7 Full-Length Maryland MCAP

English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

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

Grade 4



Practice Master Achieve

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Grade 4 · Maryland · MCAP

7 Maryland Grade 4
English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for MCAP 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:

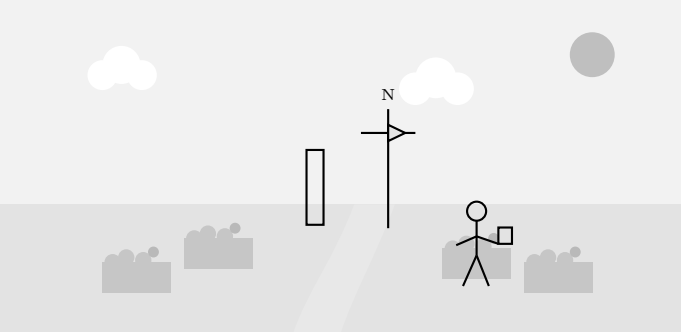
- Read each question and every answer choice before you decide.
- Look back at the reading material or graphic when a question is based on them.
- Work carefully—there is no time limit on these practice tests, so use the time you need.

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

Solar grades? Scan for mugs.
Scan Me

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

The School Weather Garden



1 At first glance, the garden behind North Hill Elementary looks like an ordinary school garden. It has raised beds, narrow paths, and signs marking rows of herbs and vegetables. But mixed among the plants are tools that seem slightly unusual for a garden: a rain gauge, a thermometer, and a tall pole with a wind vane turning above the leaves.

2 This space is called the Weather Garden. It was created so students could study how weather affects living things. Instead of learning about temperature, rainfall, and wind only from charts in a classroom, they collect information outside and compare it with what they see happening to the plants.

3 Each week, small groups of students visit the garden with clipboards. They record the temperature, measure rainfall, and note the direction of the wind. Then they study the garden beds. Are the bean plants drooping in the heat? Have the marigolds opened after a rainy stretch? Are some leaves drying faster in windy weather?

4 After several weeks, patterns begin to appear. Students notice that the soil dries out faster after hot, breezy days. They observe that some plants recover quickly after a storm, while others bend or break. They also learn that a garden does not respond to one weather event alone. What matters is the pattern over time.

5 The Weather Garden has changed the way students think about science. A number on a thermometer no longer seems like just a number. It becomes part of a story about what the plants may need. Rainfall is not only something to measure. It can explain why one patch of soil is damp while another has cracked.

6 The project has even changed the garden itself. After noticing how quickly one corner dried in afternoon sun, students suggested adding mulch there to hold moisture. After a season of strong winds, they helped build a simple barrier to protect tender stems. Their observations led to action.

7 Teachers say the most important lesson may be this: when students gather evidence and look closely, they begin to see connections they once missed. In the Weather Garden, science is not separate from the living world. It is one way of paying attention to it.

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1) What is the main idea of the article?

(A) School gardens are more useful than science books.
(B) A school garden helps students study how weather affects plants through real observations.
(C) Wind is the most important kind of weather for gardens.
(D) Raised garden beds are easy for students to build.

Use the passage "The School Weather Garden" to answer this question.



Urban sounds? Scan for cats.
Scan Me

16) What does the poet suggest in lines 7–12?

(A) Writing must always be long to matter.
(B) Even small writing or drawing can preserve an important moment.
(C) The best memories are always joyful ones.
(D) Blank pages should be saved for school only.

Use the poem "Blank Page" to answer this question.

17) What is the central message of the poem?

(A) Crooked sketches should be erased.
(B) Ink is more important than memory.
(C) Lists should always be longer than notes.
(D) A blank page can become meaningful when it is used to capture real moments.

Use the poem "Blank Page" to answer this question.

18) Which statement best explains how the poet shows that a blank page can feel important?

(A) The page is important only after it is filled with long and careful writing.
(B) The page matters because it stays neat and empty until someone makes perfect notes.
(C) The page feels important because it can hold a memory, note, or sketch that saves a moment.
(D) The page becomes valuable only when it is used for school assignments.

Use both "The Last Page of the Notebook" and "Blank Page" to answer this question.



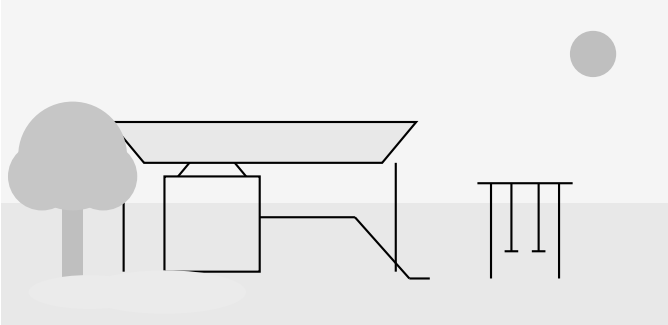
Winter facts? Hear the beat.
Scan Me

19) What idea is shared by both the story and the poem?

(A) Writing should only be done when it is perfect.
(B) Stories are always stronger than lists.
(C) Blank pages are meant to stay empty.
(D) A page can become valuable when it holds honest memories or thoughts.

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

How Shade Helps a Playground



1 On hot sunny days, playgrounds can feel much warmer than nearby grassy areas. Slides, climbing bars, and rubber surfaces often heat up quickly in direct sunlight. That is one reason schools and parks sometimes add shade to play spaces.

2 Shade can come from trees, shade sails, covered structures, or awnings. No matter what form it takes, shade helps by blocking part of the sun's energy before it reaches the ground or the equipment below.

3 This can make a big difference. Cooler playground surfaces may be more comfortable to touch and safer to use during warm weather. Shaded areas can also make it easier for children to rest, talk, or play without standing in direct sun the entire time.

4 Trees offer another benefit as well. In addition to providing shade, they cool the air around them through a natural process called transpiration. As water moves through a tree and out through its leaves, some heat is carried away. This can make the area feel cooler nearby.

5 Designers planning playgrounds often think carefully about where shade will fall at different times of day. A shaded bench in the morning may be sunny by afternoon. A tree that helps in spring may cast a different shadow in late summer. Good design takes both space and time into account.

6 Shade does not solve every problem on a hot day, but it can help make outdoor spaces more comfortable and useful. When combined with water, rest breaks, and thoughtful planning, it can improve how a playground feels and functions.

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20) What is the central idea of the article?

(A) Slides are the hottest part of every playground.
(B) Shade helps make playgrounds cooler and more comfortable, and it must be planned carefully.
(C) Playgrounds should only be used in cool weather.
(D) Trees are always better than shade sails.

Use the passage "How Shade Helps a Playground" to answer this question.

21) How is the article mainly organized?

(A) By giving several ways shade helps playgrounds
(B) By telling the history of one playground
(C) By comparing playgrounds in two cities
(D) By listing rules for recess

Rural bytes? Proof in text. Scan Me