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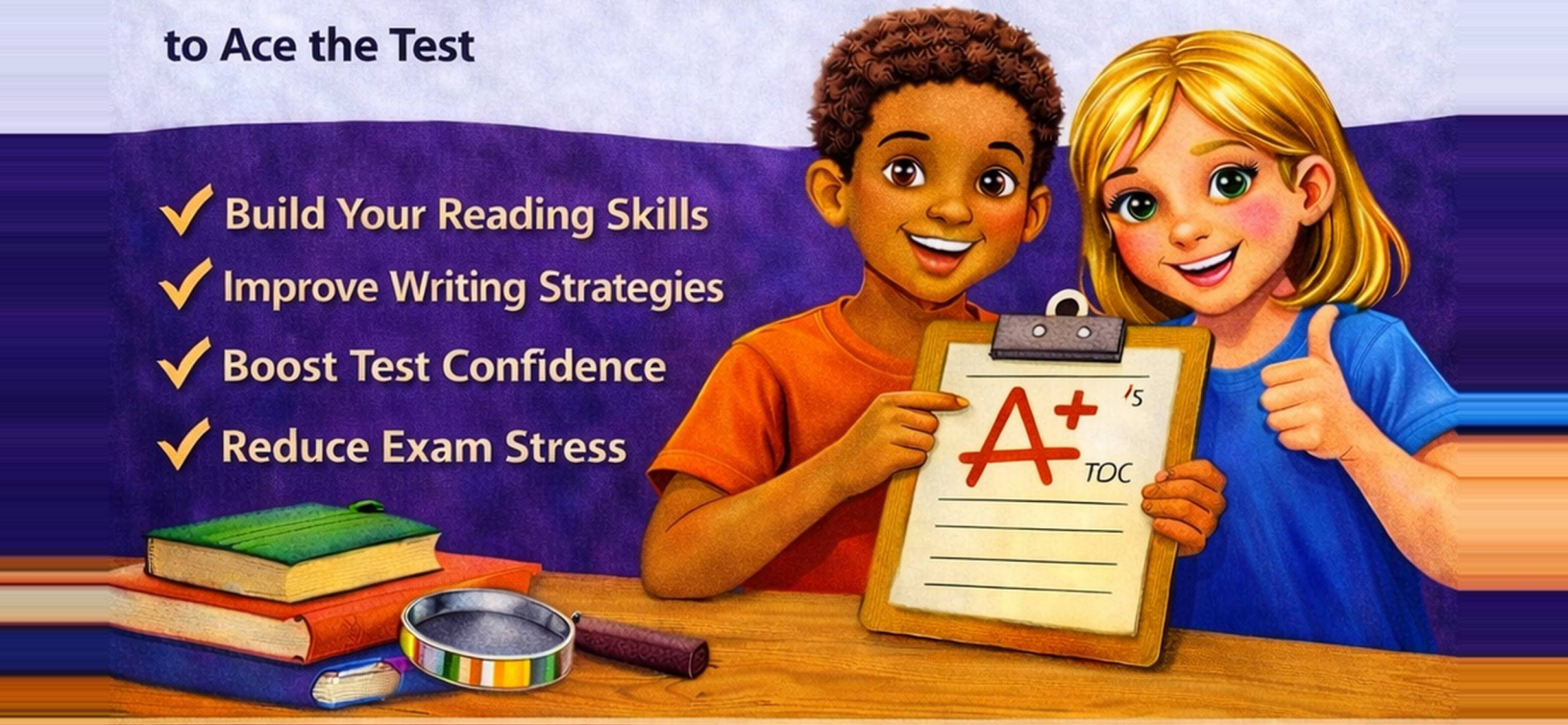
8 District of Columbia Grade 7

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

The Proven Practice You Need to Ace the Test

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- ✓ Improve Writing Strategies
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Reza Nazari

Grade 7 · District of Columbia DC CAPE

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Read the article. Then answer questions 1–8.

A Solar Library in the Desert

1 Neighbors near a desert bus stop that students use every afternoon first heard about a solar-powered reading room when students explained how it could answer a practical community need.

2 The project is built on steady procedures. Participants charge ceiling fans and lights from roof panels while volunteers restock shelves each week. Those routines give the team a clear record of what changed and why.

3 The first serious obstacle appeared when sand coated the first panels and lowered the amount of energy they produced. Instead of giving up, the team looked closely at what had gone wrong.

4 Using what the evidence showed, the team added a simple cleaning schedule and tilted the panels to shed dust more easily. That revision made the reading room more reliable, because the panels could power the fans and lights more consistently from day to day.

5 Eventually, students began meeting there to read while waiting for rides home. What had sounded ambitious at the first meeting was becoming part of the afternoon routine at the stop.

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 add shelves at another stop right away; others argued that another month of energy logs 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 several students were eager to build the next site immediately.

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

(A) copied exactly from an older model
(B) able to work well again and again
(C) limited to one small audience
(D) difficult to explain clearly

Use the article "A Solar Library in the Desert" 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 solar-powered reading room 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 "A Solar Library in the Desert" to answer this question.

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

(A) The finished project later provided a useful result for the community.
(B) The team studied the weakness and then added a simple cleaning schedule and tilted the panels to shed dust more easily.
(C) The project began after students identified a local need in the community.
(D) Students and volunteers worked together throughout the project.

Use the article "A Solar Library in the Desert" to answer this question.

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

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

Use the article "A Solar Library in the Desert" 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 team worked in an orderly way from the beginning
(C) To emphasize how much time and effort the project required
(D) To show that the project depends on repeated steps and collected evidence

Use the article "A Solar Library in the Desert" 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 introduces a project, explains its process, describes a problem, and shows a revised solution.
(D) It describes two different community problems and explains how each was solved by a different team.

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.

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

Why Every School Needs a Strong Library

(1) School libraries give students access to thousands of books, databases, and research tools. (2) A strong library program helps students develop critical-thinking and information-literacy skills. (3) Studies show that schools with full-time librarians have higher reading scores on standardized tests. (4) Our family just bought new shelves for the living room.

(5) Libraries also provide a quiet space where students can study, collaborate on projects, or simply read for pleasure. (6) Many school librarians help teachers design research assignments that connect to curriculum standards. (7) When students learn to evaluate sources and cite evidence, they build skills that transfer to every subject area.

(8) Unfortunately, some school districts have reduced library funding in recent years. (9) Fewer librarians means fewer opportunities for students to receive individualized research support. (10) Communities that invest in school libraries invest in student success.

24) Which sentence should Amara 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 Every School Needs a Strong Library" to answer this question.

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

(A) Libraries also provide a quiet space where students can study, collaborate on projects, or simply read for pleasure; in addition, many school librarians help teachers design research assignments that connect to curriculum standards.
(B) Libraries give students a place to study, and librarians support classroom research.
(C) Libraries also provide a quiet space, and many librarians help teachers plan research assignments.
(D) Libraries offer students room to read and work, while librarians assist with some class projects.

Use the essay "Why Every School Needs a Strong Library" to answer this question.

26) Amara wants to add a transition between paragraph 2 and paragraph 3. Which sentence would **best** serve this purpose?

(A) Therefore, many schools have added pools and gyms.
(B) However, these benefits are at risk in many schools today.
(C) In conclusion, school libraries are great places to visit.
(D) Meanwhile, sports programs are also important.