6

Connecticut Smarter Balanced

English Language Arts Practice Tests

for Grade 8

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

6 Connecticut Smarter Balanced Grade 8

English Language Arts (ELA)

Practice Tests

A Complete Guide To Building

English Language Mastery And

Excelling On The Smarter Balanced Assessment

Read

Track the central idea and gather evidence that matters.

Revise

Slow down, test your thinking, and make stronger choices.

Reflect

Build a repeatable routine across all six tests.

Build the habits that strong readers use every day.

Six tests give students enough repetition to build habit, reflection, and control without losing momentum.

Reza Nazari

Built for deliberate practice and steady revision

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The Big Day

Your Test Day Playbook.

Calm is a skill. This is how to bring it with you.

◯ The Night Before

- Pack everything tonight. Pencils, eraser, water, ID, approved calculator if needed.
- Do light review only — a single short passage. No new material. No all-nighter.
- Eat something familiar. Tonight is not the night to experiment with anything new.
- Phone out of the room an hour before bed. Protect your sleep like it is part of the grade.

◯ The Morning Of

- Eat protein and complex carbs. Skip the sugar spike — the crash comes during the test.
- Move your body for five minutes. Walk, stretch, shake out your hands. Lower the nerves.
- Arrive early enough to settle, not so early that waiting builds up pressure.
- At the door, four slow breaths: *in for four, hold for four, out for six.* It works.

During the Test

- **Preview the questions**, then read the passage hunting specific answers.
- **Answer every question.** A guess has better odds than a blank — always.
- **Skip hard ones and return.** Easy points protect your time budget. Come back with fresh eyes.
- **Trust your first read.** Change an answer only when you find concrete evidence, not a hunch.
- **Pace by section, not by question.** Check the clock every few minutes, not every question.
- **If anxiety spikes, breathe and reset.** Ten slow seconds saves ten lost minutes.
- **Save 2–3 minutes at the end.** Review flagged items, confirm your bubbled answers.

One last thing.

High school starts soon, but you do not have to wait for it to begin showing up as the reader and writer you want to be. Test day is just a window. Open it, show your thinking clearly, and step through. The next version of you is already on the other side.

— Reza Nazari

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5 She rolled up the blueprint carefully and respectfully when all the work was finally done and the clock was functioning perfectly. The page no longer looked fragile or disposable to her. It looked durable in a different way—strong and essential precisely because it had carried real intelligence and practical wisdom across nearly a hundred years of time. Nadia understood in that moment that restoration was not only about preserving old objects and keeping mechanisms working. It was also about learning how to listen carefully, how to hear what earlier minds and hands were still trying to say, and how to recognize that past knowledge and present work are connected.

Measure Twice

The line on the page is never only ink.
It is a promise made to the future,
a quiet instruction traveling farther
than the hand that first drew it knew.

Blueprint, map, margin note, sketch,
all of them wait with patient exactness
for someone willing to look closely enough
to notice what absence is hiding.

We call it repair when metal answers,
when wood steadies, when a clock keeps faith.
But part of the work is listening
until the past becomes useful again.

Scan Me

9) What does the word *inheritance* mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

(A) a connection passed down from an earlier generation
(B) a payment required by the town
(C) a collection of broken tools
(D) a burden she is forced to avoid

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

10) How does Nadia change during the story?

(A) She starts uninterested and ends appreciating the clock tower only as a machine.
(B) She begins with complete confidence and loses it when the repairs fail.
(C) She decides that old plans are less useful than modern measurements.
(D) She moves from treating the restoration as a task to understanding it as a connection to past knowledge.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

11) Which statement best expresses a theme of the story?

(A) Old machines should always be replaced instead of repaired.
(B) Technical work becomes more meaningful when people recognize the knowledge and history behind it.
(C) Family history matters only when the public notices it.
(D) Poetic writing has no place in engineering.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

12) What does the handwritten note about metal remembering heat mainly reveal?

(A) The blueprint contains practical knowledge hidden inside a memorable phrase.
(B) The clock tower stopped working only in winter.
(C) Nadia prefers poetry to mechanics.
(D) The great-grandmother disliked warm weather.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

13) Why does the author describe townspeople stepping outside when the clock strikes six?

(A) To show that the repair restored something meaningful to the community
(B) To prove that people were annoyed by the sound
(C) To indicate that the volunteers wanted public attention
(D) To explain why the shops closed early

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

14) How are the story and the poem most alike?

(A) Both argue that measurements are less important than imagination.
(B) Both suggest that careful attention can make old knowledge newly useful.
(C) Both focus on a public celebration in a town square.
(D) Both show that repair work is mostly accidental.

Use the story and poem to answer this question.

15) Which **TWO** lines from the poem best support the idea that technical documents preserve meaning across time?Select **TWO** correct answers.

Scan Me