

Literature and Composition – Grade 9 Achievement Assessment

Directions:

Today you will be taking a Language Arts Achievement Assessment to diagnose your current strengths and areas for improvement in the area of literacy. To answer some of the questions on this test, you will be asked to refer to reading passages. Be sure to utilize your reading strategies to fully comprehend the various texts.

As you take the test, read each question carefully, focus on the key words in each question, and then choose the *correct* answer. You may look back at each passage and question as often as necessary.

Please take your time and do your best.

Section I (45-60 Minutes)

Directions: Read the selections and answer questions by completing the answer sheet.

Shaun White: Snowboarding Superstar

(1) The popular sport of snowboarding has a superstar in twenty-four-year-old Shaun White, the first person to win snowboarding gold medals in two consecutive Winter Olympics.

(2) Considered by many to be the best snowboarder in the world, White is also the youngest person ever to win the U.S. Open Snowboarding Championship, as well as the first athlete to win a gold medal in both the Summer and Winter X Games.

(3) Sometimes called “The Flying Tomato” because of his shock of red hair, White is not only a snowboarding superstar but a champion skateboarder as well.

A Snowboarder at Six

(4) All of his accomplishments are even more amazing when you realize White was born with a rare congenital heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot. He had two cardiac surgeries before the age of five; however, despite his heart problems, he was an active child.

(5) White first started snowboarding at the age of six when he saw his older brother, Jesse, trying the sport. White got so good so quickly that his mother, Cathy, told him that he could only snowboard down the hill backwards—a technique known as switch—in order to slow him down. It didn’t work: honing this skill only helped White further his career.

(6) White entered amateur competitions at the age of seven. Even though he was often the youngest participant, he defeated older competitors on a regular basis. After winning almost every amateur snowboarding competition that he entered, including five national titles, White turned professional at the early age of thirteen.

(7) White was nicknamed “Future Boy” because of his youth, and he soon lived up to that moniker. When he snowboarded, White almost always got “big air,” which means he did exceptionally high jumps, and he fearlessly tried snowboarding tricks that had never been done before.

(8) In 2003, when White entered the Winter X Games, dubbed the “Olympics of Extreme Sports,” he won two gold medals and ended up receiving the “Best Athlete” Award. Then, only a month after the 2003 Winter X Games, White became the youngest snowboarder ever to win the U.S. Open Slopestyle Championship.

Snowboarding Terms

(9) Snowboarding is an action sport. It has a high level of danger, involves great speed and height, and includes spectacular stunts. Other action sports include skateboarding, motocross, and in-line skating.

(10) Snowboarding has numerous events including halfpipe, superpipe, and slopestyle competitions.

(11) A halfpipe is a U-shaped ramp with high sides. A superpipe is a very large halfpipe. During slopestyle competitions, riders perform tricks and jumps while riding a downhill slope.

(12) A popular snowboarding trick is called the McTwist, which includes a front flip combined with a 540 degree rotation. Shaun has been able to complete tricks of 900 degrees, which involves two-and-a-half rotations; 1,080 degrees, which is three full rotations in the air; and even higher-level difficulty flips and grabs.

Some snowboarding competitions also have what is known as the Rail Jam. In this event, riders have to perform

- (13) tricks on long rails and staircases. White has excelled at this as well.

The History of Snowboarding

- (14) Although it seems like a very modern sport, snowboarding's history goes back to 1929, when M. J. "Jack" Burchett cut a piece of plywood and secured it to his feet with horse reins and clothesline.

- (15) Snowboarding began to come into its own in 1965 when Sherman Poppen made a toy for his daughter by tying two skis together so she could "surf" down a snowy hill. Poppen's wife nicknamed the contraption a "Snurfer."

- (16) When his daughter's friends wanted their own Snurfers, Poppen began producing the snowboards and sold almost a half-million by the following year. Other innovators followed Poppen with their own Snurfer designs, and these eventually became the snowboards that are used today.

- (17) Snowboarding competitions developed in earnest during the 1980s, which was also the era when ski resorts allowed snowboarders to use ski slopes in greater and greater numbers. Now snowboarding is a winter sport that keeps growing, thanks in great measure to the popularity of Shaun White, and seems to have a limitless future.

Shaun White and the Olympics

- (18) Shaun White truly became a worldwide celebrity in 2006 when he not only qualified for the Winter Olympics halfpipe snowboarding competition, but won the gold medal despite falling on his first qualifying run. Shaun repeated this gold medal feat in the halfpipe at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

- (19) In fact, during the 2010 Winter Olympics, White performed tricks that had never been seen in snowboarding before. These feats included the Double McTwist 1260, which Shaun has nicknamed "The Tomahawk." Tricks like this one led White to record the highest score ever in men's halfpipe at the Winter Olympics when he tallied an incredible 48.4 (out of a possible 50) on his final run.

Shaun White, Champion Skateboarder

- (20) Shaun White is not just a snowboarding superstar. He also has become one of the top skateboarders in the world as well.

- (21) Inspired by skateboarding great Tony Hawk, whom he met at age nine, White started skateboarding seriously in 2002. Soon afterward, he began winning many skateboarding titles, including his first Summer X Games gold medal in 2007. White turned pro as a skateboarder at the age of seventeen.

- (22) White became particularly accomplished in skateboarding's vert competitions. These events require riders to perform tricks on a vertical ramp.

A Two-Sport Champion

- (23) As a rare two-sport athletic champion, White has become so popular that he has appeared in movies about snowboarding, designed winter fashion lines, and helped to create snowboarding video games that are named after him. He is also involved with many charities.

- (24) Even though he has accomplished so much at such a young age, White is determined to conquer new heights—literally. As a role model and champion in the sports of snowboarding and skateboarding, White's success and popularity have seemed to make him even more competitive.

- (25) "I put tons of pressure on myself for some reason," White has said. "It's like I'm not even competing against everybody else. I'm competing against myself."

1. How are the sections “A Snowboarder at Six” (paragraphs 4–8) and “Shaun White, Champion Skateboarder” (paragraphs 20–22) similar in structure?
 - a. Both start with Shaun’s early years and progress to his latest successes.
 - b. Both show how Shaun overcame physical challenges to become a champion.
 - c. Both show how Shaun has risen from being an unknown to being very popular.
 - d. Both show how Shaun was inspired by a champion and then became one himself.
2. In paragraph 24, the author states, “[Shaun White] is determined to conquer new heights—literally.” What is the author most likely implying with this statement?
 - a. Shaun White will create new tricks that will take him higher in the air.
 - b. Shaun White will use training and stretching methods to increase his own height.
 - c. Shaun White will probably write a book about his life or about how to snowboard.
 - d. Shaun White will attempt his stunts at more dangerous altitudes, like on mountainsides.
3. In paragraph 19, the author writes that Shaun White recorded “the highest score ever in men’s halfpipe.” From the evidence in the passage, how is the score for halfpipe determined?
 - a. by the speed attained
 - b. by the distance traveled
 - c. by the difficulty of the stunts performed
 - d. by the way in which the crowd responded
4. In paragraph 3, the author writes that Shaun White is sometimes called “The Flying Tomato.” This nickname is an example of what figure of speech? A(n)
 - a. assonance
 - b. hyperbole
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
5. Which illustrates the greatest irony in this passage?
 - a. Shaun White remains popular even though he has a very silly nickname.
 - b. Shaun White is the greatest athlete in snowboarding, but he is still not satisfied.
 - c. Shaun White has become a champion in two sports, and he is only 23 years old.
 - d. Shaun White became a world-class athlete even though he was born with a defective heart.
6. What appears to be the author’s main purpose for writing this passage?
 - a. to amuse and entertain
 - b. to provide information
 - c. to teach a moral lesson
 - d. to defend a point of view

Insights of Flight

Many know that Antoinette de Saint-Exupéry wrote the children's classic *Le Petit Prince* or *The Little Prince*, but few are aware that he also worked as a mail pilot. To some, the combination of these diverse careers might come as a surprise. To Saint-Exupéry, there was nothing more natural. As a pilot, he spent many long, thoughtful hours alone with the sky. While flying over the mail routes of Africa, South America, and the South Atlantic, Saint-Exupéry pondered the purpose of human existence. He found his answers among the clouds, and he used writing to express his revelations.

As a child, Saint-Exupéry longed for adventure. In the 1920s, after failing the entrance exam to the naval academy, Saint-Exupéry began flying as a commercial pilot for France's booming mail industry, helping to establish airmail routes in remote regions. His first assignment was an airstrip in the western Sahara, and the two years he spent in the desert were some of the happiest years of his life. During these years, Saint-Exupéry was much more than a mailman. He was an adventurer, and ambassador, and a hero. He negotiated the rescue of aviators captured by Arabic tribes; he recovered stranded planes and injured aviators; and he survived many crash landings.

These adventures became the subject of his novels. *In Night Flight* (1931), an account of flying in South America, Saint-Exupéry described these experiences with lyrical beauty. He wrote of the novel's hero: "Sometimes, after a

hundred miles of steppes as desolate as the sea, he encountered a lonely farmhouse that seemed to be sailing backwards from him in a great prairie sea, with its freight of human lives; and he saluted with his wings this passing ship."

In the 1930s, Saint-Exupery became disillusioned with aviation, which he felt was becoming more of a science than an art. However, he continued to fly as a commercial pilot even as France entered World War II. By 1942, France was thoroughly devastated by the war. Feeling powerless and heartsick, Saint-Exupery went to New York where he released "the prince asleep within him" as a form of therapy and began to write *The Little Prince*. The book took flight immediately.

When the story opens, a pilot is describing how a crash in the Sahara led him to an encounter with a strange child. This child claimed to be a prince from a tiny planet where he lived alone with three volcanoes and a haughty rose. (The pilot later scientifically identifies the prince's home as the asteroid B-612.) Scorned by this rude rose, the small prince left his home and began to travel across the galaxy. The themes in *The Little Prince*--loneliness, the quest for the meaning of life, and the hope of finding relief in the stars--echo those of Saint-Exupery's own life. Both characters represent aspects of the author's life: the aviator, whose crash leads him to beauty and wisdom, and the lonely prince, who stretches his arms through light years in search of an embrace.

In 1943, Saint-Exupery returned home and fought for France's liberation. On July 31, 1944, flying a solo mission over German-occupied southern France, he disappeared. Neither he nor his plane was ever found. It seemed as though they had vanished into thin air, much like the prince at the end of Saint-Exupery's novel. Was it a mere coincidence that *The Little Prince*, his last book, was published one year before the author/pilot's disappearance during a flight?

For lovers of *The Little Prince*, it seemed appropriate that his death was mysterious. Mystery, after all, leaves room for the imagination. At the end of a profile about Saint-Exupery, the writer Duncan Elliot states, "But Saint-Exupery's image demands more than an earthly homage. 450 million kilometers away, in orbit between Mars and Jupiter is a 20-km chunk of metal. Asteroid Saint-Exupery. I hope he's on it."

7. What is the main purpose of this essay
 - a. to describe Saint-Exupery's work as a commercial pilot
 - b. to explain the details of *The Little Prince*
 - c. to show how Saint-Exupery blended his two passions of flying and writing.
 - d. to discuss Saint-Exupery's work in the Sahara
8. Which word best describes the tone of this passage?
 - a. desperate
 - b. admiring
 - c. critical
 - d. scientific
9. The phrase "the lonely prince, who stretches his arms through light years in search of an embrace" uses which of the following literary techniques?
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. personification
 - c. onomatopoeia
 - d. symbolism
10. Based on the author's description, which of the following best describes the personality of Antoine de Saint-Exupery?
 - a. arrogant and melancholy
 - b. dependable and friendly
 - c. adventurous and disillusioned by war
 - d. noble and serious

The Comet

He peered in; it was evidently a secret vault--some hiding place of the old bank unknown in newer times. He entered hesitatingly. It was a long, narrow room with shelves, and at the far end, an old chest. On a high shelf lay the two missing volumes of records, and others. He put them carefully aside and stepped to the chest. It was old, strong, and rusty. He looked at the vast and old-fashioned lock and flashed his light on the hinges. They were deeply encrusted with rust. Looking about, he found a bit of iron and began to pry. The rust had eaten a hundred years, and it had gone deep. Slowly, wearily, the old lid lifted, and with a last, low groan lay bare its treasure--and he saw the dull sheen of gold!

Boom!

A low, grinding, reverberating crash struck upon his ear. He started up and looked about. All was black and still. He groped for his light and swung it about him. Then he knew! The great stone door had swung to. He forgot the gold and looked death squarely in the face. Then with a sigh he went methodically to work. The cold sweat stood on his forehead; but he searched, pounded, pushed, and worked until after what seemed endless hours his hand struck a cold bit of metal and the great door swung harshly on its hinges, and then, striking against something soft and heavy, stopped. He had just room enough to squeeze through.

11. The author describes the closing of the door with a single word, "Boom!" The literary device used here is
- personification
 - alliteration
 - onomatopoeia
 - imagery

12. The author characterizes the main character as
- foolhardy in rushing into a dangerous situation.
 - irresponsible in not letting anyone know where he was going.
 - poised and systematic in his approach to problems.
 - apt to panic as shown by his behavior during a crisis

from Tell-Tale Heart

TRUE!--nervous--very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses--not destroyed--not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily--how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! Yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture--a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees--very gradually--I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded--with what caution--with what foresight--with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him.

13. The point of view in the story is
- first person
 - second person
 - third person omniscient
 - third person limited

14. Which of the following is NOT a reason given by the narrator as to why the reader should not think him crazy?
- being nervous is not the same thing as being crazy
 - he is a respected member of his community
 - he plans with wisdom and caution
 - he is healthy, calm, kind, and loving
15. Which of the following is the biggest reason that the narrator wants to kill the old man?
- He hates the old man
 - He wants the old man's money.
 - He cannot stand to look at the old man's eye
 - He wants revenge for the old man's insults against him.
16. From the context in which it is used, the word acute means
- gone
 - full
 - sharp
 - dull
17. From the context in which it is used, the word dissimulation means
- care
 - carelessness
 - rage
 - misery

My son Chin had run into the house that day, bubbling with excitement. His grin told me that this time it was a god "guess -what." I had to answer. He didn't even give me a chance to respond. As it turned out, he was so happy to have two other Chinese kids in his class that he just couldn't contain it long enough for me to start guessing why he was so thrilled.

His news was a far cry from the "guess-what" of the previous school year. Last year, when he moved the family here, we were excited about Chin attending a school with a diverse population. Though the population was diverse, only about twenty percent of the entire student population was of Chinese heritage. As my son put it, he was "the only one" in his class. There were other Chinese kids at school, but they were not in Chin's class. They had been spread out in what I suspect was an effort to make sure that each class was diversely populated with kids of varying cultures. As a result, several students found themselves in the same predicament as Chin--"the only" in their class.

I applaud the school's effort at diversity in an increasingly diverse world where parents want their children to be comfortable with those who may differ from them. But sometimes in looking at the big picture, school administrators often overlook the small picture--in this case the downward spiraling self-esteem of a single child who looks out into a sea of faces and finds no one in the class who looks like him. The school had not met our expectation for an environment in which Chin could be comfortable with himself. The hardest question he kept asking all year long was "Why am I the only Chinese kid in my class?"

The impact on Chin of what I like to call "the only-syndrome" was evident. Instead of celebrating his difference, he sank in it. He felt self-conscious about every aspect of his personality that made him "different" --so much so that at year's end it occasioned me to call the school's principal and request a Chinese classmate for Chin for the upcoming school year.

I can't remember the details of the conversation, but as the principal listened, I tried to let her know that the school's diversity, so to speak had proven adverse to my son's well-being. The result of my impassioned plea I would not realize until months later when Chin shared his good news with me on the first day of school. So far, this has been his best school year ever, because when he looks out at the sea of faces in his classroom, he sees two other Chinese faces--both smiling back at him.

18. What will most likely happen to Chin in the coming year?
- He will forget his old friends.
 - He will do better in school.
 - He will graduate early.
 - He will become a terrible student.
19. What is the most likely reason the principal put Chin in a class with two other Chinese students?
- She realized the sense in what Chin's mother was saying.
 - She feared that Chin's mother would withdraw him from the school.
 - She was overwhelmed by the passion in Chin's mother's voice.
 - She thought Chin was afraid to go to his classes.

At the Earth's Core
by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Behind us rose a dark and forbidding wood of giant arborescent ferns intermingled with the commoner types of a primeval tropical forest. Huge creepers depended in great loops from tree to tree, dense under-brush overgrew a tangled mass of fallen trunks and branches. Upon the outer verge we could see the same splendid coloring of countless blossoms that glorified the islands, but within the dense shadows all seemed dark and gloomy as the grave.

And upon all the noonday sun poured its torrid rays out of a cloudless sky.

"Where on earth can we be?" I asked, turning to Perry.

For some moments the old man did not reply. He stood with bowed head, buried in deep thought. But at last he spoke.

"David," he said, "I am not so sure that we are ON earth."

"What do you mean Perry?" I cried. "Do you think that we are dead, and this is heaven?" He smiled, and turning, pointing to the nose of the prospector protruding from the ground at our backs.

20. The mood of this passage can be BEST described as
- depressing.
 - exciting.
 - forbidding.
 - mysterious.

JULIET

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
And for that name which is no part of thee
Take all myself.

21. Juliet's speech is an example of what dramatic element?
- a. exposition
 - b. free verse
 - c. soliloquy
 - d. irony

JULIET

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO

Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
And for that name which is no part of thee
Take all myself.

22. What is the theme in Juliet's speech about Romeo's name?
- a. Names are very important in our society
 - b. Love is more important than last names
 - c. Never judge a book by its cover
 - d. Love never fails

[A room in Capulet's house.]

[Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and PARIS]

CAPULET

Things have fall'n out, sir, so unluckily,
That we have had no time to move our daughter:
Look you, she loved her kinsman Tybalt dearly,
And so did I: -- Well, we were born to die.
'Tis very late, she'll not come down to-night:
I promise you, but for your company,
I would have been a-bed an hour ago.

PARIS

These times of woe afford no time to woo.
Madam, good night: commend me to your daughter.

LADY CAPULET

I will, and know her mind early to-morrow;
To-night she is mew'd up to her heaviness.

CAPULET

Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender
Of my child's love: I think she will be ruled
In all respects by me; nay, more, I doubt it not.
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed;
Acquaint her here of my son Paris' love;
And bid her, mark you me, on Wednesday next --
But, soft! what day is this?

PARIS

Monday, my lord,

CAPULET

Monday! ha, ha! Well, Wednesday is too soon,
O' Thursday let it be: o' Thursday, tell her,
She shall be married to this noble earl.
Will you be ready? do you like this haste?
We'll keep no great ado, -- a friend or two;
For, hark you, Tybalt being slain so late,
It may be thought we held him carelessly,
Being our kinsman, if we revel much:
Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends,
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?

PARIS

My lord, I would that Thursday were to-morrow.

CAPULET

Well get you gone: o' Thursday be it, then.
Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed,
Prepare her, wife, against this wedding-day.
Farewell, my lord. Light to my chamber, ho!
Afore me! it is so very very late,
That we may call it early by and by.
Good night.

[*Exeunt*]

23. In this scene, Lord Capulet decides to have Juliet marry Paris on Thursday. He does not know that she is already married to Romeo. The audience, however, does know this. This is an example of

- a. Foreshadowing
- b. Imagery
- c. Resolution
- d. Dramatic Irony

Read the following excerpt from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Act II, Scene 2, and answer the questions that follow.

Nurse: Ah, well-a-day! He's dead, he's dead, he's dead! We are undone, lady, we are undone!
Alack the day! He's gone, he's killed, he's dead!

Juliet: Can heaven be so envious?

Nurse: Romeo can, Though heaven cannot: O Romeo, Romeo! Who ever would have thought it?
Romeo?

Juliet: What devil art thou, that dost torment me thus? This torture should be roar'd in dismal hell.
Hath Romeo slain himself? Say thou but 'I.' And that bare vow 'I' shall poison more than
the death-darting eye of cockatrice: I am not I, if there be such an I; Or those eyes shut,
then make answer 'I.' If he be slain, say 'I;' or if not, no: Brief sounds determine my weal
or woe.

24. How can you tell this drama is a tragedy?

- a. The Nurse talks a lot.
- b. A character has died.
- c. Juliet criticizes Romeo.
- d. The scene has no action.

25. How can you tell from the format of this selection that it is a drama?

- a. It has mostly lines of dialogue, not paragraphs.
- b. It has only two characters, and all they do is talk to each other.
- c. It does not focus on serious themes like novels and short stories.
- d. It focuses on an important, tragic event in the life of a Shakespearean character.

26. In Act IV, Scene 3, Juliet is alone in her room and preparing to take the potion that will make her appear dead. She delivers a(n) _____, a long speech addressed to the audience rather than other characters, in which the character reveals his/her inner feelings.

- a. aside
- b. dialogue
- c. monologue
- d. soliloquy

Success is counted sweetest
By those who ne'er succeed.
To comprehend a nectar
Requires sorest need.
Not one of all the purple Hosts
Who took the flag today Can
tell the definition,
So clear, of Victory, As
he, defeated--dying--
On whose forbidden ear-- The
distant strains of triumph
Break, agonized and clear!

by Emily Dickinson

27. The theme of this poem is
- Success is never sweet.
 - Success is always sweet.
 - If you never succeed, when you do, you appreciate it more.
 - You must have money to be successful.

The Children's Hour

Between the dark and the daylight,
When the night is beginning to lower,
Comes a pause in the day's occupations,
That is known as the Children's Hour.

I hear in the chamber above me
The patter of little feet,
The sound of a door that is opened,
And voices soft and sweet.

From my study I see in the lamplight,
Descending the broad hall stair,
Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,
And Edith with golden hair.

A whisper, and then a silence:
Yet I know by their merry eyes
They are plotting and planning together
To take me by surprise.

A sudden rush from the stairway,
A sudden raid from the hall!
By three doors left unguarded
They enter my castle wall!

They climb up into my turret O'er
the arms and back of my chair: If I
try to escape, they surround me;
They seem to be everywhere.

They almost devour me with kisses,
Their arms about me entwine,
Till I think of the Bishop of Bingen
In his Mouse-Tower on the Rhine!

Do you think, O blue-eyes banditti,
Because you have scaled the wall,
Such an old mustache as I am
Is not a match for you all!

I have you fast in my fortress,
And will not let you depart,
But put you down into the dungeon
In the round-tower of my heart.

And there will I keep you forever,
Yes, forever and a day,
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,
And moulder in dust away!

28. The poem tells a story which makes it a
- fixed form
 - free form
 - lyric poem
 - narrative poem
29. What universal behavior forms the basis of this poem's theme?
- Children love to test their parents with play.
 - Children need to go to bed on time.
 - Children learn how to fight from their parents.
 - Parents need to be very strict with their children.
30. How do the stanzas BEST add structure to the poem?
- They divide the poem into equal parts or sections.
 - They have identical length and patterns of rhyme.
 - They each contain a different rhythm that is repeated.
 - They use a free form that still rhymes.
31. The speaker refers to himself in line 31 as "an old mustache." This literary device of substituting the name of a part of something for the name of the whole is called _____.
- synecdoche
 - metaphor
 - metonymy
 - alliteration

Directions for Making Pancakes

Preheat griddle Note: Griddle is ready when a small drop of water dances on it before evaporating.

Place mix, milk, eggs, and melted or liquid shortening in the bowl.

For light pancakes, mix only until fairly smooth.

Over-mixing batter makes pancakes thin and tough.

Pour batter onto hot, lightly greased griddle. Turn pancakes when tops are covered with bubbles and edges look dry. Turn only once.

32. If you want light pancakes, when should you stop stirring the batter?
- when the batter is fairly smooth, some small lumps
 - when it is very lumpy; over-mixing makes pancakes tough
 - when a drop of water is placed on the griddle
33. You should turn the pancakes over when
- the top of the pancakes have bubbles and the edges look dry
 - the top is brown
 - the top looks wet
 - It doesn't matter when you turn the pancakes.

We've had rainmakers--now say hello to the rain-busters. Storm experts in the U.S. have plucked a cloud from the sky for the first time.

By sprinkling a water-absorbing powder over the cloud, the researches made it disappear from the sky and weather station radar screens. They hope the powder will one day dry up deadly hurricanes and tropical storms.

"It is the moisture that gives hurricanes their strength," says Peter Cordani who runs Dyn-O-Mat, the company that makes the product. "In case of a huge hurricane, we would not be trying to soak it up altogether. But what we would do is break it up and reduce its strength and killing potential. We think we can save lives with this product and we are very happy about that." The powder could also banish rain over open-air events and sports fixtures.

Cordani and his team hope to get government permission to tackle a hurricane or tropical storm in the coming season.

In their latest experiment, large military aircraft scattered the powder through a storm cloud 1600 meters long and over 4000 meters deep. It took about 4000 kilograms of powder to soak up the moisture from the cloud, making it virtually disappear. "I had calls from a weather tower and even from Channel 5 news in Miami, saying that they had seen the cloud literally disappear off the radar screen. They confirmed that there had been a tall build-up and the next moment it was gone," Cordani says.

Each grain of powder, called Dyn-O-Gel, is capable of absorbing 2000 times its weight in moisture, condensation, and rain. Each molecule of powder can hold several molecules of water. The wet powder becomes a gel.

The shape of the grains is also crucial for maximum absorption of moisture. "If you were to look at a grain under a microscope, it would look rather like a cornflake," says Cordani. "This means that they flutter back and forth like a snowflake as they pass through the cloud, taking up as much moisture as possible. The first polymer we made just went straight down through the cloud," he says.

Once the polymer turns into a gel, it becomes heavier and falls to earth. The gel dissolves when it hits salt water, so if possible, storm clouds will be tackled over the ocean. But the gel should be safe if it falls over land. "Much of the gel evaporates on the way down, and it is biodegradable and not hazardous to the environment or anybody's health," says Cordani. The company spent \$1 million on the test, and hopes to sell its powder to the U.S. government.

The same powder can also be used to help make rain. The tiny flakes help bind raindrops together, stopping them from evaporating so quickly. Once the powder is turned into a water-laden gel you could also use it to fight fires by dousing the flames.

So, can we have sunny days whenever we like? Maybe. "If there was a 50-mile storm front moving in, we could only put holes in it. It would just keep coming," says Cordani. But "if there was a cloud threatening a sports fixture, it would be possible to get rid of it."

34. Which argument used in the above article is an appeal to the readers' emotions?
- "In case of hurricane, we would not be trying to soak it up altogether."
 - "They confirmed that there had been a tall build-up and the next moment it was gone."
 - "Cordani and his team hope to get government permission to tackle a hurricane or tropical storm in the coming season."
 - "Much of the gel evaporates on the way down, and it is biodegradable and not hazardous to the environment or anybody's health."

35. Members of the high school student body decided to make a presentation to the administration for support and funds to form a marching band. Some students decided to pretend to be the principal and vice principal, arguing against the idea. Other students responded to their comments. What problem-solving technique were the students using?
- constructing models
 - role playing
 - brainstorming
 - analyzing the problem
36. A director uses lighting to
- express emotion
 - indicate a change in scene
 - indicate a time period in a play
 - all of the above
37. You have been given the job of advertising for your pest control company. Which visual element would build a reader's confidence in your company?
- Small lettering
 - A phone number that included the company name
 - A uniformed exterminator with pictures of the types of pest you exterminate
 - Long sentences in each paragraph
38. Which of the following is not an example of mass media?
- newspapers
 - radio
 - television
 - drama
39. If you were interviewing a blind person, which of the following questions is not appropriate to ask him/her?
- Can you see shapes or shadows?
 - How long have you been blind?
 - Do you use a cane?
 - Does it stink out loud to be blind?
40. Which of the following would not be an appropriate question to ask Tiger Woods during an interview?
- Did your grandmother knit?
 - How long is your Nike endorsement deal?
 - How did it feel to win the US Open?
 - Do you think you will retire by 2015?

Read this excerpt from a letter and answer the following question.

Each of the planned activities has been great! I am so glad you encouraged me to come. The first day we toured the art museum and listened to an interesting lecture by the curator. The second day we took trolley cars around a city of the future. Although it was fascinating to see what life might be like in a hundred years, I think I prefer the here and now!

I miss you and will see you soon.

41. Because of the level of usage, you can assume the writer's audience is her
- editor of the newspaper
 - employer
 - best friend
 - doctor

42. Which would you use to best explain a topic or process?
- a. a persuasive letter
 - b. a narrative essay
 - c. an expository essay
 - d. a personal letter

Read this excerpt from a letter and answer the following questions.

Your comments in my annual evaluation are, in general, correct. However, I would like to discuss with you your assessment of my writing skills as they relate to letters, memorandi, and personnel documents. You suggest that my spelling skills and punctuation skills are grossly inadequate for this level of business. Additionally, you imply that my vocabulary is immature and lacking in depth. I pride myself in my ability to communicate orally and in writing. Therefore, please allow me time to delve into these matters with you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,
Carmen J. Fitzgerald

43. Because of the level of usage, you can assume the writer's audience is most likely her
- a. doctor
 - b. employer
 - c. best friend
 - d. grandparent
44. In films, background music is used during scenes of the movie to establish
- a. a particular state of mind, the mood, of the characters or their actions
 - b. the period of time portrayed by the film
 - c. a clue to what may occur next in the film, i.e. violence, romance, comedy
 - d. all of the above

Read the following want ad and answer the question.

SALES - Do you want to control your own work? Do you want to earn up to \$25,000 working only 3 - 4 days per week? If so, you should be a Zolie sales representative. For only \$500 you can buy your sales kit to begin your career. Call 366-4321 for your interview.

45. Writers of this ad really want you to
- a. have a good job
 - b. earn a large sum of money
 - c. control your work days/times
 - d. buy a sales kit for \$500

(1) Today it seems quite normal for high school English students to read poems, stories, and novels by African American authors, but that was not always the case. A hundred years ago readers, critics, and publishers across the United States paid little or no attention to African American authors. Then a group of African American authors in New York City changed American literature forever. Reaching readers of all races, their literary movement became known as the Harlem Renaissance.

(2) Harlem, a section of New York City, became a center for African American culture, music, theater, and art in the 1920s. Hundreds of thousands of African Americans had recently moved from the South to northern cities for better jobs, and many of them had settled in Harlem. African American musicians, artists, actors, and writers congregated there, encouraging one another's creativity. African American owned magazines featured prose and verse about the

everyday experiences of African Americans in the rural South and the cities of the North.

- (3) The reputation of Harlem spread beyond the immediate community. Jazz and blues performances attracted visitors from other parts of New York City. Through dinners and special events, Harlem authors were introduced to other New Yorkers who published magazines and books. Editors at major publishing companies began to show new interest in African American authors. Between the mid-1920s and the mid-1930s, more than fifty books by sixteen Harlem Renaissance authors were published.
- (4) African American authors expressed their lives with pride in their poetry and fiction. Langston Hughes, who spoke out against social injustice in his novels, essays, plays, and poems, was one of the most famous African American authors during the Harlem Renaissance. The rhythms of his poetry reflect the rhythm of African American music. The poems of his friend Countee Cullen drew on both European and African traditions. A third important author was Zora Neale Hurston. She studied anthropology in college and collected African American folklore, which strongly influenced her fiction.
- (5) The Harlem Renaissance did not last long. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, hard economic times meant less financial support for authors and artists. Some African American leaders turned their attention from literature to politics and social issues. Several leading Harlem authors moved away from New York City.
- (6) Although Harlem ceased to be the thriving cultural center it had become in the 1920s, its legacy lives on. The large number of well-known authors with published books inspired later African Americans to consider literary careers. The Harlem Renaissance opened the door of mainstream American literature to African American authors, who have been significant and recognized contributors to American literature ever since.

46. As used in paragraph 6, what is a legacy?

- a. a challenge
- b. a mystery
- c. a tradition
- d. a warning

47. As used in the last sentence in paragraph 6, what does mainstream mean?

- a. widely accepted
- b. uniformly similar
- c. privately supported
- d. slowly disappearing

Use the context clues to decide the best meaning for the underlined word.

48. They tried to ameliorate the hostage crisis with negotiations, but the terrorists were unreasonable and the situation worsened.

- a. worsen
- b. improve
- c. calm
- d. strengthen

Section II (45-60 Minutes)

49. You have a research project due on American immigration. Which of the following is the best way to proceed?
- Write the paper based on what you have heard your family discuss, look up some Internet resources to add.
 - Select a topic, conduct research, organize materials, write.
 - Watch a movie to familiarize yourself with the topic, print out internet search, combine in logical format, copy.
 - Outline the topic, obtain library books, discuss the topic with a friend, write the paper.
50. We shall expect the shipment, purchase order enclosed, within four working days. Upon receipt, our comptroller will issue a check for the full amount. This excerpt would most likely come from
- personal writing
 - social writing
 - academic writing
 - business writing
- (1) Of all the teachers I've had, Ms. Higgins has had the most profound effect on my life. (2) It was in Ms. Higgins's class that I first learned the value of creativity. (3) Ms. Higgins taught me the ability to think creatively is a rare gift and that my unique talents could actually help me succeed in school. (4) Her belief in me showed me that I could use my creativity to become a star student, and for that, I will be forever grateful.
51. Which sentence would BEST clarify the author's point when placed between sentences (1) and (2)?
- Before Ms. Higgins, I did not like my other teachers.
 - Ms. Higgins was very interested in creativity.
 - Ms. Higgins has been teaching for 20 years.
 - Before Ms. Higgins, I was a poor student.

Ramone wrote the following paragraph. Use it to answer the next question.

1) Yesterday morning I visited the Book Exchange, my favorite used bookstore. 2) I wandered from floor to floor, as I often do, searching for bargain books. 3) Finally on the second floor, in a dusty nook at the back, I found three mystery novels on sale. 4) After browsing for a long time, I purchased all three of the second-hand mystery novels. 5) I'd have purchased more if I hadn't run out of money (must be time for that summer job). 6) Leaving the store, I was surprised by the intensity of the heat. 7) Could it already be early afternoon? 8) I glanced at my watch and, sure enough, it was nearly 2:00. 9) I didn't mind, though. 10) Those two hours-or was it three- couldn't have been better spent.

52. Which sentence would BEST fit after sentence 3?
- They are part of the popular series I've been reading for years.
 - I may ask Mr. Owens for a job at his grocery store.
 - The air conditioning was turned down too low.
 - The Book Exchange opens around 9:00 on the weekends.

Irene is writing a paper on the origins of the modern sport of bowling. She has just read this passage and copied this note:

Today we think of bowling as an indoor sport, but one other variant that was very popular was "lawn bowling." Lawn bowling was played outside on long, level strips of grassy land. Lawn bowling was so popular that many cities established public "bowling greens" for the sport.

53. For Irene's research on the origins of bowling, which secondary source would be the MOST helpful?

- a. an article about popular sports
- b. a book about the history of sports
- c. an advertisement for a new bowling alley
- d. an interview with the owner of a bowling alley

1) Even though penicillin was first observed by the British over 80 years ago, it is still considered an effective way to kill germs. 2) Most people I know do not get an allergic reaction to this drug. 3) Penicillin acts both by killing bacterial and by slowing their growth. 4) It does not kill organisms in the resting stage but only those that are growing and reproducing. 5) It is effective against a wide range of disease-bearing microorganisms.

54. Which sentence should be deleted to keep the same perspective throughout the paragraph?

- a. sentence 2
- b. sentence 3
- c. sentence 4
- d. sentence 5

55. Mike is writing a research paper on how good grades can affect students' overall driving records. Which research question would be the best to use as he begins his research and writing?

- a. How many miles do students drive each week to and from school?
- b. What impact do automobile accidents have on student insurance rates?
- c. Do students with poor school records have more automobile accidents?
- d. Do driver's education courses positively affect students' driving records?

Read this paragraph to answer the question below.

The swamp is about 40 miles long, 30 miles wide, and covers an area of approximately 700 square miles. 2) The region is drained by the St. Mary's and the Suwannee rivers. 3) The Okefenokee Swamp, the largest swamp in North America, is located in southeast Georgia and north Florida. 4) Some portions of the area are densely covered with swamp trees and low vegetation, others are grassy, and in still others, where the sandy soil comes above the surface of the swamp water, are pine groves. 5) Over 30 species of mammals, 200 kinds of birds, and 60 varieties of reptiles inhabit of the swamp.

56. Which sentence should be first in the paragraph?

- a. sentence 2
- b. sentence 3
- c. sentence 4
- d. sentence 5

Deja is writing a biography of Venus Williams for social studies.

57. Which of the following is the BEST way for her to organize her paper?

- a. spatially
- b. chronologically
- c. compare and contrast
- d. question and answer

58. Which sentence is the most appropriate to include in a formal report on the history of the Nobel Peace Prize?
- During the First World War, the Nobel Peace Prize was not awarded to anyone.
 - The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to those guys who started the Red Cross.
 - For over 100 years, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to really fantastic leaders.
 - Jane Addams was the first American woman to get her act together to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Getting a Feel for the Nano World

www.nsf.gov

When it comes to research at the nanoscale, vision is not necessarily an advantage. The subjects are so small, no one can see them. To encourage people with visual impairments to pursue fields in nanotechnology, educators have developed a way to craft accurate, detailed and touch friendly models of nanoscale objects like carbon nanofibers, allowing the students to "see" those objects for the first time. While students have learned from abstract models of chemical structures for decades, the new technique creates 3-D versions of objects as they actually are.

59. When revising the paragraph, what would help make the information more easily understood by a typical high school student?
- using slang and jargon commonly used by high school students
 - including an explanation and definition of nanotechnology and its applications for the reader
 - including background information about specific visual impairments
 - having more technical terms used within the text
60. Which source would provide the BEST information for an essay on the use of character development in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*?
- a biography of Jane Austen
 - another novel by Jane Austen
 - the review of the movie *Pride and Prejudice*
 - a book of literary criticism about *Pride and Prejudice*
61. Which sentence would be the best to include in a letter to the school board requesting more money for the school band?
- The school band is horrible because the uniforms are out of fashion.
 - You should give us more money because our band is awesome.
 - It isn't our fault that the band is terrible, so you shouldn't blame us.
 - Please consider supporting the band, which is vital to our school.
62. Of the secondary sources below, which is the most likely to help you find information on a famous, living politician?
- Encyclopedia Britannica online
 - an almanac
 - an atlas
 - Guinness Book of Records
63. If you want to locate a book in the library written by your favorite author, which of the following reference sources would you check?
- the on-line card catalogue
 - Reader's Guide to Periodicals
 - Encyclopedia Britannica
 - Roget's Thesaurus

1 Anyone who has ever traveled to a famous place. Has his or her own perceptions of the place.
2 Those perceptions are affected by many things: the place itself, the person's reasons for
3 traveling there, and the person's background. Then there are the really important factors that
4 affect the visit. Here's an example of one of those factors. When I visited Stonehenge. It was
5 a misty, gray day. I could almost see the shadows of the Beaker folk. A group of ancient
6 peoples. The mystique of Stonehenge is all the more real to me because it happened to be
7 cloudy in England, that day. Imagine that.

64. Why does line 4 in the passage above need revision? ("When I visited Stonehenge.")
- a. It lacks only a verb.
 - b. It is a run-on sentence.
 - c. It does not express a complete thought.
 - d. It lacks only a subject.

I wanted to get ice cream after soft ball practice. But not Terrah.

65. How would you rewrite the sentence to correct the sentence fragment above?
- a. Terrah wanted to get ice cream after softball practice, but I did not.
 - b. I wanted to get ice cream, but not Terrah after soft ball practice.
 - c. I wanted to get ice cream after softball practice, but Terrah did not.
 - d. After softball practice, I wanted to get ice cream, but not Terrah.

The first person Keiko saw when she walked into the room was her father talking on the phone to Aunt Agnes.

66. What is the best way to rewrite this sentence above?
- a. The first person Keiko saw when she walked in the room was her father; talking on the phone to Aunt Agnes.
 - b. The first person Keiko saw when she walked in the room was her father. Talking on the phone to Aunt Agnes.
 - c. The first person Keiko saw when she walked in the room was her father, who was talking on the phone to Aunt Agnes.
 - d. The first person Keiko saw when she walked in the room was her father, he was talking on the phone to Aunt Agnes.

Read the sentence below.

Dimitri decided not to go camping this weekend. Due to the cold temperatures.

67. How would you BEST rewrite these statements to eliminate the sentence fragment?
- a. Due to the cold temperatures, Dimitri decided not to go camping this weekend
 - b. Dimitri decided not to go camping, due to the cold temperatures, this weekend.
 - c. Dimitri decided not, due to the cold temperatures, to go camping this weekend.
 - d. This weekend, Dimitri decided not to go camping, due to the cold temperatures.

68. Which word best completes the sentence?

By the time the school bus turned the corner, Harris _____down the street toward his stop.

- a. ran
- b. run
- c. was running
- d. will be running

69. Which sentence is correct?
- Their are many reasons to support this proposal.
 - There are many reasons to support this proposal.
 - The're are many reasons to support this proposal.
 - They're are many reasons to support this proposal.

Harry Potter and the Half-Baked Plot

(1) Now available on DVD, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* disappoints. As so often happens when a lengthy book is translated onto film, there are deep abridgements. These are necessary if the movie is not to be twelve hours long. However, there is an art to making the cuts for length in such a way that the story does not suffer. Unfortunately, this art was sadly lacking for *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

(2) Rather than creating a tighter and shorter version of the book, the movie version is a mess. In many places the action is so chopped up, the cuts so awkward and coarse, that if one did not know the book exceedingly well it would be impossible to follow the plot. Some scenes are left intact, including the scene where Harry first encounters his future teacher, Horace Slughorn, while others that are of greater overall importance are trimmed to the bone. Most significantly, Harry's encounters with Severus Snape are oddly truncated. If one did not know from reading the book what Snape was plotting it's impossible to see how one could figure it out from the movie. There simply isn't enough there.

(3) This is also one of the big problems with this movie as part of the overall story arc of the entire *Harry Potter* series. At the heart of the main story is the relationship between Harry and his two best friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. The friendship gets short shrift in this movie, with very few scenes of the three of them together, and a general downplaying of the chemistry and sense of connection between them which has been apparent in the previous films.

(4) Additionally, other characters appear to have been given cameos just to keep them in the movie. Professor McGonagall, for example, really has nothing to do. She simply appears so that she can be said to be in the movie. The same is true of Remus Lupin, who could be easily missed entirely if the viewer blinked.

(5) Helena Bonham Carter is stunning as the evil Bellatrix Lestrange, and clearly the producers were eager to give her rather more to do than the character does in the book. Hence an overly elaborate action sequence toward the beginning, which adds nothing to the plot but takes up precious minutes of runtime and does not tell us anything new. Bellatrix Lestrange is evil. We know that. She has it in for Harry. We know that too. In a production where they are already so pressed for time to fit in necessary plot, the action sequence to showcase Lestrange is a beautiful distraction.

(6) It goes without saying that the young actors, both in major roles and in minor, like newcomer Evanna Lynch as Luna Lovegood, are well cast and give their all. Sadly, many of them get very little screen time.

(7) It is understood that the adaptation of the last book in the *Harry Potter* series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, will be split into two movies. In light of this film that seems a wise idea. The main thing wrong with this movie is that there is simply too much plot to fit into the time allotted, and some unwise choices have been made in deciding what to include and what to discard. It is to be hoped that dividing the next book into two movies may ameliorate this problem and facilitate a more coherent film.

70. Which includes an example of inconsistent verb tense?
- The character Bellatrix Lestrange is evil. She had it in for Harry.
 - Harry's teacher is Horace Slughorn. The film includes their first encounter.
 - The actress Evanna Lynch played Luna Lovegood, and she portrayed her well.
 - The author is hoping that splitting the next book into two movies will be a success.
71. Which is an example of a misplaced modifier?
- Lacking in coherence, the characters interact with Harry in the movie.
 - As an awkward book adaptation, the movie does not impress the author.
 - Well-cast as Bellatrix Lestrange, Helena Bonham Carter has a large part in the movie.
 - Appearing only briefly, Professor McGonagall's character has little to do with the plot.

72. Which sentence is punctuated incorrectly?
- a. Remus Lupin's appearance is very brief.
 - b. The author praises the young actor's roles.
 - c. The book's adaptation resulted in an incoherent movie.
 - d. Harrys' first meeting with his teacher is included in the movie.

Use the following passage with questions 73-76

Recently the U.S. Treasury did a real good job redesigning the country's

(1)

paper money. The goal was to make currency more harder to counterfeit.

(2)

The \$100 bill was the more likely choice for the first redesign. That there

(3)

(4)

bill still has Benjamin Franklin's portrait. However, the portrait is now

bigger and off-center. You can't hardly notice the other changes, which

(5)

(6)

include a watermark, a security thread, and color-shifting ink.

Now store clerks can spot a fake real easy. The baddest news for

(7)

(8)

counterfeiters is that it would cost them very much to print fake bills with

these security features. American bills are now harder to counterfeit than

the currency of any country. Americans can feel well about the physical

(9)

(10)

safety of their money.

73. Choose the best way to rewrite the underlined word or group of words for (1).
- real well
 - really well
 - really good
 - Correct as is
74. Choose the best way to rewrite the underlined word or group of words for (2).
- most harder
 - harder
 - hardest
 - Correct as is
75. Choose the best way to rewrite the underlined word or group of words for (3).
- most likeliest
 - most likely
 - likelier
 - Correct as is
76. Choose the best way to rewrite the underlined word or group of words for (4).
- That
 - This here
 - These
 - Correct as is
77. Which of the following sentences contains an error?
- Jenny and her brother were invited to perform at the annual Christmas gala, but they had to decline the invitation because of a trip scheduled previously.
 - Jenny and her brother were invited to perform at the annual Christmas gala; however, they had to decline the invitation because of a trip scheduled previously.
 - Although Jenny and her brother were invited to perform at the annual Christmas gala, they had to decline the invitation because of a trip scheduled previously.
 - Jenny and her brother were invited to perform at the annual Christmas gala they had to decline the invitation because of a trip scheduled previously.
78. Which of the following would always be in quotation marks?
- title of a novel
 - title of a poem
 - title of a movie
 - title of a drama/play
79. Which of the following is correct parallelism?
- Ray was watering the tree, walked outside, and filled the can.
 - Our Thanksgiving dinner consisted of turkey, dressing, and included some sweet potatoes.
 - We left for vacation without our credit cards, our money, and our clothes.
 - I want to go to the store, to stop by a department store, and filling my tank with gas.
80. How should the fragment below BEST be revised?

Sleeping on its side, the mule twitching as it dreamed.

- Sleeping on its side, the mule twitched as it dreamed.
- The mule was sleeping on its side, it twitched as it dreamed.
- The mule, sleeping on its side, twitching. As it dreamed.
- Sleeping on its side. The mule twitched as it dreamed.