7 Full-Length Pennsylvania PSSA

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 · Pennsylvania · PSSA

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Full-Length Practice for PSSA Preparation and Academic Confidence

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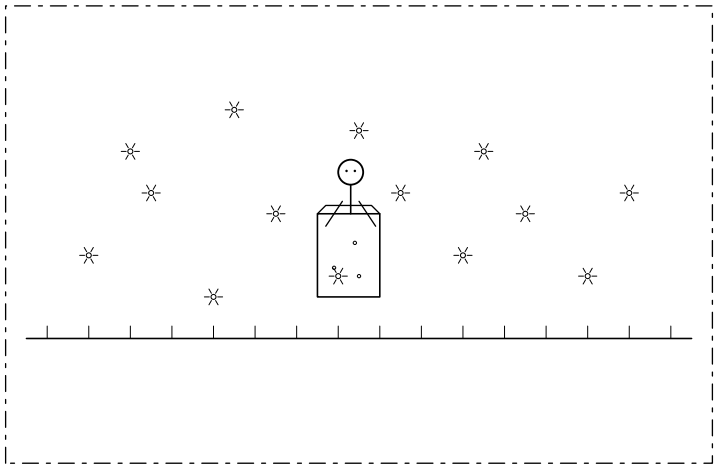
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–8.

The Secret Life of Fireflies



A glowing summer field shows how fireflies light up the night.

1 On warm summer evenings, tiny lights may blink above the grass, near trees, or along the edge of a pond. These flickering insects are fireflies. Some people call them lightning bugs, but they are actually a kind of beetle.

2 A firefly's light comes from the end of its body. Inside the insect, special chemicals mix together and create a cool glow. Unlike a lamp, the light does not get hot.

3 Fireflies flash for an important reason. They use patterns of light to send signals to one another. A firefly may blink once, pause, and then blink again. Another firefly may answer with the same pattern.

4 Fireflies begin life as eggs. Later, they hatch into larvae, which live in damp places and feed on small creatures such as snails and worms. After changing again, they become adult fireflies that can fly and glow.



Ballad leads? Scan for pace.

Scan Me

5 Fireflies need safe places to live. Long grass, bushes, and dark nights help them survive. Bright outdoor lights can make it harder for them to see one another's signals. That is one reason people are trying to protect habitats where fireflies live.

Read this dictionary entry.

glow *verb*

1. to shine with a soft steady light
2. to grow very quickly
3. to make a loud humming sound
4. to jump from one place to another

1) Which meaning of the word *glow* is used in paragraph 2?

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

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Fireflies" to answer this question.

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

(A) Bright outdoor lights can make signaling harder.
(B) Fireflies use light to send signals.
(C) Fireflies are the most magical insects in the world.
(D) Fireflies are a kind of beetle.

Scan Me
Mini grids? Ace every writing.

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Fireflies" to answer this question.

3) What is the most likely reason the author uses a **cause-and-effect** idea in paragraph 5?

(A) To compare fireflies with worms and snails
(B) To list the steps in a firefly's life cycle
(C) To explain why lamps get hot
(D) To show that bright outdoor lights can affect how fireflies communicate

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Fireflies" to answer this question.

4) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) Fireflies glow, grow, and need safe dark habitats to survive.
(B) Fireflies only live near ponds.
(C) Fireflies flash only one kind of signal.
(D) Fireflies are easy to keep in jars.

Use the passage "The Secret Life of Fireflies" to answer this question.

5) Which statement best combines two details from the article showing that fireflies depend on light for communication?

(A) Fireflies are a kind of beetle, and larvae live in damp places.
(B) They use patterns of light to send signals, and another firefly may answer with the same pattern.
(C) They feed on snails and worms, and bright outdoor lights help them hide.
(D) They glow only when they are inside jars, and adult fireflies never fly.



Detail turns?
Seal the deal.
Scan Me

2 The first part of the plant to appear is the root. It pushes down into the soil and begins taking in water and minerals. Soon after that, a shoot rises upward toward the surface.

3 Once the shoot reaches sunlight, leaves begin to grow. The young plant uses its leaves to make food from sunlight, water, and air. As the stem grows taller, the roots spread deeper and wider underground.

4 After many weeks, a green bud forms at the top of the stem. Slowly, the bud opens. Bright yellow petals unfold around a dark center full of tiny flowers that later make seeds.

5 Sunflowers are important to people and animals. Bees visit them for nectar, birds eat their seeds, and people enjoy planting them in gardens. Some farmers even grow large fields of sunflowers for food and oil.

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20) What is the central idea of this article?

(A) A sunflower grows through several stages and becomes useful to living things.
(B) Sunflowers are the tallest flowers in every garden.
(C) Birds are the most important part of a sunflower's life.
(D) All flowers grow in exactly the same way.

Use the passage "How a Seed Becomes a Sunflower" to answer this question.

21) The author organizes this article by —

(A) comparing sunflowers with roses
(B) telling a made-up story about a garden
(C) listing different kinds of seeds
(D) describing the stages of growth in order

Myth posters? Feel the mood.
Scan Me

Use the passage "How a Seed Becomes a Sunflower" to answer this question.

22) What does the word *conditions* mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

(A) Strong pieces of wood
(B) Short exciting races
(C) Colors found in nature
(D) Important needs or surroundings

Use the passage "How a Seed Becomes a Sunflower" to answer this question.

23) In which paragraph would a reader find information about how a sunflower first begins to bloom?

(A) Paragraph 2
(B) Paragraph 1
(C) Paragraph 4
(D) Paragraph 5

Use the passage "How a Seed Becomes a Sunflower" to answer this question.

24) Which statement best combines two details from the article showing how sunflowers help living things?

(A) A root grows into the soil, and a green bud forms at the top of the stem.
(B) Bees visit sunflowers for nectar, and birds eat sunflower seeds.
(C) The seed coat softens and splits open, and the stem grows taller each week.
(D) Sunflowers bloom only indoors, and they do not help any animals.

Use the passage "How a Seed Becomes a Sunflower" to answer this question.

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

(A) To persuade readers to buy sunflower seeds
(B) To warn readers not to plant flowers
(C) To entertain readers with a fantasy story
(D) To explain how sunflowers grow and why they matter

Use the passage "How a Seed Becomes a Sunflower" to answer this question.

26) Which statement **best** explains how a sunflower changes as it grows, based on the article?

(A) The seed sends down roots and pushes up a shoot, then grows a stem and leaves, and finally forms a bud that opens into a flower.
(B) The seed stays underground forever and never sprouts.
(C) Sunflowers skip the stem stage and jump from leaf to full tree in one day.
(D) The flower appears first and then shrinks into a seed.

Rhyme words? Scan to start. Scan Me