7 Full-Length South Dakota Smarter Balanced

English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

A Complete Guide to Building Mastery and Excelling on the English Test

Grade 3



Practice Master Achieve

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Grade 3 · South Dakota · Smarter Balanced

7 South Dakota Grade 3 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for Smarter Balanced Preparation and Academic Confidence

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Grade 3 English

English Language

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Questions: Varies by section **Duration:** No time limit

Important Test Information

These practice items follow the style of third-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

Test-Taking Tips:

- Read each question and every answer choice before you decide.
- Look back at the reading material or graphic when a question is based on them.
- Work carefully—there is no time limit on these practice tests, so use the time you need.

Remember: Take your time, stay calm, and do your best. You've prepared well for this practice—you've got this!

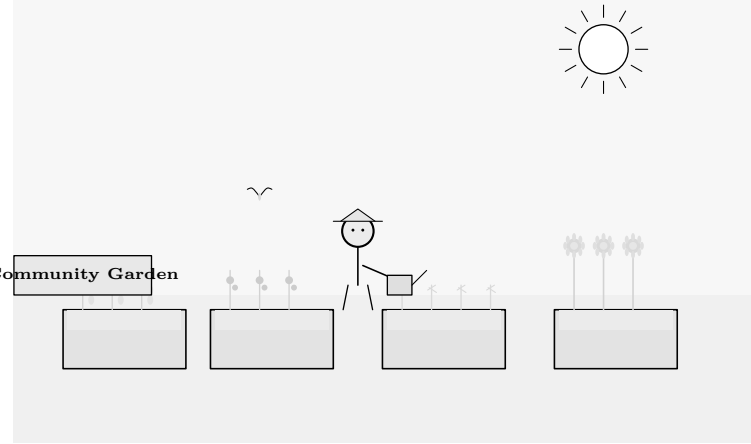


Icy shots?
Spot the clue.

Scan Me

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–9.

How a Community Garden Grows



Neighbors work together in a bright garden filled with raised beds, growing plants, and summer vegetables.

1 An empty lot beside the library used to be covered with weeds and broken sticks. Now it is full of neat planting beds, buzzing bees, and rows of green leaves. That change happened because neighbors decided to build a community garden together.

2 First, volunteers cleaned the lot and pulled out trash. Next, they built wooden boxes and filled them with rich soil. Then families, teachers, and students planted seeds for beans, tomatoes, carrots, and sunflowers.

3 A community garden needs regular care. People take turns watering the plants, pulling weeds, and checking for insects that might harm the leaves. Children like to measure the plants each week to see how much they have grown.

4 The garden does more than grow food. It gives neighbors a place to meet, share jobs, and learn from one another. Some adults know how to grow vegetables, while others know how to build signs, mix soil, or save seeds for the next season.

5 When vegetables are ready, families pick what they need. Extra tomatoes, squash, and herbs are placed in baskets for other people in the neighborhood. The garden becomes a place where hard work, kindness, and patience can all grow side by side.

Read this dictionary entry.

regular *adjective*

1. happening again and again in the same way
2. shaped like a perfect square
3. different from what is expected
4. very tiny and hard to see

1) Which meaning of the word *regular* is used in paragraph 3?

(A) Definition 4
(B) Definition 2
(C) Definition 3
(D) Definition 1

16) What does the word *treasures* mean in line 15?

(A) Meals cooked on a stove
(B) Rocks found near a river
(C) Things that are deeply valued
(D) Toys used only outside

Use the poem "The Small Blue Cup" to answer this question.

17) What is the most likely reason the poet says the cup can hold "a thousand talks" in line 11?

(A) To explain that the cup is made of metal
(B) To prove that the speaker counted every conversation
(C) To show that the cup is very large
(D) To show that the cup holds many memories of time spent together

Use the poem "The Small Blue Cup" to answer this question.

18) Which sentence **best** explains why the blue cup is important to the speaker?

(A) The cup is important because it is too heavy to lift.
(B) The cup is important because it holds memories of Grandma and happy times such as stories, songs, tea, and laughter.
(C) The cup is important because the speaker plans to sell it at a yard sale.
(D) The cup is important only because it is the newest dish in the kitchen.

Use both "The Kite That Waited" and "The Small Blue Cup" to answer this question.

Decimals? Hug the book.
Scan Me

19) What do Eli and the speaker in the poem have in common?

(A) Both spend the whole day inside
(B) Both are upset because they lost something valuable
(C) Both learn that small things can hold important meaning
(D) Both want to sell an object from home

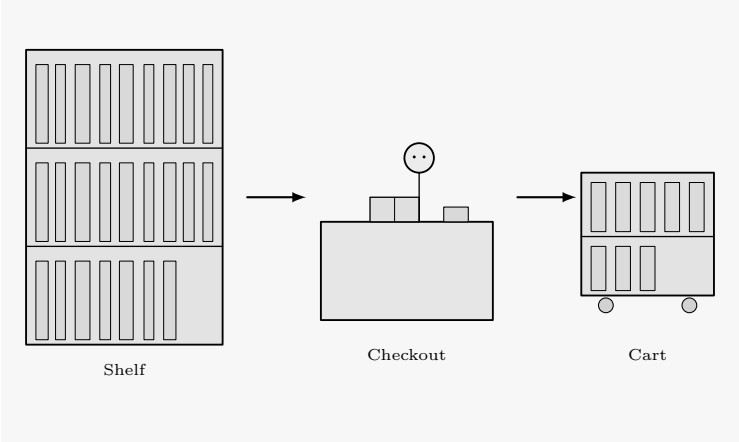
Use both "The Kite That Waited" and "The Small Blue Cup" to answer this question.

20) How are the endings of the story and the poem most alike?

(A) Both endings explain how to build something
(B) Both endings describe a race against time
(C) Both endings introduce a new problem
(D) Both endings show a character understanding something more deeply than before

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 21–29.

The Journey of a Library Book



A library book moves from shelf to checkout desk to book cart as it travels from one reader to another.

1 A library book may seem like it is sitting still on a shelf, but it actually goes on many small journeys. It moves from the shelf to a reader's hands, to a checkout desk, to a backpack, and then back again.

2 When a reader borrows a book, a librarian scans the barcode on the cover or inside page. The scan records which book is leaving the library and when it should come back. Then the reader takes the book home to enjoy.

3 After the book is returned, it does not always go right back to the shelf. First, it may be placed on a cart with other returned books. A librarian checks its pages, looks for damage, and makes sure the barcode still works.

4 Next, the book is sorted so it can return to the correct place. Books are grouped by call numbers, which help librarians and readers find them again. A book about space belongs in a different section from a book of poems or a picture-book story.



Kind gags? Scan for pace.
Scan Me