7 Full-Length District of Columbia DC CAPE

English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests

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

Grade 8



Practice Master Achieve

Reza Nazari

7 Full Length District of Columbia DC CAPE Grade 8 English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Tests:

Proven Practice With Detailed Explanations To Help Students

Climb Milestones

1. Start with focus 2. Compare ideas 3. Infer carefully 4. Revise clearly 5. Explain with evidence 6. Build stamina 7. Finish strong

Step by step, skill by skill.

Reza Nazari

Built for sustained growth across a longer practice climb

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Smart Practice

The Difference Between Busy and Better.

Busy practice fills time. Better practice changes you. The quiet truth: the thirty minutes after a test matters more than the ninety minutes of the test itself. That is where real learning lives — in the review, not the rep. Here is what separates a score plateau from a score climb:

✓ Six Moves That Raise Real Scores

1. **Simulate the pressure.** One seat, one timer, no phone, no interruptions. Stamina is its own skill and you can only train it by using it.
2. **Preview the questions, then attack the passage.** Skim the question stems first. That turns reading from passive intake into a directed search.
3. **Annotate with purpose.** Circle transitions (*however*, *therefore*, *in contrast*). Bracket claims. Underline evidence. These marks become your map back to the answer.
4. **Do a miss audit after every test.** Sort your wrong answers into four piles: *knowledge gap*, *careless misread*, *time pressure*, *trap answer*. Each one demands a different fix.
5. **Upgrade one skill per week.** Pick one weakness — inference, vocabulary in context, claim-and-evidence writing — and make it the focus. Narrow practice beats broad review.
6. **Protect sleep like it is part of the test.** Working memory, focus, and stamina all collapse on less than seven hours. You cannot out-study exhaustion.

⋆ The Rewrite Habit

After each test, pick one short response and rewrite it — cleaner claim, tighter evidence, sharper analysis. Do this just three times across this book and your writing will visibly level up. The rewrite, not the first draft, is where eighth-grade writing becomes high-school-ready.

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.

Use the passage "The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution" to answer this question.

5) Which **TWO** details best explain why the Harlem Renaissance emerged when it did?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

(A) Federal arts grants encouraged writers to move to Harlem.
(B) The Great Migration brought African Americans and their cultural traditions to northern cities.
(C) European musicians opened clubs in Harlem.
(D) Southern traditions merged with the energy of urban life.
(E) The Great Depression created more publishing jobs.

Use the passage "The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution" to answer this question.

6) Why does the author most likely mention writers such as Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston?

(A) To prove that fiction was more important than poetry during the movement
(B) To provide examples of writers whose work expressed identity and challenged injustice
(C) To show that Harlem Renaissance writers avoided controversial topics
(D) To explain why readers preferred southern settings to city settings

Use the passage "The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution" to answer this question.

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7) Which conclusion is best supported by the passage?

(A) Artists in Harlem were financially secure throughout the 1930s.
(B) The Harlem Renaissance influenced later efforts for racial equality.
(C) The movement ended because writers and musicians disagreed with each other.
(D) Most Americans ignored jazz and blues during the era.

Use the passage "The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution" to answer this question.

8) According to the passage, how did musicians contribute to the Harlem Renaissance?

(A) They replaced literature as the movement's only important art form.
(B) They avoided performing for audiences outside Harlem.
(C) They wrote laws to protect African American performers.
(D) They expressed a cultural identity through jazz and blues that demanded recognition.

Read the story and the poem. Then answer questions 9–19.

The Weight of Words

1 Maya stared at the typed list of debate topics posted outside the auditorium, her stomach tight with dread as she read the pairs of words—"Resolved: Technology Improves Emotional Health" and "Resolved: Urban Development Should Prioritize Green Space." Public speaking terrified her in a way she could not fully explain: her voice wavered and became almost unrecognizable, her hands trembled so violently she could barely hold note cards, and her thoughts scattered like startled birds the moment she stood before an audience of even a dozen people. But Ms. Chen, her English teacher who had a reputation for pushing quiet students to find their voices, had nominated her for the school debate team without asking permission first, insisting in front of the whole class that Maya had "a mind sharper than she realized," a compliment that felt more like an assignment than an encouragement.

2 The first practice was a disaster in ways that would have been funny if they had not felt so devastating. Maya's opponent, an eighth grader named Jordan with the easy confidence of someone who had never doubted his own voice, spoke with effortless fluency, his arguments unspooling like smooth ribbon, each claim connected logically to the next. Maya, clutching her carefully written note cards, fumbled through her rebuttal, losing her place twice and rushing through her evidence so quickly that the words blurred together. She finished early, her prepared points abandoned in her panic, her cheeks burning with humiliation. Afterward, she sat alone in the hallway outside the classroom, her note cards shaking in her trembling hands, seriously considering quitting before anyone could ask her to return. When she picked at the papers, she realized she had forgotten entire arguments. The debate was not even close.

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