6

South Dakota

Smarter Balanced

English Language Arts Practice Tests

for Grade 7

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



- **Real Practice.** Real Results.
- Small Steps, Big Gains!
- **Practice Smart.** Score Higher:
- Detailed Explanations
- Practice
- Master
- Achieve

Reza Nazari

South Dakota Smarter Balanced Grade 7 Practice Test Series

6
PRACTICE
TESTS

South Dakota Smarter Balanced Grade 7 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

A Complete Guide to Building English Language Arts Mastery and Excelling on the Smarter Balanced Test

Built for steady confidence and dependable first-pass practice.

Reza Nazari

Copyrighted Material

Copyright © 2026

Effortless Math Education Inc

Published by Effortless Math Education
www.effortlessmath.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law, including Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act.

This publication is independently produced and has no official connection to any state, district, or national testing program.

Test names and organizational names used herein are the property of their respective trademark holders.

Copyright © 2026

Copyrighted Material

Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

Inside the Community Seed Bank

1 Neighbors near the greenhouse behind the recreation center first heard about a community seed bank when students explained how it could answer a practical community need.

2 The project is built on steady procedures. Participants dry seeds carefully, seal them in labeled envelopes, and log when each variety was collected. Those routines give the team a clear record of what changed and why.

3 The first serious obstacle appeared when Humidity threatened the oldest envelopes and could have ruined the stored seeds. Instead of giving up, the team looked closely at what had gone wrong.

4 Using what the evidence showed, the team added airtight bins and moved the archive away from the greenhouse heater. That revision helped catalog the seed varieties more carefully, because the collection was stored and labeled in a more orderly way.

5 Eventually, garden groups began trading local varieties with nearby schools. Envelopes that had once sat in one drawer were now moving between gardens, and the seed bank began to feel less like storage than a shared record.

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 accept every new donation right away; others argued that another round of germination checks and humidity notes might reveal problems the group had not yet seen. In the end, the team expanded slowly, even though nearby schools were already asking for more seeds.

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

(A) to make an organized list of items
(B) to water plants on a schedule
(C) to test a machine under pressure
(D) to fix a damaged surface

Use the article "Inside the Community Seed Bank" 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) The article describes a community effort whose success depended more on a single decisive moment than on the broader pattern of testing and revision.
(C) The article focuses on the project's final outcome and suggests that earlier setbacks had little effect on what the team eventually achieved.
(D) Careful research and revision helped a community seed bank become a useful community project.

Use the article "Inside the Community Seed Bank" to answer this question.

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

(A) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.
(B) The team studied the weakness and then added airtight bins and moved the archive away from the greenhouse heater.
(C) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.
(D) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.

Use the article "Inside the Community Seed Bank" 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 introduces the setting of the project for the first time.
(C) It compares two unrelated projects in different locations.
(D) It summarizes the article's conclusion before any evidence is given.

Use the article "Inside the Community Seed Bank" to answer this question.

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

(A) To show that the team worked in an orderly way from the beginning
(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 foreshadow that the project will face a challenge later

Use the article "Inside the Community Seed Bank" 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 describes two different community problems and explains how each was solved by a different team.
(C) It compares two competing approaches to solving the problem and argues that one is clearly better.
(D) It introduces a project, explains its process, describes a problem, and shows a revised solution.

20) Which sentence from the article best supports the idea that low-cost sensors have limits?

(A) Middle schools have joined these projects in a natural way.
(B) A box about the size of a paperback book can now report on tiny particles of dust, soot, and smoke.
(C) Low-cost sensors drift over time and can give false readings in very humid weather.
(D) Citizen science in air quality shows how small, shared efforts can turn fuzzy claims into sharper ones.

Use the article "Neighborhood Air, Neighborhood Science" to answer this question.

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

(A) The author thinks it cannot be trusted at all.
(B) The author believes it works best alongside official data.
(C) The author thinks professional data is no longer needed.
(D) The author believes only professional scientists should study air.

Use the article "Neighborhood Air, Neighborhood Science" 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 student-led air-quality projects can change both what a community knows and what its leaders decide to do.

(A) "Until recently, measuring air quality required costly equipment and full-time staff."
(B) "When they shared the data with their principal, drop-off traffic was rerouted, and later measurements showed improvement."
(C) "Low-cost sensors drift over time and can give false readings in very humid weather."
(D) "The maps built from these sensors may not reach every home yet, but they already show what neighborhoods have known for years: air quality is not the same on every street."
(E) "A box about the size of a paperback book can now report on tiny particles of dust, soot, and smoke."

Scan Me

Use the article "Neighborhood Air, Neighborhood Science" to answer this question.

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

(A) Citizen-run air-quality sensors are cheap, but they are never accurate.
(B) When communities, including middle schools, use low-cost sensors to study their own air, they can turn fuzzy claims into sharper, actionable data.
(C) Air-quality studies have no place in schools.
(D) Air quality is almost always the same on every street.

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

Diego wrote an informational essay about the benefits of learning a musical instrument. Read Diego's essay and look for revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Why Everyone Should Try a Musical Instrument

(1) Learning a musical instrument does more than make music. (2) Studies show that students who play an instrument often develop stronger memory, patience, and focus. (3) Practice teaches the kind of steady attention that also helps with math and reading. (4) My younger brother spends hours practicing soccer in the backyard.

(5) Playing an instrument also builds community. (6) School bands, church choirs, and neighborhood lessons bring together students who might never meet otherwise. (7) Over time, these groups become places where students support each other through the slow work of improvement.

(8) Learning an instrument can be hard at first. (9) Fingers get sore, and songs can sound rough during the first weeks. (10) But students who stick with it describe a steady joy that grows as small pieces of music come together.

24) Which sentence should Diego 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 "Why Everyone Should Try a Musical Instrument" to answer this question.

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

(A) Playing an instrument also builds community, because school bands, church choirs, and neighborhood lessons bring together students who might never meet otherwise.
(B) Playing an instrument also builds community through school bands, church choirs, and neighborhood lessons.
(C) School bands, church choirs, and neighborhood lessons bring together students who play instruments.
(D) Instruments can help students meet people in group settings.

Use the essay "Why Everyone Should Try a Musical Instrument" to answer this question.

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

(A) In addition, practicing with others can help students stay motivated.
(B) Of course, starting an instrument is not always easy.
(C) For example, many students also enjoy listening to music at home.
(D) As a result, every student should be required to join band.