Everything You Need to Help Achieve an Excellent Score

8 South Dakota Smarter Balanced

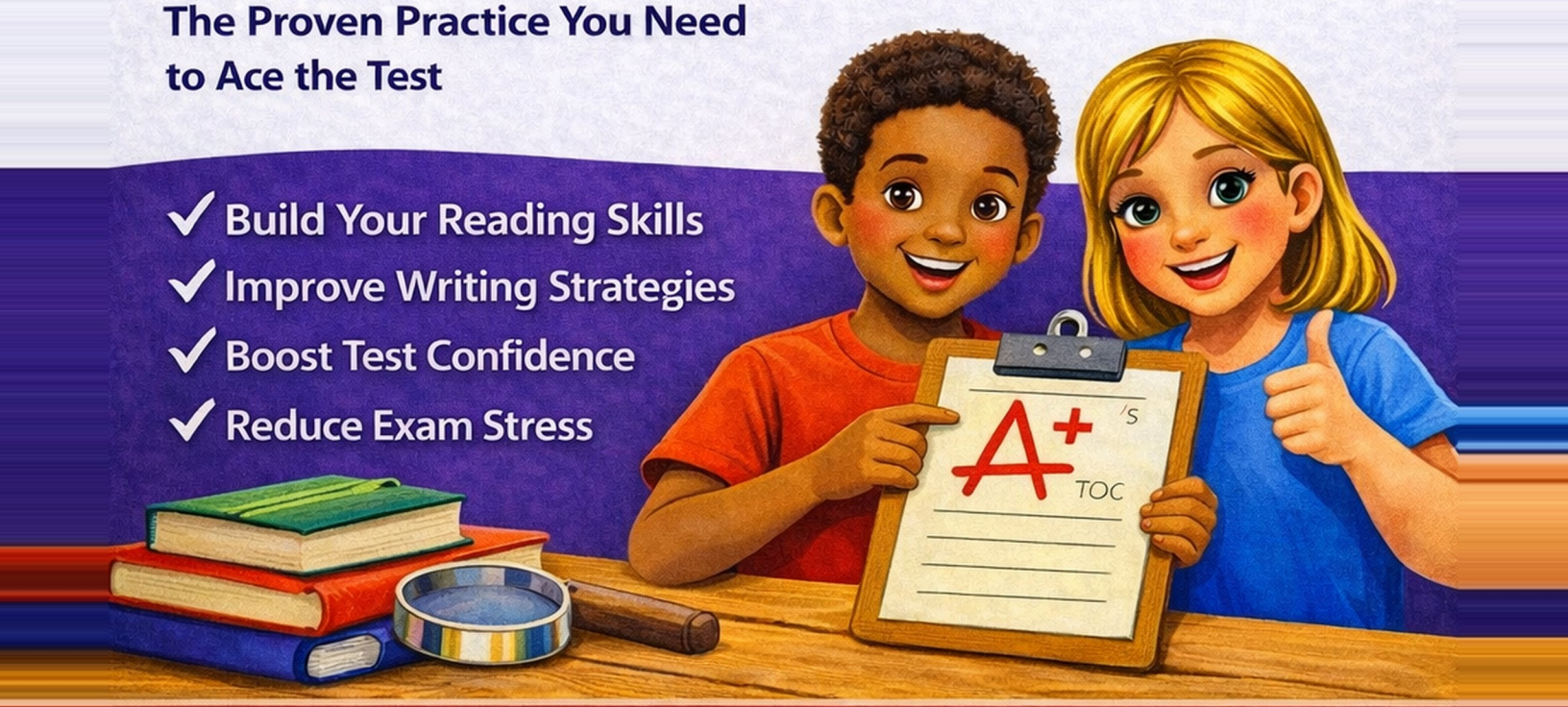
Grade 4

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

The Proven Practice You Need to Ace the Test

- ✓ Build Your Reading Skills
- ✓ Improve Writing Strategies
- ✓ Boost Test Confidence
- ✓ Reduce Exam Stress



✓ Includes Detailed Answer Explanations

Reza Nazari

Grade 4 · South Dakota · Smarter Balanced

8 South Dakota Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for Smarter Balanced Preparation and Academic Confidence

Reza Nazari

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Grade 4 English

English Language

1

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!

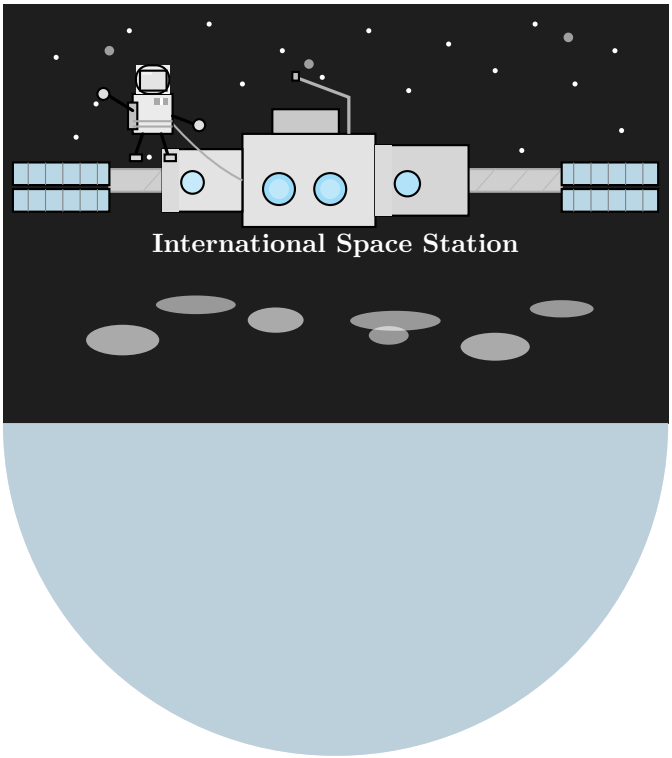


Fun read! Scan for QR.

Scan Me

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

A Day on the International Space Station



1 Every morning aboard the International Space Station, astronauts wake up to a quiet alarm tone. Outside the portholes, Earth rotates far below, wrapped in blue oceans and wisps of white cloud. There is no sunrise through a bedroom window because the station orbits the planet sixteen times a day, meaning astronauts witness a sunrise every ninety minutes.

2 The International Space Station, often called the ISS, is a research laboratory that floats in orbit about 250 miles above Earth. It is roughly the size of a football field and has been continuously occupied since the year 2000. Scientists from the United States, Russia, Japan, Canada, and Europe work side by side aboard the station.

Scan Me
Hot cards? Scan for hats.

3 Living in space requires adapting to microgravity, the condition in which everything floats. Astronauts sleep in small sleeping bags attached to the wall so they do not drift through the station during the night. They eat food from sealed pouches and drink through straws, because without gravity, liquids form floating spheres instead of staying in a cup.

4 The ISS was not built all at once. Nations sent up pieces called modules over many years, and astronauts connected them in space like an enormous puzzle. Today the station includes sleeping quarters, science laboratories, a kitchen area, and even a cupola—a dome-shaped window room with sweeping views of Earth below.

5 Science is the main purpose of the ISS. Astronauts perform hundreds of experiments that can only be done in microgravity. They study how muscles and bones change in space, how plants grow without gravity, and how flames behave when warm air does not rise. These discoveries help scientists plan future missions to the Moon and Mars and improve medicine and technology on Earth.

6 Keeping astronauts healthy requires daily exercise. Without the pull of gravity, muscles weaken and bones lose density quickly. Astronauts spend about two hours exercising each day on specially designed machines. Some machines use elastic bands instead of weights. Others are treadmills with harnesses that hold astronauts down so they can actually run.

7 Spacewalks, also called Extravehicular Activities, take astronauts outside the station in pressurized suits. Outside the ISS, there are no walls between the astronaut and the vast emptiness of space. Spacewalks are used to fix equipment, install new parts, and collect science samples from outside the station. Each spacewalk requires hours of preparation and can last six to eight hours.

8 Despite the challenges, astronauts describe life on the ISS with wonder. Many say that looking down at Earth—its blue oceans, white clouds, and glowing city lights—changes how they see the world forever. The ISS reminds us that human curiosity, teamwork, and science have no boundaries.



Big coda?
More on site.
Scan Me

Read the poem below. Then answer questions 16–19.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Song

I am the watcher of the dark,
the eye that never sleeps,
I spin my light like a golden coin
above the restless deeps.

The ships that sail on moonless nights
know where I stand and shine;
I am the line between the lost
and those who reach the brine.

The waves may roar and thunder rise,
the gulls cry through the rain—
my beam still sweeps the endless black
again, and yet again.

So let the storm push all it will
across the crashing foam;
as long as I burn bright and tall,
the sea shall not take them home.



Zippy smells?
Hear the beat.
Scan Me

16) In stanza 1, the light is compared to "a golden coin." Why does the poet use this comparison?

(A) To show that running a lighthouse costs a great deal of money
(B) To help readers picture the round, bright, spinning light
(C) To describe how the lighthouse earns income for the keeper
(D) To explain that light always travels in a straight line

Use the poem "The Lighthouse Keeper's Song" to answer this question.

17) What is the overall **mood** of the poem?

(A) Playful and silly
(B) Angry and dangerous
(C) Steady, determined, and protective
(D) Sad and hopeless

Use the poem "The Lighthouse Keeper's Song" to answer this question.

18) Which best describes the rhyme pattern in the poem?

(A) The second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyme with each other.
(B) Only the first stanza and the last stanza use rhyme.
(C) The poem does not use any rhyme at all.
(D) Every single line rhymes with the one before it.

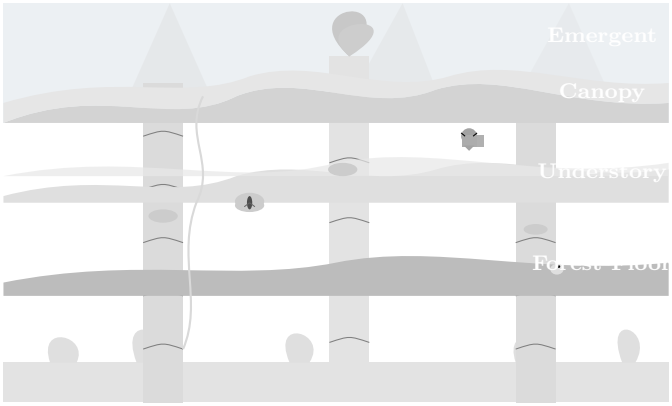
Use both "The Lighthouse and the Storm" and "The Lighthouse Keeper's Song" to answer this question.

19) Both the story and the poem share a similar idea. What is that shared idea?

(A) Lighthouses were invented to replace ships in dangerous waters.
(B) Stormy weather makes it impossible to see lighthouse beams.
(C) Only experienced adults should ever be trusted to keep a lighthouse.
(D) Keeping a lighthouse light burning is a way of protecting people at sea.

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

Rainforests: Earth's Green Treasure



1 If you were to stand at the center of a tropical rainforest, you would be surrounded by more kinds of living things than almost anywhere else on Earth. Rainforests cover only about six percent of the planet's land surface, yet they are home to more than half of the world's plant and animal species. Scientists call them "the lungs of the Earth" because the billions of trees inside them absorb enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and release fresh oxygen.

2 A tropical rainforest is not just a collection of trees. It is divided into distinct layers, each with its own community of life. The highest layer, called the emergent layer, is where the tallest trees poke above the rest. Their crowns can reach 200 feet above the forest floor, and large birds and colorful butterflies ride the warm air currents there.

Jumpy titles? Proof in text.
Scan Me