

Student Name _____

Mississippi Curriculum Test,
Second Edition

MCT2

GRADE

6

PRACTICE
TEST BOOK

MISSISSIPPI



LANGUAGE ARTS

Section 1

Reading

Read the following passage “The Rise and Fall of Vaudeville.” Then answer questions 1–7 based upon the passage. You may turn back to the passage as you answer questions. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

The Rise and Fall of Vaudeville

Watching talented performers has long been a popular form of entertainment. Today these performances often appear in movies and on television; however, these kinds of entertainment did not always exist. Early performances were on stage. Most were plays or concerts. Then a new kind of performance became
5 popular. It was called vaudeville.

What Was Vaudeville?

Vaudeville was much like an elaborate, professional version of a school talent show. These shows were performed in large theaters that were located in cities. A single vaudeville show could include more than a dozen acts, and all the acts
10 showcased different talents. In a single show, the performers could include actors, acrobats, ventriloquists,¹ musicians, comedians, and dancers. Some performers had short acts that lasted less than ten minutes. The biggest vaudeville stars would perform for up to forty minutes. These types of performances had been popular as traveling shows for some time; but vaudeville combined them into single, stable
15 productions.

When Was Vaudeville Performed?

Vaudeville was most popular from the 1880s to the 1920s. During that time more than 25,000 people worked in vaudeville. As audiences grew, special theaters were built for the shows. These large theaters were known as vaudeville houses.
20 One such hall was the Palace Theater in New York City. The Palace quickly became one of the most famous theaters in the country. Vaudeville performers dreamed of working at the Palace. Those performers who did were said to have made the “big time.”

Why Was Vaudeville Popular?

In the late 1800s, Americans had more free time and spending money than ever
25 before. Audiences went to vaudeville shows in part because the acts were family friendly. Each show had something for everyone, appealing to men, women, and children of all ages. This variety made vaudeville different from other kinds of performances, which were often designed to appeal to a certain age range or
30 economic class. Vaudeville offered enough variety to cross the lines of age, class, and gender.

With the rise of vaudeville, entertainment became a big business for the first time. Vaudeville shows were organized and run by theater owners and businessmen. These shows were designed not just to impress audiences but also to

¹**ventriloquist**—a stage performer who uses his or her voice so that the voice appears to be coming from another source, often a large doll that is called a dummy

35 make money. A man named B. F. Keith is known as the father of vaudeville.
He used his business skills to design shows that would appeal to a wide audience.
His success in vaudeville made him a legend.

Who Were the Vaudeville Performers?

40 Many vaudeville performers were very successful. Some remain famous even
today. One example of a successful performer was Bob Hope. Hope was a comedian
at the Palace Theater when he was young. He later became a well-loved radio,
movie, and television personality. Charlie Chaplin also performed in vaudeville acts.
He caught the eye of early filmmakers and became one of America's first movie
stars.

45 Other vaudeville performers stood out because their accomplishments were
unusual for the time. One amazing performer was Baby Rose Marie. She began
singing when she was only three years old. Rose Marie's career extended beyond
her early fame on the stage. She performed in movies, on the radio, and on
television. Another talented performer was John W. Cooper. He was one of the few
50 African Americans in vaudeville. His ventriloquist act was astounding!

What Happened to Vaudeville?

Vaudeville's performers kept the shows going for many years, but their
popularity could not last forever. In the early 1930s, audiences began to dwindle.
People went to see movies more often than stage shows. Movies were less
55 expensive and more widely shown. In fact, movies had replaced stage acts in many
of the vaudeville halls. Theater owners could make more money showing movies
than staging shows. By the late 1930s, the popularity of vaudeville had ended.
Vaudeville had entertained audiences for a long time and had given Americans
many of their favorite performers. Vaudeville has an important place in show
60 business history and will long be remembered as a unique time period in American
entertainment.

1. Based upon the passage, which event can readers infer happened first?

- A. Talented performers appeared in movies.
- B. Special theaters were built.
- C. B. F. Keith became a legend.
- D. Bob Hope worked in radio and television.

2. Read the following sentences from the passage "The Rise and Fall of Vaudeville."

People went to see movies more often than stage shows. Movies were less expensive and more widely shown. In fact, movies had replaced stage acts in many of the vaudeville halls.

Based upon the sentences from the passage, what can the reader conclude about why movies replaced vaudeville?

- F. Many vaudeville performers became movie stars.
- G. People no longer found vaudeville entertaining.
- H. Money was a great concern to people at the time.
- J. Entertainers grew tired of performing on stage.

3. Read lines 25–37 from "The Rise and Fall of Vaudeville."

A student has written this summary of the lines.

Vaudeville became popular because Americans had increased amounts of time and money and the shows appealed to many people. Entertainment became a business designed both for audience enjoyment and for profit. One man who excelled at this business was B. F. Keith, known as the father of vaudeville.

In completing the summary, the student will include information from which of the following sentences?

- A. His success in vaudeville made him a legend.
- B. Vaudeville offered enough variety to cross the lines of age, class, and gender.
- C. Vaudeville shows were organized and run by theater owners and businessmen.
- D. With the rise of vaudeville, entertainment became a big business for the first time.

4. Read the following sentence.

The Palace quit offering live shows by vaudeville's top performers and became a movie theater.

If the sentence in the box is added to the passage, in which section does it belong?

- F. What Was Vaudeville?
- G. Why Was Vaudeville Popular?
- H. Who Were Vaudeville Performers?
- J. What Happened to Vaudeville?

5. Which of the following questions cannot be answered using information from the passage's last paragraph?

- A. Why did the popularity of vaudeville dwindle?
- B. What replaced vaudeville stage acts at most theaters?
- C. Were vaudeville acts more expensive to produce than movies?
- D. Why is vaudeville more unique than movies in show business history?

6. Which of the following statements correctly analyzes the author's use of vocabulary to achieve the purpose of the passage?

- F. The author uses formal language to trace the development of vaudeville as a form of entertainment.
- G. The author uses formal language to convince the reader that vaudeville was more entertaining than movies.
- H. The author uses informal language to tell a story about vaudeville.
- J. The author uses informal language to help the reader imagine a vaudeville show.

7. Which of the following statements interprets the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- A. The passage informs the reader about the history and importance of vaudeville.
- B. The passage offers the reader an opinion regarding the talent of vaudeville performers.
- C. The passage outlines for the reader the changes in entertainment over time, from vaudeville to movies.
- D. The passage describes for the reader various types of vaudeville performances.

Mark your answers for questions 8–10 on your answer document. Mark only one answer for each question. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

8. Read the following sentences.

My cousin told my grandmother that he had locked himself out of the house and had on no socks or shoes at the time. Although my grandmother fought to hide her mirth, I could see the twinkle in her eyes.

Based upon the context of these sentences, which of the following is the definition of mirth?

- F. Affection
- G. Astonishment
- H. Enthusiasm
- J. Laughter

9. Read the following sentence.

People often underestimate the importance of trains in American history.

Based upon the affix under-, what does underestimate mean in the sentence?

- A. To be inexact
- B. To state the wrong amount
- C. To disregard a serious subject
- D. To misjudge the worth of something

10. Read the following sentences.

I told my brother Craig to finish his homework so that we could go outside. Craig drags his feet every afternoon.

What can the reader determine to be the meaning of “drags his feet” as it is used in the sentence?

- F. Craig comes home later than his brother.
- G. Craig has trouble walking in his shoes.
- H. Craig does not want to do his homework.
- J. Craig does not think he has to listen to his brother.

Read the following poem "Different Worlds." Then answer questions 11–14 based upon the poem. You may turn back to the poem as you answer questions. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

Different Worlds

A city rainbow, made of neon signs and traffic lights
Shining ever brightly against the night sky,
Guides travelers to movies, stores, and other sites
That will entertain, educate, or inspire.

- 5 A country rainbow, made of colors and cast
Over a field after a new rain's fall,
Guides travelers to small towns the highways passed
To rest, visit, or hear the blue jay's song.

- 10 Crowding the city, people scurry
Back and forth along the busy streets.
The country knows nothing of such hurry
Until harvest time comes.

- 15 The music of each place is a song without words—
The city's chorus of cars and airplanes,
The country's chorus of crickets and birds.
These concerts, unique and strangely beautiful,
Fill the air of these very different worlds.

11. Based upon line 12, "Until harvest time comes," which of the following can the reader infer makes the city and country alike?

- A. The colors
- B. The pace
- C. The people
- D. The sound

12. Which line from the poem contains alliteration?

- F. A country rainbow, made of colors and cast
- G. To rest, visit, or hear the blue jay's song.
- H. Crowding the city, people scurry
- J. These concerts, unique and strangely beautiful,

13. Read the following lines from the poem.

The music of each place is a song without words—
The city's chorus of cars and airplanes,
The country's chorus of crickets and birds.

Based upon the context clues in the lines above, what is the figurative meaning of the "music"?

- A. The words that show how moods change in the city and the country
- B. The words that describe the city and the country
- C. The different songs that are played in the city and the country
- D. The different sounds of the city and the country

14. Which literary device does the poet use to compare the city and the country in the poem "Different Worlds"?

- F. The poet uses imagery to show that while the country and city are different, both are crowded places.
- G. The poet uses exaggeration to try to persuade readers to live in the city instead of in the country.
- H. The poet uses imagery to show the difference between the city's rainbow and the country's rainbow.
- J. The poet uses exaggeration to describe the different concerts that can be heard in the city and in the country.

Read the following passage “Letters from Home.” Then answer questions 15–17 based upon the two letters in the passage. You may turn back to the letters as you answer questions. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

Letters from Home

August 15, 2008

Dear Matthew,

I hope you are doing well at your new home in the city. Summer is coming to an end. Out here I can almost smell when the seasons are about to change; the air
5 feels different somehow. My favorite thing to do at this time of year is to sit out on the front porch swing and watch the sun go down. With so much wide-open space, the sun looks like a huge stick of butter melting low in the sky. The weather is still very warm, but Mom’s freshly squeezed lemonade has always been a good cure for that problem!

10 The end of the summer means that the county fair is just around the corner. I have been waiting for this weekend all summer long! This year I am entering two different events in the fair: dog obedience training and photography. Do you remember my dog Cleo? Well, you may not believe this, but she is a completely different dog than she was when you saw her last year during your visit with us.

15 Cleo can now sit, stay, and roll over at my command. Dad helped me train her. He taught me to use positive reinforcement by giving her dog treats every time she did something well instead of punishing her for mistakes. As long as she stays away from the Johnsons’ dog Hannah, Cleo will have a great chance at winning. When Cleo and Hannah are around each other, they become wild. Last week they
20 knocked over a table that we had set up outside for a picnic. Can you imagine plates of potato salad and cookies flying in the air?

My photography entry for the fair focuses on the four seasons. I took pictures of the same setting—the old wooden bridge over our little creek—once a month
25 for the past year. I chose the best images for each season and placed them on a decorated poster board. I am really happy with how the images turned out, but the photography competition is always really tough. Wish me luck!

Are you excited about the beginning of school? I am. I enjoyed the summer, but I am looking forward to seeing my school friends again. I hope you, Aunt Jeanne, and Uncle Damon are doing well. Maybe you can come for a visit soon. Write when
30 you can!

Your cousin,

Sarah

August 21, 2008

Dear Sarah,

35 Thank you for your letter. The fair sounds exciting. You are right. I was shocked
to hear that Cleo has changed so much! The last time I saw her, she was jumping on
everyone and eating shoes. I hope the judges liked your pictures for the
photography exhibit. Taking pictures of the same place every month was a great
40 idea, especially considering the beautiful land around your house. What other
kinds of pictures were entered into the contest?

I really have enjoyed the summer, and I am not entirely ready for it to end. Here
in the city all of my school friends live nearby, and I am able to see them often
during school vacations. In fact, I have spent much time this summer with my friend
Derek at the city's recreation center. The center offers basketball lessons on its
45 indoor court, and Derek and I have gone almost every week. We both want to try
out for the school basketball team this coming year, and we have practiced so much
that my hand feels as if a basketball is growing out of it! If I do make the team,
maybe you could come up here for a weekend to watch one of our games.

Aside from basketball lessons, I have had another really great experience this
50 summer. As you know, Mom works at the public library downtown. This summer
she began a program called Reading Pals, where young children were paired with
older students who helped them learn how to read. Mom suggested that I
participate as one of the tutors, and I am so glad that I agreed to help out. I have
spent three hours each week working with my reading pal Christopher. He has
55 improved his skills impressively during our sessions. Helping him has made me feel
incredibly proud of myself—and of Mom for having started the Reading Pals
program.

Mom and Dad say that we will probably be able to come out to visit you and
your family in two months. I cannot wait to see you and Cleo. I am still not totally
60 convinced that she would not eat my shoes if given the chance. I am looking
forward to hearing back from you soon!

Your cousin,

Matthew

15. Which of the following sentences is an appropriate summary of Sarah's letter?

- A. Sarah is excited that the seasons are about to change and that she will see her friends at the county fair.
- B. Sarah is looking forward to starting school after all of her summer activities, including the fair.
- C. Sarah is looking forward to the county fair, where she will be focusing on dog training and photography.
- D. Sarah is planning to win at the county fair and is looking forward to her cousin's visit.

16. Which of the following statements from the two letters is an opinion?

- F. Cleo can now sit, stay, and roll over at my command.
- G. I am really happy with how the images turned out, but the photography competition is always really tough.
- H. The center offers basketball lessons on its indoor court, and Derek and I have gone almost every week.
- J. I have spent three hours each week working with my reading pal Christopher.

17. Which text structure does the author use in lines 1–9?

- A. Procedure
- B. Description
- C. Sequential order
- D. Order of importance

The following questions ask about what you read in both “Different Worlds” and “Letters from Home.” You need to think about the poem and the two letters when you answer questions 18–19.

18. Which of the following is important to the poet in “Different Worlds” but not to the cousins writing each other in “Letters from Home”?
- F. The way sounds define a place
 - G. The way weather affects a place
 - H. The rhythms of everyday life
 - J. The beauty of a natural landscape
19. Which sentence from “Letters from Home” supports the statement in line 11 of “Different Worlds” that “The country knows nothing of such hurry”?
- A. Out here you can almost smell the seasons about to change; the air feels different somehow.
 - B. My favorite thing to do this time of year is to sit out on the front porch swing and watch the sun go down.
 - C. With so much wide-open space, the sun looks like a huge stick of butter melting low in the sky.
 - D. I took pictures of the same setting—the old wooden bridge over our little creek—once a month for the past year.

Mark your answers for questions 20–22 on your answer document. Mark only one answer for each question. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

20. Which of the following words is an antonym for the word assemble?

- F. Meddle
- G. Influence
- H. Dissolve
- J. Summon

21. Which of the following sentences does not use the word notify correctly?

- A. The school board will notify students when it has made a decision about the scholarship.
- B. The brochure will notify the details of various activities available at summer camp.
- C. The drama club hung a banner in the cafeteria to notify students about an upcoming production.
- D. The family placed a sign in the front yard to notify passersby that the house is for sale.

22. Read the following paragraph.

Jeffrey sprinted onto the oval track. He was determined to run three miles, or twelve times, around the asphalt track. As he took a deep breath and fell into a smooth jogging rhythm, he hoped he would have the stamina to reach his goal. He urged his muscles to stay strong and focused on steady breathing so that fatigue would not force him to quit.

Which of the following statements justifies the use of context clues for understanding the word stamina in the paragraph?

- F. Jeffrey's hoping that fatigue would not force him to quit suggests that stamina means the physical strength to keep going.
- G. Jeffrey's urging his muscles to stay strong suggests that stamina means the importance of having a positive attitude.
- H. Jeffrey's falling into a smooth jogging rhythm suggests that stamina means the ability to stay calm and steady.
- J. Jeffrey's being determined to run three miles suggests that stamina means setting definite goals.

Read the following passage “When Is a Planet Not a Planet? When It Is Pluto!” Then answer questions 23–27 based upon the passage. You may turn back to the passage as you answer questions. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

When Is a Planet Not a Planet? When It Is Pluto!

Members of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) created intense debate among scientists in August 2006 when they officially determined that Pluto was not a planet. Pluto had been considered a planet since it was discovered in 1930. However, as scientists learned more over the years, they increasingly questioned
5 whether Pluto actually met the definition of a planet.

Part of the difficulty came from new information. Pluto is smaller than scientists originally thought. It may not have been formed by the same process that formed the other eight planets. Based on this information, scientists at the IAU meeting decided to write a new definition of the term *planet*. Part of the new definition
10 requires that a planet have no other objects in its orbit. Pluto does not fit the new definition because scientists recently discovered a large number of objects orbiting the sun beyond Neptune in the area of Pluto. Scientists named this area of the solar system the Kuiper Belt. Since Pluto does not fit the new definition of a planet, it is now called a *dwarf planet*. Other dwarf planets include Ceres, the largest asteroid
15 between Mars and Jupiter, and the newly named Eris, which is located in the region beyond Neptune.

Eris was discovered by three scientists: Professor Michael E. Brown of the California Institute of Technology, Chad Trujillo of the Gemini Observatory in Hawaii, and David Rubinowitz of Yale University. Scientists named Eris after the
20 goddess of discord and conflict in Greek mythology. The name turned out to fit well, considering all the disagreement caused by Pluto’s change to dwarf planet. Eris is larger in diameter than Pluto. It would have had to become a planet, too, if Pluto remained one. Several other large asteroids might also have been included, possibly increasing overnight the number of planets to twelve.

Because there are no longer nine planets in our solar system, other changes
25 must also be made. Planet trading cards distributed by the North American Space Agency must be changed. New science textbooks will be necessary as well as new astronomy lessons. The phrase *My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas* will not work anymore, either. In the past this phrase reminded students of the
30 nine planets in the solar system. Now there are only eight.

Many people protested the change. Some scientists do not like the new definition of a planet. Others disagree with how the voting took place. The IAU has more than nine thousand members worldwide, but only the four hundred
35 members who attended the conference could vote. Therefore, some scientists argue that this new definition of a planet and Pluto’s new label do not represent the thinking of all—or even most—scientists today.

40 This kind of change is often unpopular. Because Pluto has long been called a planet, some people question the need for change. Pluto's new label reminds everyone, however, that change is a part of life. Science must deal with new discoveries all the time. Each new fact changes what people thought they already knew. Whether or not it is called a planet, Pluto is still up there just as it always has been.

23. Which of the following sentences is not important enough to include in a summary of lines 25–30 of the passage?

- A. Planet trading cards must be changed.
- B. New science textbooks and astronomy lessons will be needed.
- C. Memory devices that worked in the past will no longer work.
- D. Now there are only eight planets.

24. Members of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) indicate that one requirement for defining a planet is that a planet have no other objects in its orbit. Now read the following inference drawn from lines 31–36.

In order for the definition of "what makes a planet a planet" to be acceptable to most scientists, a majority of scientists need to agree on that definition.

Based upon the inference, what conclusion can the reader draw about what would have made the revised definition acceptable to scientists?

- F. Scientists would have decided to question the need to change Pluto's status.
- G. Many scientists would agree on the process to label new planets.
- H. More than half of IAU members would claim Pluto was deserving of special attention.
- J. Most of the membership of the IAU would have attended the August 2006 meeting.

25. Which sentence from the passage justifies the idea that the name given to the dwarf planet Eris was somehow fitting in relation to the change in Pluto's status?
- A. Each new fact changes what people thought they already knew.
 - B. Eris is larger in diameter than Pluto.
 - C. Many people protested the change.
 - D. Science must deal with new discoveries all the time.
-
26. Which statement justifies the author's concern that Pluto's reclassification as a dwarf planet is not a view that the majority of space scientists share?
- F. Members of the IAU voted that the dwarf planet Eris should be considered a planet, too, thus preserving Pluto's status as a planet.
 - G. Only four hundred of the nine thousand members of the IAU actually voted that Pluto should be defined as a dwarf planet instead of a planet.
 - H. The recent discovery of large objects orbiting the sun beyond Neptune shows that Pluto should be a planet, not a dwarf planet.
 - J. Pluto has not changed or moved in the sky since it was defined as a dwarf planet; therefore, the change serves no scientific purpose.
27. Which text structure does the author use in this passage?
- A. Compare/contrast
 - B. Order of importance
 - C. Cause/effect
 - D. Procedure

Mark your answers for questions 28–30 on your answer document. Mark only one answer for each question. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

28. Read the following sentences.

Max sat watching the hands of the clock move on the last afternoon of school. He thought to himself, "This is like watching grass grow."

What does the simile "like watching grass grow" tell you about what Max is thinking?

- F. He is amazed by how slowly time is passing.
- G. He knows that the afternoon will end soon.
- H. He is thinking about a grassy meadow.
- J. He knows he has to go mow the lawn.

29. Read the following sentence.

The teachers were unyielding in their demand for excellent performance from their students.

Based on the prefix un-, what does unyielding mean in this sentence?

- A. Fair
- B. Clear
- C. Mistaken
- D. Determined

30. Read the following dictionary entry.

singular ('sin-gyə -lər) *adj* 1. being only one 2. superior or remarkable 3. unusual or odd

Based upon the dictionary entry above, which of the following sentences does not use the word singular correctly?

- F. We went the wrong way driving home and had quite a singular experience when a moose ran onto the road next to us.
- G. John's chopping three truckloads of wood in one afternoon was a singular achievement.
- H. The gymnast's perfect scores in all events marked a singular moment in her career.
- J. Estella's singular version of the hymn was identical to the version her aunt had sung just a week earlier.

Read the following passage “The Hillsboro Times.” Then answer questions 31–35 based upon the passage. You may turn back to the passage as you answer questions. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

The Hillsboro Times

Classified Advertisements

Welcome to the classified advertisement section of *The Hillsboro Times*. We place these small advertisements in one convenient location in our newspaper and order them by category to make searching easier. We include this helpful section of advertisements to inform our readers of coming events and important announcements. We also advertise items that are for sale and notify readers of job openings and volunteer opportunities. When creating a classified advertisement, we want to provide as much information as possible in a small space. Often the advertisements use abbreviations and shortened forms of terms and names. For a guide to the number codes and abbreviations, see the key that follows the classified section.

1000 – Lost and Found	Lessons (cont.)	Athletic Teams (cont.)
LOST – overweight orange and white cat last seen in downtown area. Cat answers to the name “Mittens” REWARD OFFERED! Call 601-555-1234.	GUITAR LESSONS – Learn to play like a rock star! Sammy T. at Lyrics Music Co. is now offering guitar lessons. Students receive lessons for half price! Call 601-555-4767.	FALL SOCCER TOURNAMENT – Sign up now! See Coach McCall at Lakeshore Middle School. Positions are available on both girls’ and boys’ teams. Sign up between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mon. – Fri.
1001 – Volunteer Opportunities	1003 – For Sale	1005 – Announcements
ATTN: MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS – Middle school students are needed to help with yard wrk. at Project Children Day Care Center. Thurs.-Sat. Have parents call 601-555-7767.	BOARD GAMES FOR SALE – We have all the newest and best games. Come see our selection at Games Alive in the Deer Park Mall or call 601-555-GAME.	MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION – Thurs., Aug. 10th 7:30 p.m. at George Washington Middle School Meet your teachers and make new friends before the school year begins.
CALLING ALL TEENS – Hillsboro Public Library is looking for volunteer teens to help launch our new reading program. Call the library at 601-555-7660.	MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR SALE – Closing our doors after 10 yrs. Cage Music Co. is selling all musical instruments at a HUGE discount. Come see us at 188 Main St. in Hillsboro.	FREE SWIMMING – The Greenland Rec. Center pool will be open for free swimming in September! Grab your swimming suit and dive into the fun!
1002 – Lessons	1004 – Athletic Teams	FREE MOVIES – The Super 5 Cinema on Ross St. will present free movies on Fridays during the month of August.
LEARN TO COOK – Help out with your family’s meals and have fun! Come to cooking lessons for teens. Call Jan at 601-555-7933.	ATTN: SOFTBALL PLAYERS – Middle school boys and girls are needed for summer softball league. Call the city Rec. Dept. at 601-555-2332.	

Number Codes

- 1000—Lost and Found
 1001—Volunteer Opportunities
 1002—Lessons
 1003—For Sale
 1004—Athletic Teams
 1005—Announcements

Abbreviations

- ATTN.—ATTENTION
 Co.—Company
 Dept.—Department
 Rec.—Recreation
 wrk.—work

31. Based upon information in the passage, which of the following can readers conclude is a logical outcome?

- A. More girls than boys will sign up for the soccer tournament.
- B. Cage Music Co. will make enough money during its sale to allow it to stay open for business.
- C. Crowds will be very large at the Super 5 Cinema on Fridays in August.
- D. Students who take guitar lessons from Sammy T. will become rock stars.

32. Read the advertisement that the Humphrey family submitted to *The Hillsboro Times*.

HELP WANTED: We need someone to help us clean out our garage. Good hourly wage. Up to twenty hours of work over two weekends. Applicants should be able to lift heavy boxes. Call 603-499-5432 between 5 and 8 p.m. for more information.

Why will *The Hillsboro Times* publish this advertisement?

- F. *The Hillsboro Times* considers Help Wanted announcements to belong to the Classified section of the newspaper.
- G. *The Hillsboro Times* is the logical place to advertise for the help the Humphrey family needs.
- H. *The Hillsboro Times* is the main newspaper in Hillsboro and should be required to run all types of advertisements.
- J. *The Hillsboro Times* mentions that the newspaper notifies readers of job announcements.

33. What can readers infer is the reason that Lyrics Music, Co. offers guitar lessons to students for half price?

- A. Lyrics Music Co. prefers students over other customers.
- B. Lyrics Music Co. is aware that few students have income.
- C. Lyrics Music Co. wants everyone to learn how to play guitar.
- D. Lyrics Music Co. is going out of business.

34. Read the following classified advertisement from *The Hillsboro Times*.

GUITAR LESSONS – Learn to play like a rock star! Sammy T. at Lyrics Music Co. is now offering guitar lessons. Students receive lessons for half price! Call 601-555-4767.

Which tool of persuasion is used in this advertisement?

- F. Association
- G. Tabloid thinking
- H. Repetition
- J. Plain folks

35. A student has begun the following summary of the passage.

The classified section of *The Hillsboro Times* offers a selection of advertisements regarding services, events, and opportunities available to readers. The advertisements are short and often include abbreviations.

Which sentence will the student use to complete the summary?

- A. *The Hillsboro Times* welcomes its readers to the classified advertisement section of the paper.
- B. The advertisements are ordered by category in one location to make searching easier.
- C. The section is included to inform readers of coming events and important announcements.
- D. The abbreviation "Dept." stands for the word "Department."

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON THE PREVIOUS SECTION. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN BACK ONCE YOU HAVE BEGUN THIS SECTION OF THE TEST.



Section 2

Writing

Mark your answers for questions 36–70 on your answer document. Mark only one answer for each question. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

36. Which of the following sentences contains an adverb clause?

- F. The speaker who reads the morning announcements has a clear, distinct voice.
- G. Henry's dog, whose tail is always wagging, is the perfect pet.
- H. Manuel visits the library often because he enjoys reading.
- J. My sister walks my neighbor's dog after school each Tuesday and Thursday.

37. Which sentence includes a transitive verb?

- A. Cindy cleans her room each morning before school.
- B. Matt slept well at his grandparents' house last night.
- C. Our neighbor's dog and another one down the street barked all night long.
- D. The blue glass fell off the counter and broke into many pieces.

38. Which sentence does not use commas correctly?

- F. As he wove his way carefully up the mountain road, the driver of the old car leaned forward in his seat.
- G. My grandfather, who is seventy years old, enjoys coming to this scenic lookout each season.
- H. A deer, which appears golden-colored in the sunlight, steps from behind a fallen tree and watches the car.
- J. When the young woman with the elaborate camera, takes pictures of the scene she waits for perfect lighting.

39. Which sentence uses italics correctly?

- A. Brian is writing a poem called *Marion Donovan, Creative Inventor*.
- B. The Educational Channel will broadcast a play called *Marion Donovan's Wonderful Invention*.
- C. The first chapter of Marion Donovan's biography is entitled *The Early Years*.
- D. Estelle is writing a story about Marion Donovan called *A Woman's Creativity*.

40. Tyson has written the following narrative paragraph.

(1) Alex spotted the doe and her fawn in the clearing ahead of him. (2) He tried to conceal himself in the tall grass as he crept closer. (3) He then knelt on the ground, took aim, and shot the picture. (4) At that moment the doe jerked her head into the air, turned around, and bolted through the trees with her fawn leaping and running behind her.

Based upon feedback from his teacher, Tyson decides to add this sentence between sentences 2 and 3.

He quietly flipped his backpack off his shoulder and groped inside it until he found his camera.

How does this additional sentence improve Tyson's paragraph?

- F. The sentence shows that Alex is prepared to take the picture.
- G. The sentence reveals why taking a picture is important to Alex.
- H. The sentence reveals that the doe and her fawn are startled by the noise Alex makes.
- J. The sentence explains why Alex is creeping toward the doe and the fawn.

41. Jake's teacher has given him an assignment to write a persuasive speech. Read what he has written.

(1) Students should be allowed to chew gum in school. (2) In tests, scientists have found that the ability to memorize information increases when a person chews gum. (3) The act of chewing raises the heart rate and causes more oxygen to be pumped into the brain. (4) Chewing gum could also help raise student test scores. (5) Studies show the act of chewing reduces anxiety.

Which of the following will Jake add to his speech after sentence 1 for more effective organization?

- A. They enjoy the sweet flavor of gum.
- B. They try to chew gum in school anyway.
- C. Chewing gum has many benefits.
- D. Some chewing gum is sugar-free.

42. Read the narrative paragraph Brianna has started for her English class.

David ran and grabbed the metal fishing pole from the corner of the garage. He raced to his grandfather's small pickup truck parked in the driveway. He struggled to open the passenger door with only one hand as he gripped his pole in the other. His grandfather welcomed him with a broad smile and turned the key in the ignition. The engine sputtered for a moment and then fell into a steady rhythm.

Which sentence below adds a detail using vivid words to Brianna's paragraph?

- F. David could hardly control his excitement as he thought about the day ahead.
- G. David grinned as he bounced into his seat and snapped his seatbelt shut.
- H. David's grandfather slowly backed the pickup truck down the long driveway.
- J. David's grandfather looked relieved that the truck had started so easily.

43. Which of the following sentences does not correctly use italics?

- A. My sister is writing for a local magazine called *What's Good about Our Town*.
- B. My teacher's favorite book is *The Jungle Book*.
- C. With his short story *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, Mark Twain gained instant fame.
- D. *Good Times* was a popular television series in the seventies.

44. Which sentence correctly uses the future perfect tense?

- F. The trash already will have been collected by 2:00 on Thursday.
- G. The trash will be collected at 2:00 on Thursday every week in the summer.
- H. Yoko will take out the trash later tonight after she eats dinner.
- J. Mike will have more chores during the week than on weekends.

45. Which of the following uses a compound subject and a compound predicate?

- A. Jerome visits the school library every Tuesday and Thursday so that he can read books and perform research on the computer.
- B. The tallest girl in the class, Marianne, and her best friend Angela ride their bikes to the city pool during the summer and swim all afternoon.
- C. The students who participate in art club often display their work on the bulletin boards by the office and the hallway on the second floor.
- D. Musical groups and members of the drama club entertain the entire school many times during the year when they perform in school assemblies.

46. Which of the following sentences is correct?

- F. The table full of pies look very attractive.
- G. The dues for the club is always collected on Monday.
- H. A flock of geese are migrating to the South.
- J. Each of the books belongs on a separate shelf.

47. Danielle is writing a speech to persuade the school to add dance to the P.E. program. She started by writing an outline. Read the following draft of her outline.

Reasons for Adding Dance in P.E.

- I. Good exercise
 - A. Move more gracefully
 - B. Build strong muscles
- II. Additional benefits
 - A. Cooperate with others
 - B. Use it outside of school

Which of the following reasons belongs under "II. Additional benefits"?

- A. Get an active workout
- B. Develop strong legs
- C. Learn social skills
- D. Improve balance

Read the following draft of a story that Roderick is writing for a class assignment. Then answer questions 48–49 based upon the draft.

(1) On the day of my first camping trip, I piled into the car with my mother and my sister, slamming the door shut in my eagerness to go. (2) Mom turned the key in the ignition and smiled broadly at us as we bounced excitedly in our seats. (3) Still smiling, she told us we had to buckle our seat belts before she could start driving.

(4) Time seemed to drag as we traveled the winding route to the remote camping grounds. (5) When we finally pulled into our camping space, I leaped from the car and raced to unpack our gear. (6) We all huffed and puffed as we struggled to set up camp. (7) When the work was done, we heaved three great sighs of relief and sank down onto a nearby log to plan the rest of our adventure.

48. Which of the following sentences will Roderick add to the story to include specific detail?

- F. I had always wanted to go on a camping trip with my family, and I was thrilled to finally be on my way.
- G. We had stuffed our equipment into three bulging backpacks, which sat nestled in the trunk of the car.
- H. I hoped that we would be able to go fishing in the nearby lake the next day.
- J. We had to spend a lot of time setting up the site, and we were exhausted.

49. Roderick wants to insert this sentence that utilizes vivid word choice between sentences 4 and 5.

As we turned a sharp corner, we saw the campsite, a vast green space that begged to be explored, in front of us.

Which of the following justifies this decision?

- A. The sentence introduces a point of view that is different from the point of view of the narrator.
- B. The sentence clarifies the sequence of events in the narrative.
- C. The sentence shows the rising action in the plot of the narrative.
- D. The sentence reveals a reason why the narrator is so eager to go camping.

Read the following paragraph from a report on calendars. Then answer questions 50–51 based upon the report.

Calendars have been around for thousands of years. Early people used the seasons and changes in the position of the sun and moon to measure the passage of time. As far back as 10,000 years, the Egyptians had a calendar similar to the ones we use today. The Egyptian calendar had 12 months but used only 360 days for a year. Each Egyptian month had 30 days. Although the Egyptians had devised a good calendar, they may not have known that the earth's orbit around the sun is $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days. As a result, the Egyptian calendar lost a few days each year.

50. Which of the following sentences adds a supporting detail to the main idea of the paragraph?
- F. The Egyptians divided the daytime into 12 hours and the nighttime into another 12.
 - G. During the day they used a sundial to measure time, and at night they used the stars.
 - H. Their calendar was divided into three seasons that corresponded with the cycles of the Nile.
 - J. The Egyptians also used water clocks to measure the passing of time.
51. Which informational text can the student add to the report that clearly expresses a supporting detail that includes a solution to a problem?
- A. The beginning of the year was marked by the emergence of the star Sirius.
 - B. Holidays and festivals are special days to celebrate the coming of a new year or to honor heroes.
 - C. For much of Egyptian history, the months were numbered rather than referred to by individual names.
 - D. Eventually five days of public holidays were added to the calendar to bring the year to three hundred sixty-five days.

52. Jordan is researching the planets for a report on the solar system.

Read the information he has found about the planet Jupiter.

The most distinctive characteristic of Jupiter is its Great Red Spot, a spiraling collection of gas that resembles a hurricane. The widest diameter of the spot is about three times that of Earth. The color of the spot usually varies from brick-red to light brown. For the spot to fade entirely is rare.

Which of the following is a sentence Jordan can use in his report that correctly paraphrases the information in the box?

- F. Jupiter has a Great Red Spot that is three times the size of Earth, consists of gas that whirls around with the force of a hurricane, and changes its color frequently.
- G. The Great Red Spot on Jupiter is the planet's most outstanding characteristic because of its enormous size and its ability, though rare, to disappear completely.
- H. A unique feature of Jupiter is its Great Red Spot, a mass of swirling gas that changes from red to brown in color and has a diameter that is three times the diameter of Earth.
- J. Jupiter's most well-known feature is its Great Red Spot, an enormous hurricane that changes from red to brown when it swirls around and, on rare occasions, fades completely from view.

53. Which sentence does not have a direct object?

- A. The association's prize was given this year to the best science fair project for grade 6.
- B. The principal thanked the parents for their participation in school activities.
- C. Parents who will be picking up their children must send the school a note before 3:30 in the afternoon.
- D. We need parents' ideas and suggestions about guidelines for field trips.

54. Read the following sentence.

The performance concluded at ten o'clock with the customery applause.

Which word in the sentence is not spelled correctly?

- F. performance
- G. concluded
- H. customery
- J. applause

55. Rory wrote the following sentences.

Last night our family waited for my sister's famous Sunday night sandwiches. These sandwiches have cheese, bologna, mustard, and pickles. We sat at the kitchen table in anticipation. Then my oldest sister announced that we had no bread. She hopped into the car, drove to the store, and bought a loaf of bread. We were very relieved.

Rory receives a teacher comment that she needs to combine sentences by using an adjective clause.

Her teacher approves her revision.

Which of the following revisions did Rory make?

- A. Last night we sat at the kitchen table and thought about our favorite sandwiches, ones with cheese, bologna, mustard, and pickles.
- B. Since we were very hungry, we waited with eager anticipation for those famous sandwiches with stacks of our favorite ingredients on them.
- C. Because we looked around and saw no bread, my oldest sister hurried out the door, hopped into the car, and drove straight to the store.
- D. We were very happy when my sister, who was smiling now, drove into our yard and proudly waved a loaf of bread out the car window.

56. Geoffrey is writing a descriptive paragraph about his grandmother.

Read what he has written so far.

My grandmother sat in the overstuffed chair in the corner of the living room. Her long white hair was piled on top of her head, and her dark-rimmed reading glasses had slipped halfway down her nose. She hummed quietly to herself as she stared out the nearby window. Slightly soiled tennis shoes peaked out from under her long cotton skirt, and her feet were crossed at the ankles.

Which of the following is not a sentence Geoffrey will use in his paragraph if he wants to add sensory details?

- F. A breeze from the nearby open window ruffled her skirt.
- G. The clear notes of a cardinal's morning song filled the air and made her smile.
- H. She drummed her fingers on the chair's wide armrest as she kept time to music she was humming.
- J. She looked peaceful and relaxed as she sat for a long time in her chair by the window.

Read the following draft that Alex has written for class. Then answer questions 57–58 based upon the draft.

“Well, Benji,” said Dr. Osburn. “These x-rays show that your arm is broken. I’m going to put a cast on your arm. The cast will hold your bone in place while it grows back together.”

Dr. Osburn held up what looked like a long thin sock. “This is called a stockinet,” Dr. Osburn explained. “The stockinet goes on first to protect your skin from the rough cast.” Dr. Osburn was quick but careful, and soon the stockinet rested around Benji’s arm like a sleeve. Next, she put soft cotton around his arm so that it looked like a pillow. “This is for extra softness,” she explained.

“Last, we roll on strips of wet fiberglass to make the cast.” Dr. Osburn explained that casts are made out of either plaster or fiberglass. She chose fiberglass because it comes in different colors. Benji asked Dr. Osburn if she could match the color of his skateboard. She could, and she did.

The cast started to feel hard after about fifteen minutes; but Dr. Osburn warned, “Be careful for the next two days. It will take that long for your cast to become completely dry and hard. And after that, young man, no skateboards until this cast comes off!”

57. Alex decided to add the paragraph below to the beginning of his draft.

Benji could not believe that he had fallen the first time he had ridden his new skateboard. Now here he was in the emergency room waiting for the doctor to confirm what Benji already knew—that he had broken his arm.

How does this paragraph improve Alex’s draft?

- A. The paragraph supports the order of importance text structure by defining the context.
- B. The paragraph supports the author's purpose by defining the audience.
- C. The paragraph improves organization by providing an introduction.
- D. The paragraph improves elaboration by providing details.

58. Alex's teacher asks him to revise the end of the third paragraph to include descriptive details.

Which of the following revisions adds descriptive details to the third paragraph?

- F. Benji asked Dr. Osburn to show him some of the various colors available for the cast. Benji decided on some of the brightest colors that were on his skateboard, and the colors made his cast look like a rainbow.
- G. Benji asked for a special color for his cast. Dr. Osburn showed him the colors she could use. Benji happily pointed to a bright shiny silver.
- H. Benji asked Dr. Osburn if she could match the bright color of his skateboard. She chose a vivid color that made Benji happy. Benji smiled proudly as he gazed at his colorful cast.
- J. Benji asked Dr. Osburn whether his cast could match the shiny metallic trim on his skateboard. The fiberglass of the cast had a shimmering glaze that now matched the reflective finish of his skateboard.

59. Which of the following illustrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. Each person in the scheduled events have a chance for a cash reward or a trophy.
- B. Everyone in the art classes are excited about the art exhibit at the city's new art museum.
- C. Mrs. Websterian or the other teachers in that group has decided on a new name for the school's mascot.
- D. The new members or their representative is ready for a leadership role during the convention for state clubs.

61. Which of the following uses commas correctly?

- A. Even though we arrived, at the restaurant early we had to wait for an empty table.
- B. Because the score was so lop-sided the crowd left the game, well before it was over.
- C. After completing all of our homework my sister and I will play outside, and visit with our friends.
- D. Since we moved into our new house, we have spent every weekend unpacking boxes.

60. Which of the following sentences is a complex sentence?

- F. During her days off from school last week, my friend Emily walked over three miles in the city's walkathon.
- G. After the damage from the winter weather, my school had classes in an office building near my home.
- H. My neighbors enjoy the long days during the summer when we can play ball even after supper.
- J. Some people in the stands at the soccer game wanted more excitement before the end of the game.

62. Which of the following uses a semicolon correctly?

- F. By carefully memorizing her lines; Amica performed well at the play try-outs.
- G. Cassandra clapped with enthusiasm; her team had won the soccer match.
- H. Lamar wanted a tuna sandwich for lunch; but his mom gave him a hamburger.
- J. After Jackson used a new method for shooting free-throws; he made six in a row.

Read the following report that Jaime has written about Iceland. Then answer questions 63–64 based upon the report.

(1) Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean that was formed by volcanic action. (2) Iceland was once covered by glaciers. (3) Glaciers and volcanoes still exist on the island, but the glaciers cover only a small portion of the land. (4) The volcanoes provide hot water and hot springs. (5) The volcanoes keep the temperatures on Iceland relatively mild and pleasant. (6) The island was discovered by Vikings from Norway in the ninth century. (7) In 860, Floki Vilgerdason named the island "Iceland." (8) Iceland did not have a permanent settlement until 874. (9) Most of the original settlers migrated from Norway, and Iceland still holds on to its Norwegian Viking beginning.

63. Jaime has decided to change his report by adding the following paragraph about the Vikings.

The Vikings were expert sailors and warriors. They settled on other North Atlantic islands such as Greenland and Newfoundland, as well as in areas of Europe as far south as Sicily off the coast of Italy. The Vikings are also known for their rich tradition of mythology with its fascinating stories about gods and heroes.

Which of the following statements justifies Jaime's decision to add information about the Vikings?

- A. The additional information will provide important background that explains the Viking influence in Iceland.
- B. The additional information will explain how the Vikings spread throughout England, Europe, and Russia.
- C. The additional information will tell about the Norse gods that protected the Vikings on long voyages.
- D. The additional information will give the names of the Viking rulers who sailed to Greenland and Newfoundland.

64. While doing research, Jaime found the following two sources about Iceland's volcanoes.

Source 1

The volcanoes have been terribly destructive to Iceland but also beneficial. Some eruptions caused famines and destroyed homes. However, the volcanoes created Iceland and its unusual and beautiful landscape.

Source 2

Volcanoes created beautiful rock formations that become especially magnificent at sunset. The beauty of these volcano-created rock formations has benefited Iceland by attracting travellers from countries throughout the world.

Which of the following explains why Jaime decided that the first source was more useful for his report?

- F. The first source explains why Iceland is not very heavily populated.
- G. The first source addresses the contrast between the benefit and the harm from the action of the volcanoes.
- H. The first source explores the cause of volcanic eruptions.
- J. The first source emphasizes the benefits caused by the volcanoes.

65. Read the following paragraph that Betsy wrote about her sister Janine.

For weeks Janine has been planning something different for the family's party. She is going to surprise everyone with a freshly baked peach cobbler. She enjoys baking, and our mother is ready to help. Janine has written to Grandmother for the family peach cobbler recipe. Janine and Mother have shopped for the groceries she needs. She and Mother also have bought fresh, ripe peaches at the Farmer's Market. Janine is eager to start baking.

Betsy revised her paragraph about Janine's peach cobbler as follows.

Janine is baking her favorite dessert for our family celebration. Last week Grandmother gave Janine her secret family recipe for peach cobbler. No one knows what makes the peach cobbler so tasty, but all the family members agree that it is the best peach cobbler they have ever eaten. Yesterday Janine went with our mother to the Farmers' Market and bought fresh, ripe peaches. This morning they put all the ingredients together; and just before the guests arrived, Mother popped the cobbler into the oven. Now the sweet fragrance of peach cobbler is filling the air and making everyone's mouth water.

Which of the following statements justifies Betsy's revisions to the original paragraph?

- A. The additional details help readers experience the preparation of peach cobbler.
- B. The additional details explain why the Farmers' Market has the best fruit for the peach cobbler.
- C. The additional details show how important collecting old family recipes can be.
- D. The additional details remind the reader of the good smells that come from baking.

66. Read the following descriptive paragraph Jovan has written.

(1) The arena was packed with people. (2) Most were wearing bright red t-shirts, sweatshirts, and sweaters to show off the home team's colors. (3) A small band on wooden risers blasted lively music in the corner by the basketball court. (4) _____ (5) The players were zigzagging on the court, performing a lay-up drill as the scoreboard clock ticked down on its way to zero.

Which of the following sentences will Jovan add as sentence 4 in order to use sensory details in his paragraph?

- F. The sound of the fans in the gymnasium grew louder as the pregame activities came to a close and students began screaming for their team.
- G. Students jumped up and down in unison as their chants echoed across the court to the opposing team's students waving their orange and black Panthers Forever flags.
- H. As the team members prepared for the start of the game, they noticed the enthusiasm of the crowd and picked up the pace of their entry onto the court.
- J. The sound of the music in the gymnasium had a noticeable effect on the excitement of the fans in the bleachers, which seemed to be bouncing with the people.

67. Which sentence uses the future perfect verb tense?

- A. Cereals will change in the future, but now they are all made from grains.
- B. Many people trying new food will eat more cereal in the future.
- C. SuperLean is a fairly new cereal, but soon similar cereals will have a place on grocery shelves.
- D. By next year thousands of people who eat cereal will have eaten many bowls of SuperLean.

68. Which sentence correctly uses a relative pronoun?

- F. The person who broke the vase will have to replace it.
- G. The student council candidate which gets the most votes wins.
- H. They are a dedicated team which always try to win.
- J. Animals who live in colder climates usually have thicker fur.

69. Which of the following sentences contains an adverb clause?

- A. The girl who designed the school play's stage set is extremely artistic.
- B. Allison, the lead actress in the school play, was very nervous at the beginning of the play.
- C. After the school play was over, everyone went out to our favorite restaurant for dessert.
- D. The restaurant was previously owned by one of my best friend's parents.

70. Which of the following does not use commas correctly?

- F. Because my grandfather lives only two blocks from me, he offered to take me to school tomorrow.
- G. While the orchestra played, I tapped my foot, because the rhythm of the music was very lively.
- H. Since I saw the insect, which was a large hairy cockroach, I have lost my appetite.
- J. My art class, which used to meet on Saturdays, starts today after school.

BE SURE YOU HAVE MARKED ALL YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



GRADE

6

**LANGUAGE ARTS
PRACTICE TEST**