5 New Mexico NM-MSSA English Language Arts Grade 6 Practice Tests



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Small Steps, Big Gains! Small Steps, Big Gains!

Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Grade 6 · New Mexico NM-MSSA

5 Realistic New Mexico NM-MSSA Grade 6 English Language Arts Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for NM-MSSA Preparation and Academic Confidence

Built for steady confidence and dependable first-pass practice.

Reza Nazari

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During the Test

- **Skim the questions first**, then read the passage with purpose.
- **Never leave a question blank.** A careful guess can be right; empty is always wrong.
- **Stuck? Circle it and move on.** Easier points are waiting. Come back when your brain is fresh.
- **Trust your first read.** Changing answers without a real reason almost always hurts.
- **Watch the clock but do not stare at it.** Glance every few questions. That is enough.

One last thing.

When you sit down on test day, remember: you are not starting this test alone. Every passage you read, every question you untangled, every morning you chose to open this book — all of it is sitting there in your head, on your team. Now go show it what you can do.

— Reza Nazari

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Grade 6 English

English Language

1

Questions: Varies by section **Duration:** No time limit

Important Test Information

These practice items are designed for Grade 6 English Language practice. Expect close reading, vocabulary in context, evidence-based reasoning, and language-revision work throughout the book.

Test-Taking Tips:

- Read the question stem carefully before you compare answer choices.
- Return to the passage whenever the best answer depends on evidence.
- Use a second pass for the hardest items instead of forcing a rushed guess.

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

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(D) The story focuses on a specific decision, while the poem mostly recalls a moment from the past.

Read the article. Then answer questions 17–23.

Finding the Real Night Sky

1 If you live in a city, the night sky probably shows only the brightest stars and maybe a planet or two. Streetlights, signs, and headlights scatter so much light into the air that fainter stars disappear behind a soft glow. Scientists call this glow light pollution.

2 Dark-sky parks are one response. These are natural areas where local officials work with communities to shield outdoor lights, use warmer-colored bulbs, and aim fixtures toward the ground. The goal is simple: let the real sky come back into view after nightfall.

3 The International Dark Sky Association now recognizes more than two hundred parks around the world. Visitors often describe their first clear view of the Milky Way as unlike anything they expected. Instead of a blank black space, the sky reveals bands of faint clouds, shooting stars, and the steady motion of satellites.

4 Dark skies matter beyond wonder. Many animals depend on dim light to find food, to migrate, or to return to nests. Too much artificial light confuses sea turtles, which can head toward streetlights instead of the ocean after hatching. Scientists have also linked bright nights to disruptions in insect populations, which in turn affect birds and bats.

5 Dark-sky work is not about turning off every light. Instead, it is about using the right light for the right task. A well-aimed porch light can still welcome a guest while sending almost no light upward. Communities that follow these principles often find they save money on electricity too.

6 Visiting a dark-sky park requires some planning, but the reward is a view that earlier generations took for granted. Standing under that darkness, visitors often feel a sense of wonder that is hard to describe, and a reminder that what we lose is often quieter than what we build.

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

(A) Streetlights are the main reason people live in cities today.
(B) Dark-sky parks help restore natural nighttime conditions for people and wildlife.
(C) Scientists do not yet understand the effects of artificial light.
(D) Sea turtles are the only animals affected by light pollution.

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

18) As used in paragraph 1, what does the word *scatter* most nearly mean?

(A) spread in many directions
(B) fall quickly toward the ground
(C) store in a single place
(D) measure carefully

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

19) Which detail best supports the idea that artificial light affects animals?

(A) Dark-sky parks exist on every continent.
(B) Scientists call this glow light pollution.
(C) Too much artificial light confuses sea turtles, which can head toward streetlights instead of the ocean.
(D) Many visitors say the Milky Way is unlike anything they expected.

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

20) How does paragraph 5 contribute to the article?

(A) It introduces the topic of light pollution for the first time.
(B) It explains that dark-sky work is about using the right light for the right task, not removing all light.
(C) It summarizes the entire article in a single paragraph.
(D) It describes the history of streetlights in cities.

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

21) What can the reader infer about the author's view?

(A) The author thinks people should avoid looking at the night sky.
(B) The author believes dark skies are worth protecting for wonder, wildlife, and community.
(C) The author believes cities should stop using any outdoor lights.
(D) The author thinks dark-sky parks are too expensive to be useful.

Use the article "Finding the Real Night Sky" to answer this question.

22) **This question has two correct answers.** Choose the **two** sentences from the article that **together** best support the idea that light pollution harms both the view of the night sky and the living things that depend on darkness.

(A) "The International Dark Sky Association now recognizes more than two hundred parks around the world."
(B) "Streetlights, signs, and headlights scatter so much light into the air that fainter stars disappear behind a soft glow."
(C) "A well-aimed porch light can still welcome a guest while sending almost no light upward."
(D) "Too much artificial light confuses sea turtles, which can head toward streetlights instead of the ocean after hatching."

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