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Student Name _____

School Name _____

District Name/LEA _____

Grade 8
English Language Arts/Literacy
End-of-Year Assessment
Practice Test

B

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School Use Only

F State Student Identifier

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D Gender

Female Male

E Date of Birth

Day	Month	Year
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1	Feb	1
2	Mar	2
3	Apr	3
4	May	4
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Directions:

Today, you will be taking the Grade 8 English Language Arts/Literacy End-of-Year Practice Test.

You will be asked to read one or more passages. Read each passage and all questions carefully. Some questions will ask you to choose one correct answer, while others will ask you to choose more than one correct answer. You may look back at the passage or passages when needed.

Mark your answers by filling in the circles in your Test Booklet. Do not make any stray marks in the Test Booklet. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

To answer a question that asks you to pick one answer, fill in the circle as shown in your Test Booklet.

A B C D E F G

To answer a question that asks you to pick more than one answer, fill in the circles as shown in your Test Booklet.

A B C D E F G

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may skip it and go on. If you finish the test early, you may review your answers and any questions you may have skipped.

- 8 Now on the northeast coast of the Aegean Sea, there was a city of men. Troy was its name, a great city surrounded by strong walls, and standing on a hill hard by the shore. It had grown rich on the tolls that its kings demanded from merchant ships passing up the nearby straits to the Black Sea cornlands and down again. Priam, who was now king, was lord of wide realms and long-maned horses, and he had many sons about his hearth. And when the quarrel about the golden apple was still raw and new, a last son was born to him and his wife Queen Hecuba, and they called him Paris.
- 9 There should have been great rejoicing, but while Hecuba still carried the babe within her, the soothsayers had foretold that she would give birth to a firebrand that should burn down Troy. And so, when he was born and named, the king bade a servant carry him out into the wilderness and leave him to die. The servant did as he was bid; but a herdsman searching for a missing calf found the babe and brought him up as his own.
- 10 The boy grew tall and strong and beautiful, the swiftest runner and the best archer in all the country around. So his boyhood passed among the oak woods and the high hill—pastures that rose toward Mount Ida. And there he met and fell in love with a wood nymph called Oenone, who loved him in return. She had the gift of being able to heal the wounds of mortal men, no matter how sorely they were hurt. Among the oak woods they lived together and were happy, until one day three jealous goddesses, still quarreling about the golden apple, chanced to look down from Olympus, and saw the beautiful young man herding his cattle on the slopes of Mount Ida. They knew, for the gods know all things, that he was the son of Priam, king of Troy, though he himself did not know it yet; but the thought came to them that he would not know who they were, and therefore he would not be afraid to judge between them. They were growing somewhat weary of the argument by then.
- 11 So they tossed the apple down to him, and Paris put up his hands and caught it. After it the three came down, landing before him so lightly that their feet did not bend the mountain grasses, and bade him choose between them, which was the fairest and had best right to the prize he held in his hand.

from The Golden Apple—Public Domain

2. Part A

In the passage, the author makes the reader aware of certain facts that are not revealed to Paris. How does this awareness create suspense for the reader?

- Ⓐ The reader knows that Paris will likely offend two of the goddesses by judging their beauty.
- Ⓑ The reader knows that Paris will likely be too fearful of the goddesses' wrath to choose a winner.
- Ⓒ The reader knows that Paris will likely beg the goddesses' mercy and eventually be reunited with his birth family.
- Ⓓ The reader knows that Paris will stir the jealousy of the goddesses toward him because of his own abilities and fair looks.

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 10 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "The boy grew tall and strong and beautiful, the swiftest runner and the best archer in all the country around."
- Ⓑ "Among the oak woods they lived together and were happy"
- Ⓒ "They knew, for the gods know all things, that he was the son of Priam, king of Troy"
- Ⓓ ". . . but the thought came to them that he would not know who they were, and therefore he would not be afraid to judge between them."

4. Part A

In paragraph 3, Eris tosses the golden apple on the table. What does this action reveal about Eris?

- Ⓐ She understands that others will be drawn to the mystery of how the apple appeared.
- Ⓑ She understands that the golden apple will bring riches to the one who is judged worthy to possess it.
- Ⓒ She understands that appealing to weaknesses in others can cause chaos.
- Ⓓ She understands that justice can be served best by initiating a contest.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . lay gleaming among the piled fruits . . .” (paragraph 4)
- Ⓑ “. . . arguing among themselves . . .” (paragraph 6)
- Ⓒ “. . . now king, was lord of wide realms . . .” (paragraph 8)
- Ⓓ “. . . he would not be afraid to judge . . .” (paragraph 10)

Today you will read two articles that explain how to participate in two sports which are growing in popularity.

Read the passage from "A Beginner's Guide to Snowboarding." Then answer questions 6 and 7.

from "A Beginner's Guide to Snowboarding"

by Monica Nelson

- 1 So, are you getting as excited for the season as I am? Not only is snowboarding fun, but it's good for you, too. You can burn up to 400 or 500 calories an hour, and you work your entire body. I'm talking your legs (glutes, hamstrings, calves and especially your quads, as well as your core and back muscles). Snowboarding with your family is also a fun way to stay active and connected this winter. Plus, your kids will think you're very cool.
- 2 The best situation is learning on a mountain that's not pure ice and isn't too intimidating. Start by taking a few lessons or go with a friend who's a great teacher – and very patient. Hopefully this same friend also has extra gear for you and can show you the ropes for a day or two. (Bonus points if she has a hot tub for the hours after the hill, too.)

Getting Your Gear

- 3 The most important items to pay attention to are your board, bindings and boots. Chances are, you're not trying to make a living at this, so you may feel like you need just the basic equipment. However, it's important to consider that higher-end gear can give you much more control, which generally results in less falling, and therefore keeps you more comfortable. Your local ski and snowboard shop will hook you right up. Tell them it's your first time, and they should do a great job of telling you everything you need to know.
- 4 So what size board do you need? It depends mainly on your weight and height. For example, a board that's too big will be more difficult to maneuver and control, while a board that's too small may feel loose and harder to control at high speeds and in deeper snow. Having comfortable boots that fit is very important, too – it's frustrating if they're too big or tight. The good news is that the crew at the shop will suggest what size board, boots and bindings you need.

the next day. This is normal; just make sure to give yourself proper rest. Spend some time in a hot tub, or try an Epsom salt bath if you really have muscle soreness.

- 13 Most important, remember to have fun and that nothing happens over night. Snowboarding is one of the most rewarding sports to learn and a great way to enjoy the winter.

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7. Part A

Based on the passage, what can the reader infer is one purpose the author has for writing "A Beginner's Guide to Snowboarding"?

- Ⓐ to promote snowboarding by discussing the benefits it offers for people willing to learn the sport
- Ⓑ to provide objective instructions to help beginning snowboarders improve their skills
- Ⓒ to advise beginners about the benefits and hazards of participating in an extreme sport
- Ⓓ to entertain the reader with humorous anecdotes about how she learned to snowboard

Part B

Which **three** sentences from the passage **best** support the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "Not only is snowboarding fun, but it's good for you, too." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ "Snowboarding with your family is also a fun way to stay active and connected this winter." (paragraph 1)
- Ⓒ "These basics are very important, because you don't want to develop bad habits." (paragraph 6)
- Ⓓ "Go slow at first, and you'll be just fine." (paragraph 7)
- Ⓔ "To be completely honest, I broke my wrist while I was learning, and I also bruised my tail bone." (paragraph 10)
- Ⓕ "When you're first coming down the mountain, it's important to learn how to stop, control your speed and make long, proper turns." (paragraph 12)
- Ⓖ "Snowboarding is one of the most rewarding sports to learn and a great way to enjoy the winter." (paragraph 13)

or glass fiber and resin. There are 3 basic types: freestyle, freeride, and speed.

- 9 The cheapest boards retail for about \$150 (good online vendors include www.venomousboards.com and www.oceanculture.com) while rentals range from \$10-50 a day. If you're on a budget, there are plenty of tips online about making your own.

Technique

- 10 Place your board pointing downhill, without letting it run away from you. Strap yourself in while sitting down on the sand.
- 11 Stand up with both knees bent and your head facing the direction you are going, keeping your weight over the center of the board. Holding your arms out for balance, shift your weight to your back foot and take off.

Where to go

- 12 While most sand dunes are open parks with free access, it is important to keep conservation in mind, as dunes can be fragile ecosystems. Before heading out to a particular location, do some research on acceptable use and designated areas.

● Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, USA

Monte Kaolino, Germany

Great Sea of Sand, Egypt

Namib Desert, Namibia

Fish Hoek Dunes, South Africa

South and Western Australia

Cerro Blanco, Peru

Huacachina, Peru

Cerro Iman, Chile

Taklamakan Desert, China

WWW.MATADORNETWORK.COM

9. Part A

In paragraph 4 of “How to get started sandboarding,” the author refers to sandboarding as a “**niche** sport.” What is the meaning of **niche** as it is used in the article?

- Ⓐ Sandboarding is an activity that offers more excitement than similar sports.
- Ⓑ Sandboarding is a specialized sport that offers a unique experience to a few people.
- Ⓒ Sandboarding is one way to achieve recognition in the sports world.
- Ⓓ Sandboarding is a more environmentally friendly activity than other sports.

Part B

Which paragraphs offer the **best** support for the meaning of **niche**?

- Ⓐ paragraphs 1 and 2
- Ⓑ paragraphs 5 and 6
- Ⓒ paragraphs 8 and 9
- Ⓓ paragraphs 11 and 12

Read the passage from “Emerald Ash Borer.” Then answer questions 12 through 16.

from “Emerald Ash Borer”

by Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

- 1 The emerald ash borer is a small, green beetle that belongs to a large family of beetles known as the buprestids, or metallic wood boring beetles. The description is apt, as many of the adult buprestids are indeed glossy, appearing as if their wing covers are made of polished metal. The emerald ash borer, with its green, iridescent wing covers, fits right in. Adult EABs are between 0.3 to 0.55 inches in length—small by most standards but large compared to other buprestids—and relatively slender.
- 2 During its life cycle, EAB undergoes a complete metamorphosis. It starts as an egg, becomes a larva (alternatively called a grub), and then changes to become a pupa and then an adult. The life cycle of an EAB takes either 1 or 2 years to complete. Adults begin emerging from within ash trees around the middle of June, with emergence continuing for about 5 weeks. The female starts laying her eggs on the bark of ash trees about 2 weeks after emergence. After 7 to 10 days, the eggs hatch and the larvae move into the bark, to begin feeding on the phloem (inner bark) and cambium of the tree. Throughout each of its successive instars (larval growth stages), the larva continues to feed within this same part of the tree. The larval stage may last for nearly two years. Before becoming an adult, the insect overwinters as a pre-pupal larva. It then pupates in the spring and emerges as an adult during the summer.
- 3 EAB feeds strictly on ash trees. The larvae feed on the phloem and cambium, while the adults feed on leaves. In Connecticut, there are three species of ash trees—the white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), the green or red ash (*F. pennsylvanica*) and the black ash (*F. nigra*). Despite its common name, mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.) is not a true ash and does not attract the EAB.
- 4 Two other buprestids are well-known to those in Connecticut who are concerned about trees. The bronze birch borer is a pest of ornamental birch trees. The two-lined chestnut borer often attacks stressed oak trees, including oaks in the forest.

Why is EAB a Problem?

5 EAB is an insect that is not native to North America. It was first found in 2002 in the vicinity of Detroit, MI, and Windsor, ON. It had arrived sometime within the several years previous, presumably on woody packaging materials. It is now known to be found in 12 states. It is considered to be established in several of the upper Midwest states where it was first found. Movement of ash, in particular ash nursery stock and ash wood in the form of firewood, logs and wood packaging materials, has been cited as a likely means by which EAB has been assisted in its spread. More recently, strict regulations have been initiated to prevent the movement of these materials from infested areas.

from Emerald Ash Borer by Department of Energy and Environmental Protection—Public Domain

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SERIAL #



12. Part A

Why does the author **most likely** include an explanation of the life cycle of the emerald ash borer?

- Ⓐ to show how the EAB changes in size at each stage
- Ⓑ to show how long the EAB lives during each stage
- Ⓒ to show how the EAB uses the ash tree at each stage
- Ⓓ to show how long the EAB survives the seasons during each stage

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** support the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . between 0.3 to 0.55 inches in length . . .” (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ “. . . the larvae move into the bark, to begin feeding on the phloem . . .” (paragraph 2)
- Ⓒ “The larval stage may last for nearly two years.” (paragraph 2)
- Ⓓ “Before becoming an adult, the insect overwinters as a prepupal larva.” (paragraph 2)

14. Part A

What is one reason why the author includes the explanation about the EAB in paragraph 5?

- Ⓐ to help the reader understand the types of damage the EAB causes
- Ⓑ to help the reader understand why the EAB issue did not exist in the previous century
- Ⓒ to help the reader understand how the EAB exists in ash trees
- Ⓓ to help the reader understand where the EAB will mostly likely travel next

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 5 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . not native to North America.”
- Ⓑ “. . . known to be found in 12 states.”
- Ⓒ “. . . in particular ash nursery stock and ash wood . . .”
- Ⓓ “. . . movement of these materials from infested areas.”

16. Part A

Based on the information in the passage, what is one conclusion that can be drawn about the emerald ash borer?

- Ⓐ The habits of the emerald ash borer are harmful to ash trees.
- Ⓑ The emerald ash borer is the most destructive of the buprestids in North America.
- Ⓒ The buprestids, including the emerald ash borer, cause problems for Connecticut homeowners.
- Ⓓ Additional laws are needed in North America to protect the ash trees from the emerald ash borer.

Part B

Which evidence from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "The larvae feed on the phloem and cambium, while the adults feed on leaves." (paragraph 3)
- Ⓑ "Two other buprestids are well-known to those in Connecticut" (paragraph 4)
- Ⓒ "The two-lined chestnut borer often attacks stressed oak trees" (paragraph 4)
- Ⓓ "More recently, strict regulations have been initiated to prevent the movement of these materials from infested areas." (paragraph 5)

Read the passage from "What is a Robonaut?" Then answer questions 17 through 22.

from "What is a Robonaut?"

- 1 A Robonaut is a dexterous humanoid robot built and designed at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Our challenge is to build machines that can help humans work and explore in space. Working side by side with humans, or going where the risks are too great for people, Robonauts will expand our ability for construction and discovery. Central to that effort is a capability we call dexterous manipulation, embodied by an ability to use one's hand to do work, and our challenge has been to build machines with dexterity that exceeds that of a suited astronaut.
- 2 There are currently four Robonauts, with others in development. This allows us to study various types of mobility, control methods, and task applications. The value of a humanoid over other designs is the ability to use the same workspace and tools—not only does this improve efficiency in the types of tools, but also removes the need for specialized robotic connectors. Robonauts are essential to NASA's future as we go beyond low earth orbit and continue to explore the vast wonder that is space.
- 3 Robonaut 2 or R2, launched to the International Space Station on space shuttle Discovery as part of the STS-133 mission, it is the first dexterous humanoid robot in space, and the first U.S.-built robot at the space station. But that was just one small step for a robot and one giant leap for robot-kind.
- 4 Initially R2 will be deployed on a fixed pedestal inside the ISS¹. Next steps include a leg for climbing through the corridors of the Space Station, upgrades for R2 to go outside into the vacuum of space, and then future lower bodies like legs and wheels to propel the R2 across Lunar and Martian terrain. A four wheeled rover called Centaur 2 is being evaluated at the 2010 Desert Field Test in Arizona as an example of these future lower bodies for R2.

¹ISS—International Space Station

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SERIAL #

Robonaut 2

- 5 In the current iteration of Robonaut, Robonaut 2, or R2, NASA and General Motors are working together with assistance from Oceanering Space Systems engineers to accelerate development of the next generation of robots and related technologies for use in the automotive and aerospace industries. Robonaut 2 (R2) is a state of the art highly dexterous anthropomorphic robot. Like its predecessor Robonaut 1 (R1), R2 is capable of handling a wide range of EVA² tools and interfaces, but R2 is a significant advancement over its predecessor. R2 is capable of speeds more than four times faster than R1, is more compact, is more dexterous, and includes a deeper and wider range of sensing. Advanced technology spans the entire R2 system and includes: optimized overlapping dual arm dexterous workspace, series elastic joint technology, extended finger and thumb travel, miniaturized 6-axis load cells, redundant force sensing, ultra-high speed joint controllers, extreme neck travel, and high resolution camera and IR³ systems. The dexterity of R2 allows it to use the same tools that astronauts currently use and removes the need for specialized tools just for robots.
- 6 One advantage of a humanoid design is that Robonaut can take over simple, repetitive, or especially dangerous tasks on places such as the International Space Station. Because R2 is approaching human dexterity, tasks such as changing out an air filter can be performed without modifications to the existing design.
- 7 Another way this might be beneficial is during a robotic precursor mission. R2 would bring one set of tools for the precursor mission, such as setup and geologic investigation. Not only does this improve efficiency in the types of tools, but also removes the need for specialized robotic connectors. Future missions could then supply a new set of tools and use the existing tools already on location.

²EVA—extra-vehicular activity, activity done by an astronaut outside a spacecraft beyond Earth’s atmosphere

³IR—industrial tools

from What is a Robonaut? by NASA—Public Domain

18. Part A

Paragraph 3 contains an allusion to American astronaut Neil Armstrong’s statement when, as the first person ever to walk on the Moon, he said: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

What is the author implying by the allusion to Armstrong’s statement in paragraph 3?

- Ⓐ Like Armstrong’s Moon landing, the launch of the first Robonaut aboard the Discovery represents a historic breakthrough in space exploration.
- Ⓑ The use of R2 aboard the International Space Station will make space exploration safer for astronauts in the future.
- Ⓒ In the future, human astronauts like Neil Armstrong will unfortunately be replaced with humanoid robots like R2.
- Ⓓ Compared to the launch of R2 aboard the space shuttle Discovery, Neil Armstrong’s Moon landing was only a minor achievement.

Part B

Which piece of evidence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . our challenge has been to build machines with dexterity that exceeds that of a suited astronaut.” (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ “. . . not only does this improve efficiency in the types of tools, but also removes the need for specialized robotic connectors.” (paragraph 2)
- Ⓒ “Next steps include a leg for climbing through the corridors of the Space Station” (paragraph 4)
- Ⓓ “Robonaut can take over simple, repetitive, or especially dangerous tasks” (paragraph 6)

20. Part A

How does paragraph 4 contribute to the topic of the passage?

- Ⓐ It explains some improvements planned for the R2 to make it more useful.
- Ⓑ It adds details about the R2 that was launched on the space shuttle.
- Ⓒ It provides a comparison between the R2 and previous models.
- Ⓓ It states conclusions about the value of having the R2 on space missions.

Part B

Which additional paragraph contributes to the development of the topic in a similar way?

- Ⓐ paragraph 2
- Ⓑ paragraph 3
- Ⓒ paragraph 5
- Ⓓ paragraph 6

22. Part A

What is one central idea that is developed in the passage?

- Ⓐ Robonauts can work more efficiently than astronauts.
- Ⓑ Use of robonauts will replace astronauts in space travel.
- Ⓒ Robonauts can make more reliable decisions about spacecraft maintenance than humans.
- Ⓓ Use of robonauts will allow space exploration to exceed what humans alone can do.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . going where the risks are too great for people . . .” (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ “. . . includes a deeper and wider range of sensing.” (paragraph 5)
- Ⓒ “. . . allows it to use the same tools that astronauts currently use . . .” (paragraph 5)
- Ⓓ “. . . tasks such as changing out an air filter can be performed without modifications to the existing design.” (paragraph 6)





You have come to the end of the test.

- **Review your answers.**
- **Then, close your test booklet and raise your hand to turn in your test materials.**



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



SERIAL #



Grade 8
English Language Arts/Literacy
Test Booklet

End-of-Year Assessment
Practice Test