Street in the Northridge Park subdivision. Two doors down from my family's home sits a house that has been abandoned. Mr. Jones used to rent that house, but he moved out over six months ago. Since then, no one has occupied it. The problem is that whoever owns the house has not kept the grass cut or trimming the hedges. This house makes our whole neighborhood look sloppy, and something must be done soon.
- 2 I am a pretty resourceful guy, so before writing to you, I tried to solve the problem myself. My father suggested that maybe the owner of the house might live out of town and not know the extent of the problem. I thought that if I could find a name and address for the owner, I could write him or her a letter explaining what is happening to the property. I used the Internet to access public records about the house, but the owner of that house is not listed. I would gladly volunteer to cut the grass on that property to keep it from looking so ugly; instead, to go on that property without the owner's permission would be trespassing. At this point, though, I can't think of any other way to solve the problem.
- 3 I am writing to ask you to please help our neighborhood find a way to take care of this eyesore. Perhaps you can access records that are not available to us and contact the owner or give us his or her name and address.

Sincerely,
Edward Thompson

Continue 

Which of these would make the best concluding sentence to Edward's letter?

- A My neighbors and I want our neighborhood to return to the beautiful place it once was.
- B The city council doesn't have much else to do, so why not help our neighborhood?
- C This person is obviously ignoring his or her property and should not be allowed to get away with it any longer.
- D The Internet may be a valuable tool to some, but I don't agree.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 03

Michael's social studies teacher has asked the class to write reports. Below are the first three paragraphs from Michael's rough draft. It may contain errors.

Faces of Stone

- 1 Easter Island is just a dot in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile. It is a relatively small island. It has a total area of only 63 square miles. It is volcanic. This is probably why it has no trees. The island is shaped like a boomerang, and each of its three corners has an extinct volcano.
- 2 Easter Island was relatively unknown until 1722, when Dutch Admiral Roggeveen arrived with the first Europeans ever to set foot on the island. To their surprise, they were greeted by hundreds of mammoth stone statues lining the shores. To the Europeans, the giant legless creatures appeared strange indeed. All were “figures of men with short square bodies and strangely oversized heads, many balancing red stone cylinder-like hats on their heads.” They were very similar to one another, each with a large nose and long ears, but they were not identical. Each face was taller than a human being, and many were as tall as a four-story building.
- 3 For an early society to have made these enormous figures with only stone tools was an amazing feat in itself. What was even more baffling was how the people moved the creations, some of which weighed many tons. The discovery of a large stone quarry unlocked clues. It was apparent that this was the site where the statues had been carved before being moved to their final resting places. Some statues appeared to be complete, while others were barely started. When work on these statues was suddenly abandoned, some were in the process of being moved. It was obvious that the statue builders had cut down the island's trees to make rolling logs and wooden scaffolds, which were then used to move the huge statues from the quarry to the island's perimeter.

Continue



The best way for Michael to improve this report would be to

A make the report shorter and add something funny.

B use fewer facts and details and more personal feelings.

C tell about Admiral Roggeveen's naval career.

D include an ending that summarizes his main points.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 04

Laura García is running for student council president. Brad Daniels wrote this letter for publication in the student newspaper. It contains errors.

Vote for Laura

Dear Glenview Junior High Student Body,

- 1 In two weeks, we will be voting for student council president. Don't let the sun set on election day without voting for Laura García. As the campaign manager for Laura, I would like to tell you why she is the best person to lead our student council and student body.
- 2 Laura is a good leader. As the vice president of the student council last year, Laura was able to accomplish a great deal for the students on our campus. She could see the value of pep rallies for football games; for example, she wanted other sports, clubs, and organizations to benefit from the spirit and encouragement our students show at pep rallies. It was Laura who organized the other rallies our students enjoyed last year. Laura was also responsible for the victory pizza parties and the picnics. As a student leader, Laura knows the importance of celebrating the successes of all the students at Glenview Junior High School.
- 3 If elected president this year, Laura promises to do even more for our student body. Laura wants Glenview to become more involved in our community. She believes that if our students become more involved in community activities, our community will become more involved in our school activities. Laura believes that there is no limit to what our campus can accomplish. She knows that we can achieve great things with our community's help.
- 4 With her proven record of achievement and dedication, Laura is the clear choice for student council president.

Sincerely,
Brad Daniels

Continue



Which of these would make the best concluding sentence to this letter?

A Laura has a family history of being a leader: her brother was the president of the student council five years ago.

B We can have the best year in Glenview Junior High history if you cast your vote for Laura García on October 14.

C Glenview Junior High has a strong history of achievement; in fact, we were number one in football last year.

D Laura García will go down in history as one of Glenview's best student council vice presidents.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 01

Laura García is running for student council president. Brad Daniels wrote this letter for publication in the student newspaper. It contains errors.

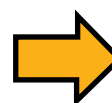
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- 2 Laura is a good leader. As the vice president of the student council last year, Laura was able to accomplish a great deal for the students on our campus. She could see the value of pep rallies for football games; for example, she wanted other sports, clubs, and organizations to benefit from the spirit and encouragement our students show at pep rallies. It was Laura who organized the other rallies our students enjoyed last year. Laura was also responsible for the victory pizza parties and the picnics. As a student leader, Laura knows the importance of celebrating the successes of all the students at Glenview Junior High School.
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- 4 With her proven record of achievement and dedication, Laura is the clear choice for student council president.

Sincerely,
Brad Daniels

Continue



Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of Brad's letter.

Laura is a good leader.

Given the content of paragraph 2, what is the most precise way to rewrite this sentence?

A Laura is an okay leader.

B Laura is a typical leader.

C Laura is an experienced leader.

D Laura is a cautious leader.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 02

Edward's English class was given an assignment to write a letter to the city council members about a community concern. Edward wrote the following letter. It contains errors.

Dear Greendale City Council Members:

- 1 I am writing about a problem that has arisen in my neighborhood. I live at 212 Parker Street in the Northridge Park subdivision. Two doors down from my family's home sits a house that has been abandoned. Mr. Jones used to rent that house, but he moved out over six months ago. Since then, no one has occupied it. The problem is that whoever owns the house has not kept the grass cut or trimming the hedges. This house makes our whole neighborhood look sloppy, and something must be done soon.
- 2 I am a pretty resourceful guy, so before writing to you, I tried to solve the problem myself. My father suggested that maybe the owner of the house might live out of town and not know the extent of the problem. I thought that if I could find a name and address for the owner, I could write him or her a letter explaining what is happening to the property. I used the Internet to access public records about the house, but the owner of that house is not listed. I would gladly volunteer to cut the grass on that property to keep it from looking so ugly; instead, to go on that property without the owner's permission would be trespassing. At this point, though, I can't think of any other way to solve the problem.
- 3 I am writing to ask you to please help our neighborhood find a way to take care of this eyesore. Perhaps you can access records that are not available to us and contact the owner or give us his or her name and address.

Sincerely,
Edward Thompson

Continue



Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

I would gladly volunteer to cut the grass on that property to keep it from looking so ugly; instead, to go on that property without the owner's permission would be trespassing.

In this sentence, the word instead does not correctly link ideas. Which of these should be used instead?

A obviously

B however

C still

D likewise



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Writing Strategies (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 03

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Jane Addams: A Woman of Character

- (1) When you think of women in history who have been true pioneers, the name Jane Addams should come to mind. (2) In the late 1800s, she founded Hull House, an institution called a settlement house, in Chicago, Illinois. (3) Hull House was established as a resource for immigrants as well as for any other residents of Chicago in need of assistance. (4) Its mission reflected the compassionate spirit of its founder, who had visited a similar institution, called Toynbee Hall, while visiting London, England.
- (5) Throughout her life, Jane Addams worked real hard. (6) She was a skillful fundraiser, and when an economic downturn occurred, it was up to her to acquire the funds necessary to keep Hull House running. (7) She did this task by writing and lecturing across the country. (8) She earned money through her hard work. (9) She continually used the money to improve the lives of others. (10) Fundraising, however, was certainly not her most noteworthy accomplishment.
- (11) Among her many accomplishments, Addams was a leader in the movement to secure voting rights for women. (12) In 1931 she was honored with one of the most important awards in the world, the Nobel Peace Prize. (13) This recognition was especially significant because Jane Addams was the first American woman ever to receive this prize. (14) Jane Addams's devotion and selflessness are qualities that will live on through others who are inspired by her sense of dedication and courage.

Continue



Read this sentence.

She did this task by writing and lecturing across the country.

What is the most accurate replacement for the underlined word in this sentence?

A done

B centered on

C looked at

D accomplished



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Advanced)

– Question 01

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Jane Addams: A Woman of Character

- (1) When you think of women in history who have been true pioneers, the name Jane Addams should come to mind. (2) In the late 1800s, she founded Hull House, an institution called a settlement house, in Chicago, Illinois. (3) Hull House was established as a resource for immigrants as well as for any other residents of Chicago in need of assistance. (4) Its mission reflected the compassionate spirit of its founder, who had visited a similar institution, called Toynbee Hall, while visiting London, England.
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Continue



How are sentences 8 and 9 best combined?

A The money she earned through her hard work was the money continually used to improve the lives of others.

B She earned money through her hard work, and she continually used the money to improve the lives of others.

C She continually used the money she earned through her hard work to improve the lives of others.

D Continually improving the lives of others was the purpose of the money she earned through her hard work.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Advanced)

– Question 02

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Amazing Maize Maze

- (1) When the Egyptians built the pyramids, they included mazes to trap thieves. (2) Even if thieves managed to enter a pyramid, they would probably never find their way out. (3) Other ancient mazes have been found, from Sweden to New Mexico. (4) Some are carved in rock or painted on cave walls, while others are built from dirt, stones, or bricks. (5) In Ireland and Wales, pictures of mazes are put on jewelry and in paintings. (6) Mazes have been built into the tall hedges of grand gardens in England.
- (7) In 1986 the Fulks family of Fredericksburg, Virginia, decided to create a maze in their cornfield on the Belvedere Plantation. (8) Donnie Fulks and his four sons cut some paths here and there through the tall corn. (9) Soon this "Maize Maze" was so popular with friends and nieghbors that the Fulkses found themselves creating a new maze each year as a new crop filled the field.
- (10) Some people return each year. (11) To keep it challenging for them, each corny maze is somewhat different from the previous ones. (12) In 1998 the Fulks family hired world-famous maze designer Adrian Fisher to create a huge maze covering 15 acres, or 650,000 square feet. (13) Each new pattern is first worked out on a computer, and the one used in 2001 had to be changed eighteen times before it was just right. (14) After it was finished, Donnie Fulks and his sons took a detailed drawing of the pattern divided into squares. (15) They then started cutting the pattern into the cornfield.
- (16) People from all over the country come out to the Belvedere Plantation to try to find their way through the Fulks family's maze. (17) It is open while the corn is tall, from mid-July through early November. (18) Visitors are given flags to mark their progress, and for waving for help if they become lost. (19) Kids and adults have a wonderful time working together to find their way to the end. (20) Built into the 2001 maze were several surprises. (21) Sixty speakers provided music throughout the journey. (22) Just to be different, the 2001 maize maze started in the center of the cornfield, making it the world's only inside-out maze!

Continue



How could sentence 18 best be rewritten?

- A Visitors are given flags to mark their progress; and waving for help if becoming lost.
- B Visitors are given flags to mark their progress and to wave for help if they become lost.
- C Visitors are given flags to mark their progress: wave them for help if they become lost.
- D Visitors are given flags for marking their progress and to wave for help if they become lost.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Advanced)

– Question 03

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

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Continue



What is the correct way to write the underlined word in sentence 16?

A familys

B families

C familys'

D Leave as is.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Advanced)

– Question 04

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Lost Art of Letter Writing

- (1) Many people use email today to communicate with each other. (2) If you have access to a computer, it's a great way to send messages easily, in a quick manner, and on as many occasions as you like. (3) No longer is it necessary to find a pen or paper, not to mention an envelope or a stamp.
- (4) Are we missing anything by not writing actual letters to people? (5) Is the experience of receiving such letters worth the trouble of writing them? (6) Most people would probably reply "No it was a waste of paper anyway; this is a much better system." (7) It's hard to argue against such a logical viewpoint. (8) However, I would like to try.
- (9) I believe that the kinds of letters people used to write tended to be more meaningful than the vast majority of the billions of emails sent today. (10) Of course, when it comes to sending quick messages to convey specific information, email is the best. (11) If time is important, email is particularly useful. (12) If, however, you want to really reach out and touch someone, a letter is more personal.
- (13) Handwritten letters are the most personal. (14) If you can type fast, you can fit a lot into a letter. (15) What's lacking is that special sense of the person that comes from seeing her or his handwriting. (16) As long as it's legible, it doesn't matter how tidy it is. (17) When someone sits down and writes just for you, you feel that when you're reading it.
- (18) Though I'm a teenager, I confess that I too feel thrilled to receive a letter in the mail. (19) I love seeing my name written by hand on an envelope. (20) You make yourself a nice cup of cocoa or lemonade, sit down in a cozy place, open your letter, and enjoy everything that the person put into those words just for you. (21) What a gift!

Continue



How should sentence 6 be written to reflect the correct use of punctuation and capitalization?

- A Most people would probably reply, “no, it was a waste of paper anyway, this is a much better system.”
- B Most people would probably reply, “No, it was a waste of paper anyway. This is a much better system.”
- C Most people would probably reply, “no, it was a waste of paper anyway; and this is a much better system.”
- D Most people would probably reply “No it was a waste of paper anyway; this is a much better system.”



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Advanced)

– Question 05

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Clarisse Jones

Social Studies

Ms. Montoya

May 9, 2003

The Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment

- 1 In 1863, Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts made an important decision when he allowed African American men to enlist as Union soldiers in the Civil War. Some of these new enlistees was assigned to the 54th Infantry Regiment. Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight. Their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.
- 2 In May 1863, the 54th Infantry Regiment, led by Colonel Robert Shaw, completed its training and headed into battle. In July, the troops were sent to take Fort Wagner, a Confederate military installation, in Charleston, South Carolina. A narrow strip of beach created a land bridge to the Confederacy's well-guarded fortress on Morris Island. Members of the 54th believed that the Union Navy had already weakened the fort; however, the soldiers faced tremendous gunfire as they approached the fort's walls. Their commanding officer ordered the troops over the wall and into their worst battle. The soldiers fought hard, but realized that they had little chance of winning. Sergeant William Carney, the flag bearer of the 54th, was severely injured as he carried the flag back to safety. As a result of his bravery, Carney was the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 3 Almost half of the soldiers in the 54th Infantry Regiment were wounded or killed in the onslaught at Fort Wagner. Word of the courageous acts of these Union soldiers spread throughout the northern states and led to a great increase in the enlistment of African Americans. The regiment unit even played a role in securing equivalent pay for African-American soldiers.

Continue



4 After fighting at Fort Wagner, however, the men of the 54th had no time to rest. The 54th Infantry Regiment went on to fight in several other battles, and in August 1865, the soldiers were discharged from the United States Army. In 1897, a Monument was sculpted in Boston, Massachusetts, to commemorate the heroism of the 54th. This memorial honors these heroes appropriately by depicting Colonel Shaw and his troops marching into battle.

Which sentence could best be added at the beginning of the report to attract the attention of the reader?

- A As amazing as it may seem, sometimes one decision alters the course of history.
- B A governor changed a law that altered history.
- C One famous battle that made history started with a simple decision.
- D During the Civil War, John Andrew was governor of one of the Union states.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Proficient)

– Question 01

Laura García is running for student council president. Brad Daniels wrote this letter for publication in the student newspaper. It contains errors.

Vote for Laura

Dear Glenview Junior High Student Body,

- 1 In two weeks, we will be voting for student council president. Don't let the sun set on election day without voting for Laura García. As the campaign manager for Laura, I would like to tell you why she is the best person to lead our student council and student body.
- 2 Laura is a good leader. As the vice president of the student council last year, Laura was able to accomplish a great deal for the students on our campus. She could see the value of pep rallies for football games; for example, she wanted other sports, clubs, and organizations to benefit from the spirit and encouragement our students show at pep rallies. It was Laura who organized the other rallies our students enjoyed last year. Laura was also responsible for the victory pizza parties and the picnics. As a student leader, Laura knows the importance of celebrating the successes of all the students at Glenview Junior High School.
- 3 If elected president this year, Laura promises to do even more for our student body. Laura wants Glenview to become more involved in our community. She believes that if our students become more involved in community activities, our community will become more involved in our school activities. Laura believes that there is no limit to what our campus can accomplish. She knows that we can achieve great things with our community's help.
- 4 With her proven record of achievement and dedication, Laura is the clear choice for student council president.

Continue  Sincerely,
Brad Daniels

In which of the following sentences is Brad's personal style most apparent?

A Don't let the sun set on election day without voting for Laura García.

B It was Laura who organized the other rallies our students enjoyed last year.

C Laura wants Glenview to become more involved in our community.

D Laura believes that there is no limit to what our campus can accomplish.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Proficient)

– Question 02

Michael's social studies teacher has asked the class to write reports. Below are the first three paragraphs from Michael's rough draft. It may contain errors.

Faces of Stone

- 1 Easter Island is just a dot in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile. It is a relatively small island. It has a total area of only 63 square miles. It is volcanic. This is probably why it has no trees. The island is shaped like a boomerang, and each of its three corners has an extinct volcano.
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- 3 For an early society to have made these enormous figures with only stone tools was an amazing feat in itself. What was even more baffling was how the people moved the creations, some of which weighed many tons. The discovery of a large stone quarry unlocked clues. It was apparent that this was the site where the statues had been carved before being moved to their final resting places. Some statues appeared to be complete, while others were barely started. When work on these statues was suddenly abandoned, some were in the process of being moved. It was obvious that the statue builders had cut down the island's trees to make rolling logs and wooden scaffolds, which were then used to move the huge statues from the quarry to the island's perimeter.

Continue



Read this sentence from paragraph 3 of Michael's report.

For an early society to have made these enormous figures with only stone tools was an amazing feat in itself.

What is the correct way to spell the underlined word?

A feet

B fete

C feite

D Leave as is.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Proficient)

– Question 03

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Lost Art of Letter Writing

- (1) Many people use email today to communicate with each other. (2) If you have access to a computer, it's a great way to send messages easily, in a quick manner, and on as many occasions as you like. (3) No longer is it necessary to find a pen or paper, not to mention an envelope or a stamp.
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- (18) Though I'm a teenager, I confess that I too feel thrilled to receive a letter in the mail. (19) I love seeing my name written by hand on an envelope. (20) You make yourself a nice cup of cocoa or lemonade, sit down in a cozy place, open your letter, and enjoy everything that the person put into those words just for you. (21) What a gift!

Continue



How should the underlined part of sentence 2 be rewritten to create a parallel structure?

A easily, quickly, and as often as

B in an easy way, quicker, and as many times

C easy, quick, and as frequently as

D easily, quick, and as many if



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Proficient)

– Question 04

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Clarisse Jones

Social Studies

Ms. Montoya

May 9, 2003

The Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment

- 1 In 1863, Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts made an important decision when he allowed African American men to enlist as Union soldiers in the Civil War. Some of these new enlistees was assigned to the 54th Infantry Regiment. Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight. Their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.
- 2 In May 1863, the 54th Infantry Regiment, led by Colonel Robert Shaw, completed its training and headed into battle. In July, the troops were sent to take Fort Wagner, a Confederate military installation, in Charleston, South Carolina. A narrow strip of beach created a land bridge to the Confederacy's well-guarded fortress on Morris Island. Members of the 54th believed that the Union Navy had already weakened the fort; however, the soldiers faced tremendous gunfire as they approached the fort's walls. Their commanding officer ordered the troops over the wall and into their worst battle. The soldiers fought hard, but realized that they had little chance of winning. Sergeant William Carney, the flag bearer of the 54th, was severely injured as he carried the flag back to safety. As a result of his bravery, Carney was the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 3 Almost half of the soldiers in the 54th Infantry Regiment were wounded or killed in the onslaught at Fort Wagner. Word of the courageous acts of these Union soldiers spread throughout the northern states and led to a great increase in the enlistment of African Americans. The regiment unit even played a role in securing equivalent pay for African-American soldiers.

Continue



Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of the report.

Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight. Their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.

Which sentence demonstrates the best way to combine these two sentences?

A Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight, but their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.

B Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight, and their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.

C Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight, because their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.

D Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight, so their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 01

Edward's English class was given an assignment to write a letter to the city council members about a community concern. Edward wrote the following letter. It contains errors.

Dear Greendale City Council Members:

- 1 I am writing about a problem that has arisen in my neighborhood. I live at 212 Parker Street in the Northridge Park subdivision. Two doors down from my family's home sits a house that has been abandoned. Mr. Jones used to rent that house, but he moved out over six months ago. Since then, no one has occupied it. The problem is that whoever owns the house has not kept the grass cut or trimming the hedges. This house makes our whole neighborhood look sloppy, and something must be done soon.
- 2 I am a pretty resourceful guy, so before writing to you, I tried to solve the problem myself. My father suggested that maybe the owner of the house might live out of town and not know the extent of the problem. I thought that if I could find a name and address for the owner, I could write him or her a letter explaining what is happening to the property. I used the Internet to access public records about the house, but the owner of that house is not listed. I would gladly volunteer to cut the grass on that property to keep it from looking so ugly; instead, to go on that property without the owner's permission would be trespassing. At this point, though, I can't think of any other way to solve the problem.
- 3 I am writing to ask you to please help our neighborhood find a way to take care of this eyesore. Perhaps you can access records that are not available to us and contact the owner or give us his or her name and address.

Sincerely,
Edward Thompson

Continue



Read this sentence from paragraph 1.

The problem is that whoever owns the house has not kept the grass cut or trimming the hedges.

How is this sentence best written?

A The problem is that whoever owns the house is not keeping the grass cut or trim the hedges.

B The problem is that whoever owns the house is not keeping the grass cut or to trim the hedges.

C The problem is that whoever owns the house is not cutting the grass or trimming the hedges.

D Leave as is.



Back

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 02

Edward's English class was given an assignment to write a letter to the city council members about a community concern. Edward wrote the following letter. It contains errors.

Dear Greendale City Council Members:

- 1 I am writing about a problem that has arisen in my neighborhood. I live at 212 Parker Street in the Northridge Park subdivision. Two doors down from my family's home sits a house that has been abandoned. Mr. Jones used to rent that house, but he moved out over six months ago. Since then, no one has occupied it. The problem is that whoever owns the house has not kept the grass cut or trimming the hedges. This house makes our whole neighborhood look sloppy, and something must be done soon.
- 2 I am a pretty resourceful guy, so before writing to you, I tried to solve the problem myself. My father suggested that maybe the owner of the house might live out of town and not know the extent of the problem. I thought that if I could find a name and address for the owner, I could write him or her a letter explaining what is happening to the property. I used the Internet to access public records about the house, but the owner of that house is not listed. I would gladly volunteer to cut the grass on that property to keep it from looking so ugly; instead, to go on that property without the owner's permission would be trespassing. At this point, though, I can't think of any other way to solve the problem.
- 3 I am writing to ask you to please help our neighborhood find a way to take care of this eyesore. Perhaps you can access records that are not available to us and contact the owner or give us his or her name and address.

Sincerely,
Edward Thompson

Continue



In which of the following sentences is Edward's personal style most apparent?

A Since then, no one has occupied it.

B I live at 212 Parker Street in the Northridge Park subdivision.

C I am a pretty resourceful guy, so before writing to you, I tried to solve the problem myself.

D I used the Internet to access public records about the house, but the owner of that house is not listed.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 03

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Amazing Maize Maze

- (1) When the Egyptians built the pyramids, they included mazes to trap thieves. (2) Even if thieves managed to enter a pyramid, they would probably never find their way out. (3) Other ancient mazes have been found, from Sweden to New Mexico. (4) Some are carved in rock or painted on cave walls, while others are built from dirt, stones, or bricks. (5) In Ireland and Wales, pictures of mazes are put on jewelry and in paintings. (6) Mazes have been built into the tall hedges of grand gardens in England.
- (7) In 1986 the Fulks family of Fredericksburg, Virginia, decided to create a maze in their cornfield on the Belvedere Plantation. (8) Donnie Fulks and his four sons cut some paths here and there through the tall corn. (9) Soon this "Maize Maze" was so popular with friends and nieghbors that the Fulkses found themselves creating a new maze each year as a new crop filled the field.
- (10) Some people return each year. (11) To keep it challenging for them, each corny maze is somewhat different from the previous ones. (12) In 1998 the Fulks family hired world-famous maze designer Adrian Fisher to create a huge maze covering 15 acres, or 650,000 square feet. (13) Each new pattern is first worked out on a computer, and the one used in 2001 had to be changed eighteen times before it was just right. (14) After it was finished, Donnie Fulks and his sons took a detailed drawing of the pattern divided into squares. (15) They then started cutting the pattern into the cornfield.
- (16) People from all over the country come out to the Belvedere Plantation to try to find their way through the Fulks family's maze. (17) It is open while the corn is tall, from mid-July through early November. (18) Visitors are given flags to mark their progress, and for waving for help if they become lost. (19) Kids and adults have a wonderful time working together to find their way to the end. (20) Built into the 2001 maze were several surprises. (21) Sixty speakers provided music throughout the journey. (22) Just to be different, the 2001 maize maze started in the center of the cornfield, making it the world's only inside-out maze!

Continue



Which phrase from the report contains an underlined word that is spelled incorrectly?

A ancient mazes

B friends and nieghbors

C previous ones

D several surprises



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 04

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

The Lost Art of Letter Writing

- (1) Many people use email today to communicate with each other. (2) If you have access to a computer, it's a great way to send messages easily, in a quick manner, and on as many occasions as you like. (3) No longer is it necessary to find a pen or paper, not to mention an envelope or a stamp.
- (4) Are we missing anything by not writing actual letters to people? (5) Is the experience of receiving such letters worth the trouble of writing them? (6) Most people would probably reply "No it was a waste of paper anyway; this is a much better system." (7) It's hard to argue against such a logical viewpoint. (8) However, I would like to try.
- (9) I believe that the kinds of letters people used to write tended to be more meaningful than the vast majority of the billions of emails sent today. (10) Of course, when it comes to sending quick messages to convey specific information, email is the best. (11) If time is important, email is particularly useful. (12) If, however, you want to really reach out and touch someone, a letter is more personal.
- (13) Handwritten letters are the most personal. (14) If you can type fast, you can fit a lot into a letter. (15) What's lacking is that special sense of the person that comes from seeing her or his handwriting. (16) As long as it's legible, it doesn't matter how tidy it is. (17) When someone sits down and writes just for you, you feel that when you're reading it.
- (18) Though I'm a teenager, I confess that I too feel thrilled to receive a letter in the mail. (19) I love seeing my name written by hand on an envelope. (20) You make yourself a nice cup of cocoa or lemonade, sit down in a cozy place, open your letter, and enjoy everything that the person put into those words just for you. (21) What a gift!

Continue



How should the underlined word in sentence 17 be written?

A youre

B your

C youre'

D Leave as is.



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 05

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Clarisse Jones
Social Studies
Ms. Montoya
May 9, 2003

The Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment

- 1 In 1863, Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts made an important decision when he allowed African American men to enlist as Union soldiers in the Civil War. Some of these new enlistees was assigned to the 54th Infantry Regiment. Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight. Their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.
- 2 In May 1863, the 54th Infantry Regiment, led by Colonel Robert Shaw, completed its training and headed into battle. In July, the troops were sent to take Fort Wagner, a Confederate military installation, in Charleston, South Carolina. A narrow strip of beach created a land bridge to the Confederacy's well-guarded fortress on Morris Island. Members of the 54th believed that the Union Navy had already weakened the fort; however, the soldiers faced tremendous gunfire as they approached the fort's walls. Their commanding officer ordered the troops over the wall and into their worst battle. The soldiers fought hard, but realized that they had little chance of winning. Sergeant William Carney, the flag bearer of the 54th, was severely injured as he carried the flag back to safety. As a result of his bravery, Carney was the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 3 Almost half of the soldiers in the 54th Infantry Regiment were wounded or killed in the onslaught at Fort Wagner. Word of the courageous acts of these Union soldiers spread throughout the northern states and led to a great increase in the enlistment of African Americans. The regiment unit even played a role in securing equivalent pay for African-American soldiers.

Continue



Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of the report.

In 1863, Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts made an important decision when he allowed African-American men to enlist as Union soldiers in the Civil War. Some of these new enlistees was assigned to the 54th Infantry Regiment.

What is the correct way to write the underlined part of the second sentence to maintain consistency of verb tense?

A have been assigned

B were assigned

C are being assigned

D are assigned



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 06

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Clarisse Jones
Social Studies
Ms. Montoya
May 9, 2003

The Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment

- 1 In 1863, Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts made an important decision when he allowed African American men to enlist as Union soldiers in the Civil War. Some of these new enlistees was assigned to the 54th Infantry Regiment. Members of the 54th were not the first African Americans to fight. Their brave acts made the group one of the most famous.
- 2 In May 1863, the 54th Infantry Regiment, led by Colonel Robert Shaw, completed its training and headed into battle. In July, the troops were sent to take Fort Wagner, a Confederate military installation, in Charleston, South Carolina. A narrow strip of beach created a land bridge to the Confederacy's well-guarded fortress on Morris Island. Members of the 54th believed that the Union Navy had already weakened the fort; however, the soldiers faced tremendous gunfire as they approached the fort's walls. Their commanding officer ordered the troops over the wall and into their worst battle. The soldiers fought hard, but realized that they had little chance of winning. Sergeant William Carney, the flag bearer of the 54th, was severely injured as he carried the flag back to safety. As a result of his bravery, Carney was the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 3 Almost half of the soldiers in the 54th Infantry Regiment were wounded or killed in the onslaught at Fort Wagner. Word of the courageous acts of these Union soldiers spread throughout the northern states and led to a great increase in the enlistment of African Americans. The regiment unit even played a role in securing equivalent pay for African-American soldiers.

Continue



Read these sentences from paragraph 4 of the report.

The 54th Infantry Regiment went on to fight in several other battles, and in August 1865, the soldiers were discharged from the United States Army. In 1897, a Monument was sculpted in Boston, Massachusetts, to commemorate the heroism of the 54th.

Which underlined word from the sentences should not be capitalized?

A August

B Army

C Monument

D Boston



Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Basic) – Question 07

Read this sentence.

If you walk up the street and take a left, I believe you will find it.

What is the correct way to write the underlined words?

☐ A left I believe

☐ B left I believe,

☐ C left, I, believe

☐ D Leave as is.

Grade 8: English-Language Arts

Written and Oral English Language Conventions (Performance Level: Below Basic) – Question 01

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Jane Addams: A Woman of Character

- (1) When you think of women in history who have been true pioneers, the name Jane Addams should come to mind. (2) In the late 1800s, she founded Hull House, an institution called a settlement house, in Chicago, Illinois. (3) Hull House was established as a resource for immigrants as well as for any other residents of Chicago in need of assistance. (4) Its mission reflected the compassionate spirit of its founder, who had visited a similar institution, called Toynbee Hall, while visiting London, England.
- (5) Throughout her life, Jane Addams worked real hard. (6) She was a skillful fundraiser, and when an economic downturn occurred, it was up to her to acquire the funds necessary to keep Hull House running. (7) She did this task by writing and lecturing across the country. (8) She earned money through her hard work. (9) She continually used the money to improve the lives of others. (10) Fundraising, however, was certainly not her most noteworthy accomplishment.
- (11) Among her many accomplishments, Addams was a leader in the movement to secure voting rights for women. (12) In 1931 she was honored with one of the most important awards in the world, the Nobel Peace Prize. (13) This recognition was especially significant because Jane Addams was the first American woman ever to receive this prize. (14) Jane Addams's devotion and selflessness are qualities that will live on through others who are inspired by her sense of dedication and courage.

Continue



Read this sentence.

Throughout her life, Jane Addams worked real hard.

How should the underlined words be written to make them correct?

A worked very good

B worked very hard

C worked real good

D worked really good

