7 Full-Length South Dakota Smarter Balanced

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

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

Grade 7



Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

Grade 7 · South Dakota Smarter Balanced

7 FULL LENGTH TESTS

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

Proven Practice with Detailed Explanations to Help Students Ace the Smarter Balanced Test

FULL-LENGTH SETS | TARGETED REVIEW | DETAILED SUPPORT

Built for steady confidence and dependable first-pass practice.

Reza Nazari

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Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

New Trail Signs for the Canyon

1 Students working in the path above Arroyo Canyon organized a canyon trail sign redesign because they wanted a solution their neighbors could understand and use.

2 The team treats the project like ongoing research. Participants test sign wording, study where hikers hesitate, and revise symbols for quick reading. Each routine gives them another piece of evidence about what is working.

3 One weakness became impossible to ignore: Older signs used faded arrows and technical language that confused visitors. Rather than hide the issue, the team treated it like evidence.

4 Rather than abandon the work, the team replaced the old signs with larger symbols, shorter phrases, and distance markers. That revision helped clarify the trail choices, because hikers could read the signs quickly at each fork.

5 When the work reached its final stage, park rangers reported fewer visitors taking the wrong trail at forked paths. Hikers no longer had to stop and debate which arrow to trust, and that quiet success was exactly what the team had hoped for.

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 replace signs across the whole canyon right away; others argued that another round of trail observations and visitor comments 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 a larger rollout was already being discussed.

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

(A) to copy a design at full size
(B) to hide details from readers
(C) to stretch something until it bends
(D) to make something easier to understand

Use the article "New Trail Signs for the Canyon" 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 a canyon trail sign redesign 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 "New Trail Signs for the Canyon" to answer this question.

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

(A) The team studied the weakness and then replaced them with larger symbols, shorter phrases, and distance markers.
(B) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.
(C) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.
(D) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.

Use the article "New Trail Signs for the Canyon" to answer this question.

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

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

Use the article "New Trail Signs for the Canyon" to answer this question.

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

(A) To show that the project depends on repeated steps and collected evidence
(B) To show that the team worked in an orderly way from the beginning
(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 "New Trail Signs for the Canyon" to answer this question.

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

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

19) What is the main purpose of paragraph 3?

(A) It introduces the idea of robotic surgery for the first time.
(B) It explains how scaling allows surgeons to operate through very small cuts, and why that matters for patients.
(C) It argues that robotic surgery is always better than traditional surgery.
(D) It describes the training surgeons complete before using a robot.

Use the article "Robots in the Operating Room" to answer this question.

20) Which sentence from the article best supports the idea that robotic surgery still has limits?

(A) A surgeon can guide a tool through a cut smaller than a fingernail.
(B) The equipment is expensive, and training takes years.
(C) Robotic systems also filter out tiny hand tremors that every person has.
(D) The surgeon looks into a high-definition display that shows the surgical area magnified many times.

Use the article "Robots in the Operating Room" to answer this question.

21) How does paragraph 5 contribute to the article?

(A) It introduces a new topic that is not related to the earlier paragraphs.
(B) It presents concerns that balance the benefits described earlier in the article.
(C) It summarizes the article's conclusion in a single paragraph.
(D) It explains in detail how to operate a surgical robot at home.

Use the article "Robots in the Operating Room" 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 robotic-assisted surgery offers real benefits but also has real limits.

(A) "These machines do not replace the doctor; instead, they act like precise extensions of the surgeon's arms."
(B) "Smaller cuts often mean less bleeding, shorter hospital stays, and faster recoveries."
(C) "In a typical robotic-assisted surgery, the doctor sits at a console a short distance from the patient."
(D) "Rural hospitals often cannot afford the systems, which raises fair concerns about who gets access."
(E) "The hope is that in the next decade robotic assistance will be available in far more hospitals, not just a privileged few."

Use the article "Robots in the Operating Room" to answer this question.

23) Which sentence would be the **best** summary of the article?

(A) Surgical robots are new and have no clear benefits yet.
(B) Robotic-assisted surgery extends what surgeons can do, offering smaller cuts and steadier motion, while raising fair questions about cost and access.
(C) Surgical robots are useful only for training students.
(D) Robotic surgery is mainly important because it is less expensive than older methods.

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

Samira wrote an informational essay about the benefits of a school garden. Read Samira's essay and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Garden Changes a School

(1) A school garden is more than a patch of green in the parking lot. (2) Students who tend plants learn patience, care, and the scientific method in a way that no textbook matches. (3) A garden also connects lessons in science, math, and writing to real outcomes students can see and taste. (4) My brother practices guitar in the living room after dinner.

(5) Gardens give every student a role. (6) Some students track growth and weather, while others harvest food or write short reports to share with the cafeteria staff.

(7) The work is not always easy. (8) Pests, weather, and busy schedules can frustrate students and teachers alike. (9) But those same challenges often teach the lasting lessons that make a garden worth keeping.

24) Which sentence should Samira 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

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