South Dakota

5 Smarter Balanced

English Language Arts

Grade 7

Practice Tests



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Reza Nazari

Grade 7 · South Dakota Smarter Balanced

5

FULL PRACTICE TESTS

South Dakota Smarter Balanced Grade 7 English Language Arts:

Five Full Practice Tests for Confident Prep

Five Full-Length Practice Tests to Help Students Ace the Smarter Balanced Test

Built for steady confidence and dependable first-pass practice.

Reza Nazari

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Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

Floating Wetlands in the City Pond

1 The project took shape in the pond at Elm Park, where students and volunteers turned floating wetland platforms into a workable response to a local problem.

2 To keep the work moving, participants anchor lightweight rafts, plant native reeds, and monitor how roots filter the water. Their notes help them explain both the changes they make and the reasons behind those changes.

3 Not every part of the plan worked smoothly. The first design drifted too close to the fountain and tangled in the spray. The setback forced the team to stop, observe, and rethink.

4 The revision came next: the team adjusted the anchors and switched to a wider platform that stayed balanced. That revision helped filter the pond water more effectively, because the wider platform kept the reeds steady in the current.

5 As the project moved toward its conclusion, the pond grew clearer and attracted more birds and insects. Families who passed the water each week could see that the rafts were finally doing their work instead of drifting uselessly near the fountain.

6 The result was useful, but not without trade-offs. Supplies had to be rationed, and not everyone agreed about what should come next. Some members wanted to launch several new platforms right away; others argued that another month of water samples and anchor checks might reveal problems the group had not yet seen. In the end, the team postponed the expansion until it had gathered more evidence, even though the cleaner pond made a larger plan tempting.

1) As it is used in paragraph 4, what does the word *filter* most nearly mean?

(A) to shine with reflected light
(B) to move in a circle
(C) to mark a boundary with paint
(D) to remove unwanted material as something passes through

Use the article "Floating Wetlands in the City Pond" to answer this question.

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

(A) The article mostly explains the team's daily routines and gives only brief attention to how the project adjusted over time.
(B) Careful research and revision helped floating wetland platforms become a useful community project.
(C) The article describes a community effort whose success depended more on a single decisive moment than on the broader pattern of testing and revision.
(D) The article focuses on the project's final outcome and suggests that earlier setbacks had little effect on what the team eventually achieved.

Use the article "Floating Wetlands in the City Pond" to answer this question.

3) Which detail best supports the idea that the team improved the project by studying a problem carefully?

(A) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.
(B) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.
(C) The team studied the weakness and then adjusted the anchors and switched to a wider platform that stayed balanced.
(D) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.

Use the article "Floating Wetlands in the City Pond" to answer this question.

4) How does paragraph 3 contribute to the structure of the article?

(A) It presents the setback that leads to the revision described later.
(B) It summarizes the article's conclusion before any evidence is given.
(C) It introduces the setting of the project for the first time.
(D) It compares two unrelated projects in different locations.

Use the article "Floating Wetlands in the City Pond" to answer this question.

5) Why does the author include details about the team's routines in paragraph 2?

(A) To foreshadow that the project will face a challenge later
(B) To show that the project depends on repeated steps and collected evidence
(C) To emphasize how much time and effort the project required
(D) To show that the team worked in an orderly way from the beginning

Use the article "Floating Wetlands in the City Pond" to answer this question.

6) Which sentence best explains how the article develops the topic?

(A) It presents the final result first and then goes back to explain how the project originally started.
(B) It introduces a project, explains its process, describes a problem, and shows a revised solution.
(C) It compares two competing approaches to solving the problem and argues that one is clearly better.
(D) It describes two different community problems and explains how each was solved by a different team.

20) Which detail best supports the idea that bison shape the prairie?

(A) Bison were once reduced to fewer than one thousand animals.
(B) Their heavy hoofprints press seeds into soil, and their dust baths create small patches.
(C) Bison live in several national parks.
(D) Some tribal nations manage bison herds.

Use the article "The Bison Come Back" to answer this question.

21) Which sentence from the article best supports the idea that recovery has not been easy?

(A) Many scientists at the time feared the bison would disappear entirely.
(B) Tribal nations, state agencies, and private ranchers spend time each year in meetings that are patient and sometimes tense.
(C) Their return is slow and steady rather than dramatic.
(D) Where bison return, the grass grows in a different way.

Use the article "The Bison Come Back" 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 bison recovery depends on careful cooperation and produces lasting benefits for the land.

(A) "Before the late eighteen-hundreds, great herds of American bison moved across the plains in numbers that reached into the millions."
(B) "Tribal nations, state agencies, and private ranchers spend time each year in meetings that are patient and sometimes tense."
(C) "In 1905, the American Bison Society formed to bring groups together and publish what they learned."
(D) "Where bison return, the grass grows in a different way."
(E) "What was once a rare sight is now part of many school field trips, and a few tribes have begun to restore hunting traditions that had nearly been lost."

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Use the article "The Bison Come Back" to answer this question.

23) Which sentence would **best** summarize the article?

(A) Bison are common animals, and their survival has never been in question.
(B) After nearly disappearing, bison have slowly returned to the plains through cooperation among ranchers, tribes, and agencies.
(C) The American Bison Society is the only reason bison survive today.
(D) Bison survival is mainly about fencing pastures.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Priya wrote an informational essay about the importance of sleep for middle school students. Read Priya's essay and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Middle Schoolers Need Better Sleep

(1) Most middle school students need nine to eleven hours of sleep each night. (2) Doctors say that sleep helps the brain move new information into long-term memory. (3) Sleep also supports attention, mood, and healthy growth. (4) My little brother likes to race his scooter down the driveway after dinner.

(5) Unfortunately, many students do not get enough rest. (6) Homework, sports, and screens all compete for evening time. (7) Some students stay up past midnight and then drag themselves through first period the next morning.

(8) Small changes can help. (9) Leaving phones outside the bedroom, turning off bright lights an hour before bed, and keeping weekend and weekday schedules close together all make a real difference. (10) With steady routines, students often find that mornings become easier and classes feel less blurry.

24) Which sentence should Priya remove from the **first** paragraph because it does not support the main idea?

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

Use the essay "Middle Schoolers Need Better Sleep" to answer this question.

25) What is the **best** way to combine sentences 5 and 6?

(A) Unfortunately, many students do not get enough rest because homework, sports, and screens all compete for evening time.
(B) Many students lose sleep when homework and screens take up too much of the evening.
(C) Evening time fills quickly with homework, sports, and screens.
(D) Busy evenings often make it harder for students to get enough rest.

Use the essay "Middle Schoolers Need Better Sleep" to answer this question.

26) Priya wants to add a transition at the beginning of paragraph 3. Which sentence would **best** serve this purpose?

(A) Fortunately, small changes can make a big difference.
(B) One reason students stay up late is that homework can take hours.
(C) For example, some students like to sleep later on weekends.
(D) As a result, schools should start at noon.