5 Pennsylvania PSSA

English Language Arts

Grade 4

Practice Tests



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Small Steps, Big Gains!

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Grade 4 · Pennsylvania · PSSA

5 Pennsylvania Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for PSSA Preparation and Academic Confidence

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Grade 4 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 fourth-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!



Neat quotes? Spot the mood.

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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–8.

City Trees, Cooler Streets



1 On hot summer afternoons, some city blocks feel much warmer than others. Sidewalks give off heat. Dark roads absorb sunlight. Brick walls seem to store warmth and release it back into the air. Yet on nearby streets lined with trees, the air can feel cooler and more comfortable.

2 Trees help cities in several ways. Their leaves create shade, which keeps sunlight from hitting sidewalks, parked cars, and building walls directly. Trees also release moisture into the air through their leaves. This process can help lower the temperature nearby.

3 In one neighborhood, residents noticed that the playground became almost too hot to use in the afternoon. The metal slide felt warm, and the ground around it dried out quickly. After community members planted trees around the edges of the play area, they began to notice a difference. The shady spots were more comfortable, and more families stayed to play longer.

4 Trees can also improve a city in ways people do not always see right away. Their roots help hold soil in place during heavy rain. Their branches provide homes for birds and insects. Their leaves can trap some dust from the air. In busy neighborhoods, trees may even soften traffic noise by creating a leafy barrier between streets and sidewalks.

5 Of course, planting trees is only the first step. Young trees need water, room for roots, and regular care. If they are planted in spaces that are too small, they may struggle to grow. Broken branches may need to be trimmed, and dry soil may need attention during long hot weeks.

6 Even with those challenges, many cities are adding more trees to streets, schoolyards, and parks. Some groups organize neighborhood tree-planting days. Others study which kinds of trees grow best in different conditions. Their goal is not only to make cities look nicer, but also to make them healthier and more comfortable.

7 A single tree cannot change an entire city by itself. Still, one tree can shade a bench, cool a patch of sidewalk, and offer a resting place for a bird. When many trees do this together, the difference can be felt by an entire neighborhood.

8 On a hot day, it is easy to appreciate the cool shadow of a tree. What is less obvious is how much work that tree is doing all the time. In cities full of concrete and traffic, trees are quiet helpers.

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1) Which statement best expresses the central idea of the article?

(A) Trees mostly help cities by making them look more colorful.
(B) Trees help cities by cooling areas, improving conditions, and making neighborhoods more comfortable.
(C) Playgrounds should never be built in sunny places.
(D) Some trees are difficult to care for during summer.



Spring graphs? Scan for fun.
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15) In lines 5 and 6, why does the poet describe lanterns with wrinkles, smudges, and crooked sides?

(A) To suggest that imperfect things can still be beautiful and useful
(B) To explain why lanterns are difficult to carry
(C) To show that the lanterns are old and unsafe
(D) To prove that the walk should have been canceled

Use the poem "Small Lights in Winter" to answer this question.

16) What is the central message of the poem?

(A) Winter nights are usually too dark for outdoor events.
(B) Even small, imperfect lights can bring comfort and hope.
(C) People should walk more slowly in cold weather.
(D) The best lanterns are round and smooth.

Use the poem "Small Lights in Winter" to answer this question.

17) Which statement best explains why the lanterns matter even though they are small?

(A) Their small glow brings warmth and hope, making the darkness fade little by little.
(B) They are made by skilled artists and shine more brightly than streetlamps.
(C) They are important mainly because they move in the wind.
(D) They matter because they are perfectly shaped and unbroken.

Use both "The Lantern Workshop" and "Small Lights in Winter" to answer this question.

18) Which idea is developed in both texts?

(A) Handmade things must be flawless to be admired.
(B) Winter events are difficult to organize.
(C) Small imperfections do not prevent something from being meaningful or beautiful.
(D) Lanterns should always be shaped like buildings.

Geometry? Scan for QR. Scan Me

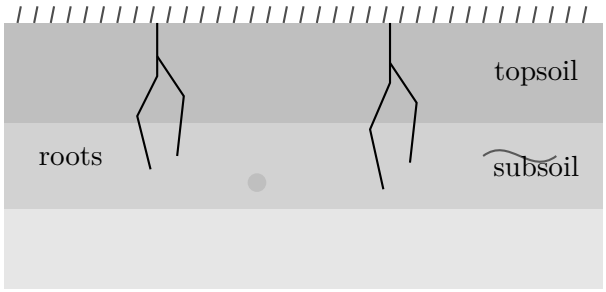
Use both "The Lantern Workshop" and "Small Lights in Winter" to answer this question.

19) How is Mira's understanding at the end of the story similar to the speaker's view in the poem?

(A) Both are focused mainly on winning a prize.
(B) Both believe that mistakes should always be hidden.
(C) Both wish the lantern walk had lasted longer.
(D) Both see value in light that shines even when it is not perfect.

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 20–26.

The Secret Life of Soil



1 When people think about growing plants, they often pay attention to what they can see above the ground: green leaves, colorful petals, and ripening fruit. But much of the important work happens below the surface, in the soil.

2 Soil is more than just dirt. Healthy soil is a mixture of tiny rock particles, bits of decayed plants and animals, water, air, and living organisms. It can contain worms, insects, fungi, and microscopic life too small to see without tools. Together, these parts create an environment where plants can grow.

3 One important job of soil is to hold water. After rain falls or a gardener waters a plant, the soil stores some moisture where roots can reach it. If soil holds too little water, plants may dry out quickly. If it holds too much and does not drain well, roots may not get enough air.

4 Soil also supplies nutrients. As dead leaves and other organic matter break down, nutrients are released into the soil. Plant roots absorb these nutrients and use them to grow. Different kinds of soil contain different amounts of nutrients, which is one reason some plants grow better in certain places than others.

5 Living things in soil help as well. Earthworms tunnel through the ground, which can loosen the soil and let air and water move more easily. Tiny organisms break down old materials. In this way, the soil is constantly changing and renewing itself.

6 Soil can be damaged if it is not protected. Heavy rain may wash it away, especially when land has few plants growing on it. Walking in the same place again and again can pack soil down so tightly that air and water cannot move through it as easily. For farmers and gardeners, caring for soil is just as important as caring for plants.

7 People who study soil look at its texture, moisture, and nutrients. They may compare sandy soil, which drains quickly, with clay soil, which can hold water longer. Many gardeners improve soil by adding compost, which is made from old food scraps and plant material that has decayed.

8 A garden may seem quiet from above, but underground it is full of activity. Soil is not just something plants stand in. It is a busy system that helps support life.

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20) Which statement best expresses the main idea of the article?

(A) Soil is an active system that helps plants by storing water, providing nutrients, and supporting underground life.
(B) Earthworms are the most important living things in a garden.
(C) Gardens need more rain than people expect.
(D) Clay soil is better than sandy soil for every plant.



Big rows? Scan for fun.
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