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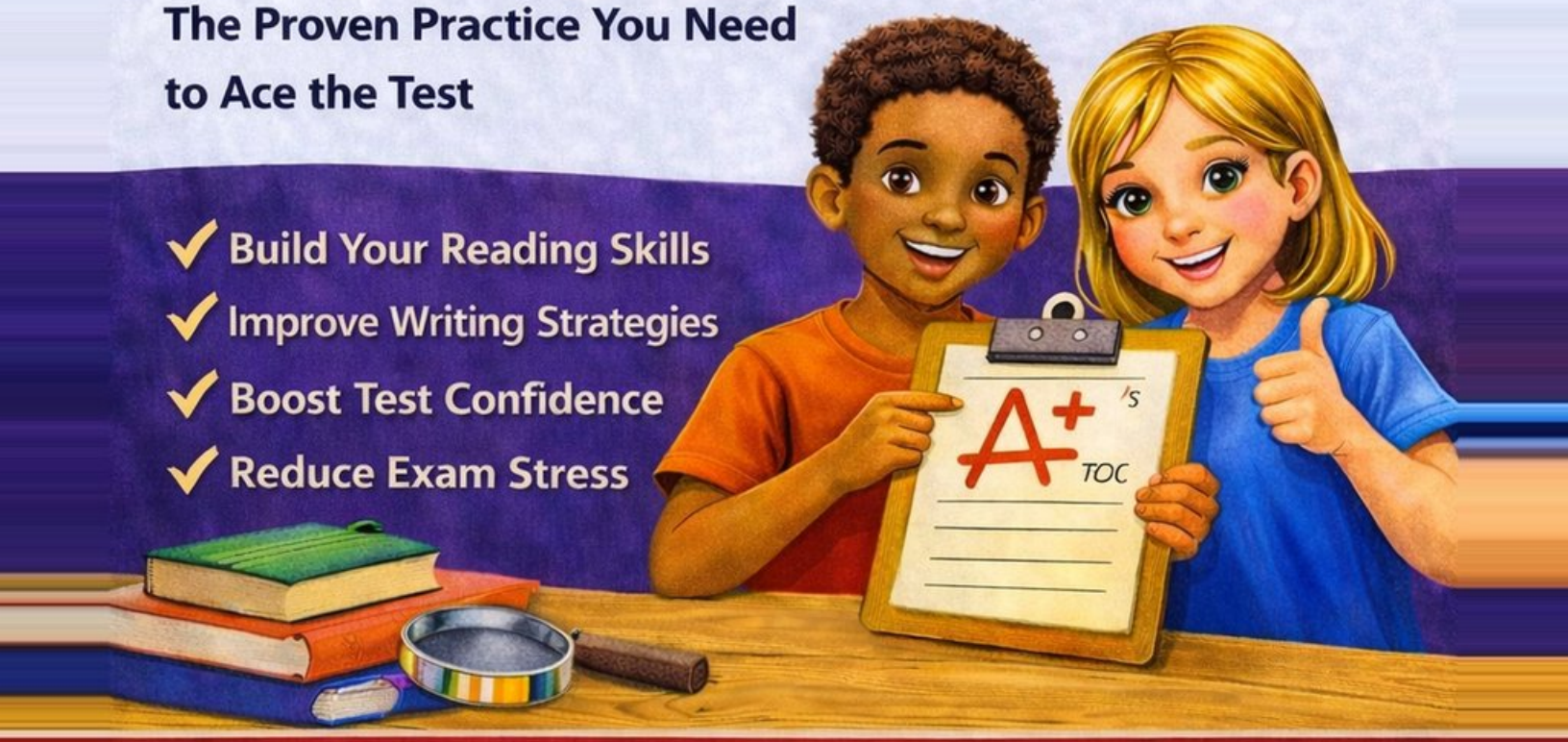
8 Connecticut Smarter Balanced

Grade 6

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

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The Big Day

Your Test Day Playbook.

Tear this page out in your head. Take it with you.

◯ The Night Before

- Pack your bag now, not in the morning. Sharpened pencils, eraser, water bottle, ID if needed.
- Do *not* cram. A short, easy review is fine. A four-hour panic session is not.
- Eat a normal dinner. Tonight is not the night to try something new.
- Go to bed the same time you do on a school night. A tired brain reads slower.

◯ The Morning Of

- Eat breakfast — something with protein, not just sugar. Your brain is about to work hard.
- Move a little. A walk, stretching, even bouncing on your toes wakes up your body.
- Arrive early. Rushing in a few minutes late sets a rattled mood for the whole test.
- Take one slow, deep breath at the door. *In for four, out for six.* Try it.

◯ 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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14) How do the story and poem approach a similar idea?

(A) Both texts show characters acting mainly to gain approval from others.
(B) Both texts suggest that responsible choices leave effects that last beyond the moment.
(C) Both texts treat strong feelings as more important than lasting consequences.
(D) Both texts suggest that quick results matter more than careful choices.

Use both "When the Tanks Filled" and "Morning on the Bluff" to answer this question.

15) **This question has two correct answers.** Choose the **two** details from the story and the poem that **together** best support the shared theme.

(A) "Elias finally admits the mistake, repairs the seal, and redesigns the record chart." (story, paragraph 4)
(B) "When Elias arrives at the science shed above the soccer field, the day's work seems ordinary until a dented measuring can with dates scratched into the side changes the meaning of the task." (story, paragraph 1)
(C) "What we own and mend grows sturdier than fear, / and steady hands can make it true." (poem, second stanza)
(D) "The task begins in borrowed light, / with quiet tools and open air." (poem, first stanza)
(E) "The task should be manageable, yet the responsibility attached to a dented measuring can with dates scratched into the side keeps growing as the work begins." (story, paragraph 2)

Use both "When the Tanks Filled" and "Morning on the Bluff" to answer this question.

16) Which sentence best summarizes the connection between the two texts?

(A) The story shows a practical choice, while the poem suggests that effort matters only when others notice it.
(B) The story focuses on a specific decision, while the poem mostly recalls a moment from the past.
(C) Both texts suggest that immediate results matter more than what lasts over time.
(D) The story and poem both emphasize that one decision can change what endures.

Read the article. Then answer questions 17–23.

Robots in the Operating Room

1 For centuries, surgery depended entirely on the steadiness of a surgeon's hands. Today, many hospitals use robotic systems that extend what a surgeon's hands can do. These machines do not replace the doctor; instead, they act like precise extensions of the surgeon's arms.

2 In a typical robotic-assisted surgery, the doctor sits at a console a short distance from the patient. The surgeon looks into a high-definition display that shows the surgical area magnified many times. When the surgeon moves small controls, the robot's arms repeat the same motions on a much smaller scale inside the patient.

3 This scaling is one of the main reasons robotic surgery has spread. A surgeon can guide a tool through a cut smaller than a fingernail, which would be almost impossible with traditional instruments. Smaller cuts often mean less bleeding, shorter hospital stays, and faster recoveries.

4 Robotic systems also filter out tiny hand tremors that every person has. The result is movement steadier than any unaided human hand. For delicate procedures, such as repairing a heart valve or removing tissue near the spine, that steadiness can be the difference between success and a setback.

5 Still, robotic surgery has limits. The equipment is expensive, and training takes years. Rural hospitals often cannot afford the systems, which raises fair concerns about who gets access. Some critics also warn that machines cannot replace a doctor's judgment when an unexpected problem appears during surgery.

6 Researchers are working on improvements that may address these concerns. New designs are smaller and cheaper, and some schools now let medical students practice with simulators long before they ever enter an operating room. The hope is that in the next decade robotic assistance will be available in far more hospitals, not just a privileged few.

7 What began as a tool for a handful of specialists has quietly reshaped modern medicine. The best surgical robot still depends on a human mind to plan, adapt, and explain what happened; the partnership between doctor and machine is becoming central to the future of careful, patient-centered care.

17) Which sentence best states the central idea of the article?

(A) Hospitals no longer need surgeons because robots can perform surgery on their own.

(B) Robotic systems let surgeons perform more precise operations, though real concerns about access and judgment remain.

(C) Robotic surgery is mainly useful for training medical students in simulators.

(D) The main purpose of robots in hospitals is to replace nurses who work in operating rooms.

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