7 Full-Length District of Columbia DC CAPE

English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

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

Grade 5



Practice Master Achieve

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Grade 5 · District of Columbia · DC CAPE

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Full-Length Practice for DC CAPE Preparation and Academic Confidence

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

The Amazing Life of Sea Turtles

1 Long before people built homes and hotels near the shore, sea turtles were crossing warm oceans. These reptiles have existed for millions of years, and they still return to many of the same coastlines where their ancestors nested. Some species grow large enough to weigh more than a small car tire, but even the biggest sea turtles move with surprising grace in the water.

2 Sea turtles spend most of their lives at sea, but female turtles must come ashore to lay eggs. On quiet summer nights, a mother turtle drags herself above the tide line, digs a nest with her flippers, and covers dozens of eggs with sand before slipping back into the ocean. Weeks may pass before the beach grows still again and the nest begins to stir.

3 After about two months, the baby turtles, called hatchlings, break from their shells and dig upward through the sand. Once they reach the surface, they scramble toward the brightest horizon, which is usually moonlight reflecting off the water. The trip is dangerous. Birds and crabs hunt along the beach, and even a short delay can keep the hatchlings from reaching the safety of the sea.

4 Sea turtles also help ocean habitats stay healthy. Leatherback turtles feed on jellyfish, which helps keep jellyfish populations from growing too large. Green sea turtles graze on seagrass, trimming underwater meadows so fresh growth can spread. When seagrass beds stay healthy, many other sea animals benefit as well.

5 Today, sea turtles face new problems on many nesting beaches. Bright lights from buildings can confuse hatchlings and draw them away from the water. Trash, beach furniture, and heavy foot traffic can also block their path. To help, some communities require lights to be dimmed or covered at night, and volunteers rope off nests, clear obstacles, and guide people away from nesting areas. These efforts give more young turtles a chance to survive.



Ballad leads? Scan for pace.

Scan Me

Read this dictionary entry.

scramble *verb*

1. to move quickly using hands and feet
2. to mix things together in a messy way
3. to compete eagerly for something
4. to cook eggs by stirring them

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

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

Use the passage "The Amazing Life of Sea Turtles" to answer this question.

2) Which sentence is an **opinion**?

(A) Female turtles come to shore to lay their eggs.
(B) Sea turtles have lived in the ocean for more than 100 million years.
(C) Sea turtles are the most interesting animals in the ocean.
(D) Volunteers protect nests from danger.

Use the passage "The Amazing Life of Sea Turtles" to answer this question.

Scan Me
Mini grids? Ace every writing.

3) What is the most likely reason the author uses a **problem-and-solution** structure in paragraph 5?

(A) To describe the steps sea turtles follow when laying eggs
(B) To show the dangers sea turtles face and how people are helping
(C) To compare sea turtles with other ocean animals
(D) To explain how sea turtles find food in the ocean

Use the passage "The Amazing Life of Sea Turtles" to answer this question.

4) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Bright lights should not be used near beaches at night.
(B) Sea turtles lay their eggs on sandy beaches.
(C) Sea turtles face dangers, but people are helping protect them.
(D) Hatchlings have a hard time reaching the ocean.

Use the passage "The Amazing Life of Sea Turtles" to answer this question.

5) Which detail from paragraph 4 best supports the idea that sea turtles help keep ocean habitats healthy?

(A) Leatherback turtles eat jellyfish, and green sea turtles graze on seagrass meadows.
(B) Female turtles return to shore at night and bury their eggs in the sand.
(C) Sea turtles have been swimming in the oceans for millions of years.
(D) Volunteers protect nests by roping them off and moving obstacles.

Use the passage "The Amazing Life of Sea Turtles" to answer this question.

Detail turns? Seal the deal.
Scan Me

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

How Bees Make Honey

Busy Bees

1 From outside a hive, honeybees can look like a blur of wings and noise. Inside, however, each worker has a job. No single bee can make a jar of honey alone. The process depends on many bees working together over time.

From Flower to Hive

2 The work begins when worker bees fly to flowers in search of nectar, a sweet liquid hidden deep inside blossoms. A bee sips the nectar with its long tongue and stores it in a special part of its body often called the honey stomach.

3 Back at the hive, the returning bee passes the nectar to another worker. The nectar is passed from bee to bee, and each transfer changes it a little more. At the same time, some of the water in the nectar evaporates, so the liquid begins to thicken.

Capping the Honey

4 When the nectar is thick enough, the bees place it in the wax cells of the honeycomb. They fan the open cells with their wings to help more water evaporate. When the honey is ready, they seal the cells with wax caps.

5 The stored honey is the colony's food supply. It helps the bees survive during cold months, when flowers are scarce and nectar is harder to find. People have gathered honey from hives for thousands of years.

6 Bees do more than make honey. As they travel from flower to flower, grains of pollen cling to their bodies and move with them. This pollination helps many plants produce fruits, vegetables, and seeds.



Myth posters? Feel the mood.

Scan Me

20) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Bees are the largest insects in the world.
(B) People have gathered honey from beehives for thousands of years.
(C) Honey is only made during the winter months.
(D) Bees work together to make honey and also help plants grow.

Use the passage "How Bees Make Honey" to answer this question.

21) The author organizes this article by —

(A) explaining why bees are hard to study
(B) describing the honey-making process in order
(C) listing the names of different kinds of bees
(D) comparing bees with other insects

Use the passage "How Bees Make Honey" to answer this question.

22) What does the word *evaporates* mean as it is used in paragraph 3?

(A) mixes with another liquid
(B) turns into a gas and goes into the air
(C) becomes sweeter and thicker right away
(D) freezes into a solid

Use the passage "How Bees Make Honey" to answer this question.

23) In which section of the article would a reader most likely find information about how honey is sealed and stored?

(A) Capping the Honey
(B) Busy Bees
(C) From Flower to Hive
(D) The first and second sections only

Use the passage "How Bees Make Honey" to answer this question.

24) Which detail from the article best shows that bees benefit living things other than themselves?

(A) As bees move from flower to flower, they carry pollen that helps plants produce fruits, vegetables, and seeds.
(B) A single worker bee makes only a small amount of honey during its life.
(C) Honey stored in wax cells feeds the bee colony during winter.
(D) Bees pass nectar from one worker to another before it thickens.

Use the passage "How Bees Make Honey" to answer this question.

25) What is the most likely reason the author wrote this article?

(A) To warn readers about bee stings
(B) To explain how bees make honey and why bees are important
(C) To persuade readers to become beekeepers
(D) To compare different kinds of honey

Use the passage "How Bees Make Honey" to answer this question.

26) Which statement **best** explains how bees and flowering plants help each other, based on the article?

(A) Worker bees collect nectar from flowers, and as bees move among flowers they carry pollen that helps plants produce fruits, vegetables, and seeds.
(B) Flowers make honey inside their petals, and bees spread the honey to other flowers with their wings.
(C) Bees evaporate water from the soil, and plants pass nectar from bee to bee inside the hive.
(D) Bees store pollen in the honeycomb, and plants seal nectar inside wax cells until winter.

Rhyme words? Scan to start. Scan Me