

Student Name _____

Mississippi Curriculum Test,
Second Edition

MCT2

GRADE

4

PRACTICE
TEST BOOK

MISSISSIPPI



LANGUAGE ARTS

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Language Arts

Section 1

Reading

Read the following passage “A Day of Discovery.” Then answer questions 1-5 based on the passage. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

A Day of Discovery

1 Walking through the woods with my dad is one of my favorite activities. Once a month we trade the noise of the city for the peace and quiet of the woods. Every nature walk leads us to some new or different experience.

5 Last Saturday I stuffed a water bottle and a magnifying glass into my backpack. Dad drove us to a nearby state park and pulled into the parking area just inside the entrance. We gathered our backpacks from the trunk and entered the hiking trail. The sky was clear and sunny, perfect for walking in the woods. Soon a thick forest of green surrounded us. Tiny wildflowers lined the path like tiny bits of paper sprinkled on an emerald carpet. After
10 walking for a while, we rested on a cluster of large stones. Dad turned one over, and I peered over his shoulder.

“Look!” I exclaimed. Slender red worms squirmed quickly into the moist, dark soil. Pill bugs rolled into tight little balls, and dozens of beetles scattered. A centipede marched quietly on.

15 “All those tiny legs!” I exclaimed. “There must be millions.” I scrambled to pull my magnifying glass from my backpack. As I reached, I noticed the entrance to an overgrown path. Grass and weeds covered most of the narrow track, but I could tell it was a trail.

20 Forgetting the centipede, I tapped Dad on the back and pointed. “Look, Dad, some sort of trail goes through there. Let’s follow it!”

Dad replaced the rock, grabbed his backpack, and led the way. We followed the path about a hundred yards before we reached a massive oak tree. There, cradled in the branches, was the most wonderful tree house I had ever seen. A long rope ladder hung from the first level. Another small
25 ladder led to a deck even higher in the tree, at least thirty feet from the ground.

“Can I climb it?” I pleaded.

“Not before I make sure the tree house is safe,” Dad replied. He removed his backpack, walked over to the tree, and tugged on the ladder. Convinced
30 it was sturdy, he began climbing. After he reached the first deck, I watched as he examined each board and the second rope ladder. He called from the upper deck, “Everything looks good, Sally. There’s no rotten wood or rope here. Come on up!”

Then, as I reached the first level, my dad grabbed my hand and pulled me
35 onto the deck. I quickly followed Dad up the next rope to the second level. After reaching the top, neither of us said a word as we took in the scene before us. A sea of green forest and blue lake filled the horizon. Eventually I became aware of the activity around us. Birds moved from branch to branch above our heads, chirping excitedly to each other. A squirrel seemed
40 to fly as it leaped from one tree to another. A woodpecker tapped nearby. “This is the most magical place in the world!” I said quietly.

“Seen enough?” Dad asked.

“No way,” I responded.

“I know,” Dad agreed, “but I’m afraid we need to be heading back. Mom
45 will worry if we’re late.”

“Can we . . .?” I began.

“Come back?” Dad finished. “Sure we can. We’ll bring Mom next time.”

“Don’t tell her what we found!” I exclaimed. “She needs to discover it just like we did!”

50 Dad nodded, and we began making our way to the ground. The walk back seemed much longer than our trip into the forest. As we dumped our backpacks into the trunk, I asked, “Dad, is this what you meant when you said that sometimes experience is the best teacher?”

Dad simply smiled.

1. Why does this author write this passage?

- A. To persuade the reader to enjoy nature
- B. To provide facts on what to bring on a hike
- C. To describe a long hike through the woods
- D. To entertain the reader with an adventure story

2. This passage is part of a book. Where can the reader look to find a picture of a treehouse with a rope ladder?

- F. Index
- G. Appendix
- H. Glossary
- J. Table of Contents

3. Which of the following sentences does not contain information important enough to be included in a summary of the passage?

- A. Sally and her father find all kinds of bugs under the stones.
- B. Sally and her father dumped their backpacks into the trunk.
- C. Sally and her father find a treehouse along a hidden path.
- D. Sally and her father climb up into the treehouse and watch the birds.

4. Which of the following statements from the passage supports the narrator's opinion, "This is the most magical place in the world?"

- F. Last Saturday I stuffed a water bottle and a magnifying glass into my backpack.
- G. After walking for a while, we rested on a cluster of large stones.
- H. Then, as I reached the first level, my dad grabbed my hand and pulled me onto the deck.
- J. A squirrel seemed to fly as it leaped from one tree to another.

5. Read the following sentence from the passage.

The walk back seemed much longer than our trip into the forest.

Why does the walk back seem longer?

- A. Sally and her dad are really tired and hungry.
- B. The trail is hard for Sally and her dad to follow.
- C. They do not find any bugs or centipedes on the walk back.
- D. The walk back is not as exciting as when they first explored the trail.

Read the following passage “Fun in the Sun!” Then answer questions 6-10 based on the passage. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

Fun in the Sun!

Some young people spend much of their time indoors. Some play with video games or computers. Others watch television. Most people agree that these activities are fine in small doses. However, they should not be the main source of play in a young person’s life. Many young people today need more exercise. One way to get more
5 exercise is to play outside. Young people can enjoy outdoor activities and have fun in the sun in many different ways. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

You can play many different games outside. No matter what kind of physical activities you enjoy, there is an outdoor game just for you. You can organize your friends from the neighborhood into teams. Find a large yard, an empty field, or a
10 playground. Then try one of these team activities: basketball, baseball, soccer, football, volleyball, or street hockey. If you are not sure about the rules of the game, look on the Internet or check out a book about the activity from your local library. Many games work well for two players. If you want to play a game with just one friend, try badminton or ping-pong. Games are fun to play with friends. If you prefer
15 to play alone, go outside and kick a ball. All these games are great fun and good exercise, too. Have some fun in the sun!

Think of some of the games you may have played on the playground at school or in gym class. Have you played Duck Duck Goose or Freeze Tag? These common games are easy to play. They give you a great physical workout, too. Talk to your friends
20 about games you all enjoy. Have some fun in the sun! Play a game outdoors!

Exploring nature is another great outdoor activity. The earth is full of interesting plants, minerals, insects, and animals. The wonders of nature are all around us. Take a look and see what you can find. Visit a local park and take a nature walk. Spend some time in your yard. Have some fun in the sun! Explore nature!

25 What are you waiting for? These are only a few great suggestions to get fresh air and some exercise while having fun. Try one of these suggested activities—or use your imagination and come up with your own. Either way, exercising is one of the best things you can do for yourself. Have some fun in the sun!

6. According to the passage, what is one effect of young people's spending too much time indoors?

- F. They do not get as much exercise as they should.
- G. They play video games with their friends.
- H. They talk to friends about games they might enjoy.
- J. They use their imaginations to come up with activities.

7. How does the author organize lines 8-18?

- A. By comparing and contrasting different outdoor games
- B. By giving how-to-instructions for playing outdoor games
- C. By explaining why playing outdoor games with friends is fun
- D. By giving information about outdoor games

8. Which of the following statements does not contain information important enough to be included in a summary of the passage?

- F. Exploring nature is another good way to get exercise outdoors.
- G. Plants, minerals, insects, and animals are all part of nature.
- H. Outdoor games are fun to play with friends.
- J. Playing outside is a good way to get more exercise.

9. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- A. To provide facts about young people and exercise
- B. To explain how to play games that young people will enjoy
- C. To persuade young people to get more exercise outdoors
- D. To entertain the reader with a story about playing outdoors

10. Which of the following statements from the passage does not use endorsement to encourage young people to exercise outside?

- F. Some play with video games or computers.
 - G. Games are fun to play with friends.
 - H. These common games are easy to play.
 - J. Exploring nature is another great outdoor activity.
-

Mark your answers for questions 11-15 on your answer document. Mark only one answer for each question. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

11. Read the following sentences.

Kim ran well and was in first place. However, she could hear Bill's footsteps pounding on the track behind her. Slowly but surely, Bill was going to overtake Kim.

Based on the prefix over-, what is the meaning of the word overtake?

- A. To win
- B. To pass
- C. To fall behind
- D. To run quickly

12. What is the correct way to divide the word disappointment into syllables?

- F. dis / appoint / ment
- G. disap / point / ment
- H. dis / ap / point / ment
- J. di / sap / point / ment

13. Read the following sentences.

“I don’t want to meddle in matters that don’t concern me,” said a neighbor to a friend, “but who talked you into getting a pet? You know you don’t have the time or the interest to take care of it.”

Based on these sentences, which of the following choices is the meaning of **meddle**?

- A. To encourage people not to make mistakes
- B. To get involved in other people’s business
- C. To question carefully
- D. To help others

14. Read the following sentence.

Laura does not want her mom to know how disappointed she is, but her mom can read her like a book.

What does the phrase “read her like a book” tell the reader about Mom?

- F. She can tell exactly what Laura is feeling by looking at her.
- G. She gets impatient when Laura does not tell her how she is feeling.
- H. She knows Laura so well that they like to read the same books.
- J. She fails to understand Laura’s feelings unless Laura writes about them.

15. What is the meaning of the word **skim**?

- A. run
- B. stand
- C. study hard
- D. read quickly

Read the following passage “Household Chores.” Then answer questions 16-20 based on the passage. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

Household Chores

“Saturday is chore day in the Martin household. That’s the law!” Mr. Martin stated as he put his fist down and tried to look serious. Everyone burst out laughing. Mr. Martin disliked cleaning, as did Letty, Marc, and Robert.

“Finish your breakfast,” Mrs. Martin said. “It’s time to start cleaning!”

5 The family sat around the table. This is how their Saturday mornings usually began. After breakfast, someone washed the dishes; someone else started the laundry; and others cleaned bathrooms, mowed the lawn, and finished other jobs. By the end of the day, the cleaning was finished, and the family was very tired.

10 Marc had noticed, however, that there was no system to how they did chores. Each week different people did different jobs. They wasted a lot of time discussing who would do what.

Marc began, “I have an idea.”

“What is your idea this time, Marc?” asked Letty, smiling.

15 “You know I like to make things run better, more quickly, and more efficiently,” Marc continued.

“Like the time you helped me wash the dog without getting wet!” Robert blurted out, giggling. He knew his big brother was very smart.

“Yes,” Marc answered. “I have some ideas about how we can improve chore day. With a little planning, we could finish our chores in only three hours.”

20 “That’s impossible!” replied Letty.

“Sounds good to me!” Mr. Martin exclaimed.

“Why haven’t I asked you to look at this before?” asked Mrs. Martin. She appreciated Marc’s abilities, and before she even heard his plan, she knew he probably had a great idea.

25

“Let’s hear it, Marc,” she continued. “I could use some extra time.” She looked at Letty and Robert and added, “You would enjoy more playtime, too. Listen to your big brother.”

Marc laid out his plan. Each person would do the same chores each week.

30 “For one thing,” Marc explained, “if you do the same thing over and over again, you’ll get better at it. You may even learn to do it more quickly.”

Marc passed out papers. “These are only suggestions,” he said as he gave each person a list. “These are the chores you will be responsible for every Saturday. We can make changes. This is just a start.”

35 “This looks like a great start, Marc,” Mr. Martin said as he patted his son on the back. “I like my list because I will be working in the yard.”

“I like my list because I like to fold clothes,” said Letty.

“Thanks, Marc,” said Mrs. Martin. “You’ve given me the easy tasks!”

“What do you think, Robert?” Marc asked.

40 “I like my list because my big brother made it for me,” he said, smiling. “This is the best plan in the world!”

Marc sat back and smiled. He was glad his family liked his idea. He was even more excited about having extra playtime later that afternoon.

16. This passage is part of a book. Which part of the book provides the meaning of chores?

- F. Index
- G. Glossary
- H. Title Page
- J. Table of Contents

17. Read the following definitions of the word chore.

1. the regular or daily light work of a household or farm
2. a routine task or job
3. a difficult or disagreeable task

Read the following paragraph from the passage.

“Saturday is chore day in the Martin household. That’s the law!” Mr. Martin stated as he put his fist down and tried to look serious. Everyone burst out laughing. Mr. Martin disliked cleaning, as did Letty, Marc, and Robert.

Based on the dictionary definitions and the passage, Miranda has inferred that Mr. Martin thinks Letty, Marc, and Robert should play outside rather than do chores. Is Miranda correct?

- A. Yes, because everyone laughs at Mr. Martin
- B. Yes, because Mr. Martin calls chore day a family law
- C. No, because although Mr. Martin tries to look serious, he knows playing outside is more important
- D. No, because although Mr. Martin dislikes cleaning, he intends for everyone in the family to do chores

18. Which sentence summarizes lines 31-36?

- F. Marc is happy that the family likes his new plan.
- G. Marc says he has some ideas about how to improve chore day.
- H. Marc decides the family needs a new plan for chore day.
- J. Marc explains his new plan for chore day to the family.

19. Based on this passage, what will happen when the chores are done?

- A. The family will go grocery shopping.
- B. Marc, Letty, and Robert will play outside.
- C. Marc, Letty, and Robert will find more chores to do.
- D. The family will figure out a new system for their chores.

20. Which of the following statements from the passage uses *air and rebut* to present the other side's point of view on the assignment of chores?

- F. "That's impossible!" replied Letty.
- G. "If you do the same thing over and over again, you'll get better at it."
- H. "This looks like a great start, Marc," Mr. Martin said as he patted his son on the back.
- J. "Thanks, Marc," said Mrs. Martin. "You've given me the easy tasks!"

Mark your answers for questions 21-25 on your answer document. Mark only one answer for each question. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

21. Read this part of a dictionary entry.

Oath (oth)

Which of the following words has the same vowel sound as oath?

- A. ox
- B. coin
- C. glow
- D. horse

22. Read the following sentences.

The club members wore a patch on the right sleeve of their uniforms. On each patch was a tiger, the emblem of the club.

Based on these sentences, which of the following choices is the meaning of emblem?

- F. flag
- G. prize
- H. saying
- J. symbol

23. Read these sentences.

Your backpack, weighing more than a ton of bricks, plummeted to the floor.

Your books plummeted to the floor like a clap of thunder.

Based on the figurative language used in the sentences above, Tylando has inferred that the word plummeted means drifted downward. Is Tylando correct?

- A. Yes, because the figurative language illustrates the shapes and sounds of the books and the backpack
- B. Yes, because the figurative language illustrates the ease of carrying books in a backpack
- C. No, because the figurative language illustrates the heaviness of the books and the backpack
- D. No, because the figurative language illustrates the safety of carrying books in a backpack

24. Look at each pair of words. Which of the pairs are synonyms?

- F. possession – precious
- G. eyebrow – eyelash
- H. beside –beneath
- J. bother –upset

25. Read the following dictionary entry.

mold (mold) *noun* 1. hollow form for shaping melted metal, clay, and other materials. 2. something that is shaped or formed in a mold. 3. a type of fungus that grows on wet surfaces or on old food.

Based on the dictionary entry, in which sentence is **mold** **not** used correctly?

- A. After being in a damp closet for three days, the bread was covered with mold.
- B. The shoemaker used a wooden mold to shape the dancer's new slippers.
- C. The baker poured the cake batter into the mold and then put it into the oven.
- D. The water in the bottle molded when it was heated to 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

Read the following passage “Manners Matter.” Then answer questions 26-30 based on the passage. You may write in your test booklet, but you must mark your answers on your answer document.

Manners Matter

Manners are polite actions and words. Using manners shows respect to others. Polite actions let others know you care about their feelings. Caring about the feelings of others is important. Think about how you feel when someone goes out of his or her way to include you. You most likely feel special. This is an example of
5 using good manners.

Here are some other ways you can show good manners toward others.

Listen when others speak to you

Sometimes people are so busy they do not stop and listen carefully. Not giving the speaker your attention is almost like saying, “I’m too busy for you.” Even though this is not the message most people intend to send, it is often the
10 message a person receives. Stop what you are doing when someone speaks to you. Giving the speaker your attention shows you care about what the person has to say. Nod whenever you agree with what the person says. These small gestures show the person that he or she has your full attention.

Wait your turn

When you have great news, you want to share it. However, sometimes you
15 must wait before you can share your news. If the person you wish to speak to is talking, you will have to wait. Show respect to the person who is talking. Let the person finish what he or she is saying. Being patient and waiting for your turn show good manners.

Think of others’ feelings and needs

Paying attention to the feelings of others is a great way to show good
20 manners. You can be polite in many different ways. If you notice friends who seem sad, try to cheer them up. Bend over backwards for them! If you see someone who needs help, offer to help. When someone gives you a gift or compliment, a great response would be, “Thanks! That’s very nice of you.” A sincere “thank you” is one
25 of the nicest responses you can give someone. Other polite words such as “excuse me” and “please” make a difference when communicating with others. Using these words shows respect and kindness.

Good manners are a great way to show kindness to others. Respect makes people feel special and important. Try using your best manners with each person you meet. You will feel good about yourself. Others will feel good about you. Try
30 it.

26. What is the author’s purpose for writing this passage?

- F. To entertain the reader with stories about using manners
- G. To explain to the reader how to use manners in everyday life
- H. To provide the reader with facts about the best way to listen to others
- J. To give the reader facts about when to use “Please” and “Excuse me”

28. Read the following sentence from the passage.

If you notice a friend who seems sad, bend over backwards for him or her.

What does the author mean by this sentence?

- F. Do gymnastics to cheer up a sad friend.
- G. Do funny tricks to make your friend laugh.
- H. Do everything you can to cheer up a sad friend.
- J. Do something funny so that a friend will think about other things.

27. What does this passage suggest about listening to others?

- A. Listening to others may not be interesting.
- B. Listening to others shows the listener cares.
- C. Listening to others is more important than speaking first.
- D. Listening to others is a good way for the listener to learn new things.

29. Which sentence summarizes lines 20-28?

- A. Try to cheer up someone who is sad.
- B. Help others who are in need of help.
- C. Be considerate of other people’s feelings.
- D. Remember to say “Please” and “Thank you.”

30. How is this passage organized?

- F. By comparing and contrasting an idea
- G. By describing events in sequential order
- H. By presenting information in order of importance
- J. By stating the topic followed by supporting details

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS BEFORE GOING ON TO THE NEXT SECTION. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN BACK TO THIS SECTION OF THE TEST.

Section 2

Writing

31. Hector's teacher has given him an assignment to write a speech about TV. Read the following notes he has written for his speech.

_____. I suggest that people pick one day a week to be TV free. They would see changes for the better right away. Parents would probably find more time to talk to their children. Children might find more time to play or do homework. If you are interested in a TV-Free Day, give me your name. We could share ideas for encouraging others to join us.

Which sentences makes a correct first line for Hector's speech?

- A. We should all watch less TV.
- B. Watching less TV makes people smarter.
- C. Children who do not watch TV play more active games.
- D. People should give me their names if they want to have a TV-Free Day.

32. Read the following paragraph.

Many children grew up watching a "television neighbor" named Fred Rogers. His program was on every weekday from 1968 until 2001.

Rogers had not planned to work in television. However, he did not like the programs he saw. Therefore, he made a show that was different from the rest. Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood looked at the world as a young child might.

Rogers always spoke gently to his viewers. He ended every program by saying that each of them was special. He was well-loved for giving simple, important messages like this one.

Which sentence gives another detail that fits in the second paragraph?

- F. Rogers lived in Canada for a few years.
- G. Rogers studied the piano in college.
- H. Rogers planned his shows carefully.
- J. Rogers was born on March 20, 1928.

33. Which sentence uses language that vividly expresses the action?

- A. The sweet, crisp apple crunched loudly as Tina took a huge bite.
- B. The crunchy, crisp apple was nice and tasty to Tina's bite.
- C. The apple was crunchy and sweet when Tina took her bite.
- D. The apple was crisp and sweet when Tina took a big bite.

34. Stacy's teacher has given her an assignment to write a persuasive letter. Read the following paragraph she is writing.

I am in favor of making a seating chart for all the buses. If seats are assigned, the bus driver can easily tell if anyone who should be on the bus is missing. Assigned seats allow for younger or shy students to have a fair chance at a good seat. Right now, older or pushier students grab all the best seats. With assigned seats, the driver can also separate students who cannot get along.

Which of the following choices fits as a concluding sentence for this paragraph?

- F. To sum up, the bus driver cannot solve this problem alone; we have to help.
- G. To sum up, leaving the buses as they are now would be a foolish thing to do.
- H. To sum up, assigned seats would take care of many problems on our buses.
- J. To sum up, the buses will be even more unpleasant to ride.

35. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. When Ken, grows up he wants to be an astronaut.
- B. When, Ken grows up he wants to be an astronaut.
- C. When Ken grows up he wants to be, an astronaut.
- D. When Ken grows up, he wants to be an astronaut.

36. In which sentence is the word its used correctly?

- F. Mom says its time for us to wash our hands for dinner.
- G. Marco says its not his fault his team lost the game.
- H. I do not know why its so hard for you to hear me.
- J. The kitten chased its toy ball under the sofa.

37. Jack has written the following sentence.

Jeffrey wanted to swim all day but his mother said they had to go home.

Jack has decided to place a comma after day. Is his decision correct?

- A. Yes, because the information about swimming all day is not necessary
- B. Yes, because the two independent clauses of the compound sentence need to be joined with a comma before the coordinating conjunction.
- C. No, because a comma will interrupt the flow of the sentence
- D. No, because the information about going home is necessary

38. Read the following sentences.

Aunt Cathy is taking care of us this weekend.
Mom and Dad are on a special trip.

Which choice is the correct way to make these two sentences into a complex sentence?

- F. Aunt Cathy is taking care of us this weekend, Mom and Dad are on a special trip.
- G. Aunt Cathy is taking care of us this weekend, for Mom and Dad are on a special trip.
- H. Aunt Cathy is taking care of us this weekend because Mom and Dad are on a special trip.
- J. Aunt Cathy is taking care of us this weekend, but Mom and Dad are on a special trip.

39. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. "I can't wait to go the fair next week" shouted David!
- B. "I can't wait to go to the fair next week"! shouted David.
- C. "I can't wait to go to the fair next week!" shouted David.
- D. "I can't wait to go to the fair next week shouted David!"

40. Read the following first draft of Betty's report about baseball.

(1) The rules of baseball are easy to follow. (2) A game lasts for nine innings. (3) The pitcher of one team throws the ball to the batter of the other team. (4) The batter tries to hit the ball. (5) If the batter hits the ball, he or she has to run around all the bases. (6) Touching home plate again will score a point, which is called a run. (7) At the end of the game, the team with the most runs is the winner. (8) Baseball is one of America's favorite sports.

Which sentence needs to be deleted because it does not support the main idea of the paragraph?

- F. Sentence 1
- G. Sentence 3
- H. Sentence 7
- J. Sentence 8

41. Read the following draft of a composition Guy wrote about a class trip.

Our teacher, Mr. Noonan, took us on a surprise trip last week. The school bus drove us to a place called Dunn's Falls Water Park. I did not see any rides, though. What kind of water park was this? "This is going to be another boring trip," I thought to myself.

A tour guide led us along the banks of the Chunky River. "Look up," he said suddenly. Before us rose an awesome waterfall. At the top a waterwheel turned. It had been built in the 1850s to grind grain. We ate a picnic lunch, and then we splashed under the waterfall.

Which of the following sentences fits as a conclusion for Guy's composition?

- A. When I grow up, I would like to be a tour guide at Dunn's Falls Water Park.
- B. I would rather have called it Dunn's Waterfall Park, but it was fun anyway.
- C. The biggest surprise of this trip was that it turned out to be fun after all.
- D. A few weeks later, Mr. Noonan took us on another trip.

42. Read the following draft of the poem.

My Grandma Willow sent me some money in a card with a picture of a rooster in her big backyard.

- (5) She lives far away on a big yellow farm with a big yellow cat and a falling-down barn.

- (10) She grows beans and peppers and she builds bookcases. She reads scary stories and she makes funny faces.

- (15) The card made me miss Grandma Willow, so I wrote how I'd spend the money in a thank-you note.

If the writer adds another verse to finish the poem, which of the following choices fits?

- F. How old Grandma is
- G. How to grow peppers
- H. What the speaker looks like
- J. What the thank-you note says

43. Which sentence helps readers form a detailed picture in their minds?

- A. The great baking smell in the house made us get to the kitchen really quickly.
- B. The delicious smell of baking cookies brought us racing eagerly to the kitchen.
- C. The wonderful smell of something baking in the oven brought us together fast.
- D. The smell of stuff that was cooking in the kitchen called all of us there very fast.

45. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. During the gentle spring shower, Alisha watched the rain drip from the roof.
- B. During the gentle spring shower Alisha watched the rain drip, from the roof.
- C. During the gentle spring, shower Alisha watched the rain drip from the roof.
- D. During the gentle spring shower Alisha watched the rain, drip from the roof.

44. Read the following sentence Martha wrote in a paragraph about her friends.

My friends have traveled to the mountains every summer since they moved to Mississippi.

Why did Martha use the verb have traveled in this sentence?

- F. To show action that started at some unknown time in the past
- G. To show action that started and finished in the past
- H. To show action that took place recently
- J. To show action that started in the past and continues into the present

46. Sasha wrote the following facts for a report about beavers.

have wide, flat tails
have long, sharp teeth

Which choice is the correct way for Sasha to write a sentence using this information?

- F. Beavers have wide, flat tails, long, sharp teeth.
- G. Beavers have wide, flat tails and long, sharp teeth.
- H. Beavers have wide flat tails, but have long, sharp teeth.
- J. Beavers have wide, flat tails, beavers have long sharp teeth.

47. Which of the following sentences is correct?

- A. Mom told my sister and I to be home before dark.
- B. Sean and me like to go running in the park after school.
- C. Mr. Sanchez asked Jen and me to help decorate the bulletin board.
- D. Uncle Troy hired Ronnie and I to clean out the garage and mow the yard.

48. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- F. Germs are found in the following places, in the water, in the air, and on our hands.
- G. Germs are found in the following places in the water, in the air, and on our hands.
- H. Germs are found in the following places: in the water, in the air, and on our hands.
- J. Germs are found in the following places; in the water, in the air, and on our hands.

49. Read the following paragraphs from Jody's report on the Wright brothers.

Wilbur and Orville Wright's parents taught their children that family is very important. In fact, the two brothers were very close. They worked together in business and did very well. However, they are famous because they invented and flew the first airplane.

On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville made seven flights. They took turns. The longest flight lasted fifty-nine seconds.

In the following years, the Wright brothers designed even better planes. In 2003 the world celebrated one hundred years of flight.

Jody has decided to add the following sentence as a topic sentence for paragraph 1.

That the Wright brothers were able to work together so successfully was no accident.

Is Jody's decision correct?

- A. Yes, because the paragraph states that the Wright brothers grew up in Dayton, Ohio
- B. Yes, because the paragraph states that the Wright brothers were trained by their parents to value their family relationship
- C. No, because the paragraph does not state that the brothers played with flying toys when they were children
- D. No, because the paragraph does not state that the brothers took turns flying

50. Read the following draft of a student's instructional paragraph about how to correctly address an envelope.

(1)First, hold the envelope so the flap faces away from you. (2) Lay the envelope so the flap is face down on the table. (3) Next, write your name and address in the upper left corner. (4) In the middle of the envelope, write the name and address of the person who will receive the letter. (5) Then, check that all the information is correct. (6) Finally, put a stamp in the upper right corner of the envelope.

Which detail fits after sentence 4?

- F. Be sure to seal the envelope tightly.
- G. Be sure to drop the letter in a mailbox.
- H. Be sure to put the letter in the envelope.
- J. Be sure to include the ZIP code after the state's name.

51. Which sentence uses detailed information to help readers imagine the event?

- A. Dan's talent on the piano was exciting to hear.
- B. Dan played the piano as if he had been practicing for a long time.
- C. Dan played the piano so well it sounded as if he had played for years.
- D. Dan's fingers flew over the piano keys and beautiful melodies flowed over the room.

52. Sandy has an assignment to write about earth science. Read this paragraph from her report.

Natural bodies of land are called landforms. Natural collections of water are called bodies of water. Not all bodies of water contain the same kind of water. Some, such as oceans, bays, and gulfs, are made of salt water. Others, such as lakes, streams, and rivers, contain fresh water or water that is not salty.

Which of the following sentences fits as a conclusion to Sandy's paragraph?

- F. Creeks also contain fresh water before flowing into a river.
- G. The Mississippi River is the fourth-longest river in the world.
- H. Both types of bodies of water are important to plants and animals.
- J. Snow, ice, and rain are forms of water, but they are not bodies of water.

53. Helen wrote a letter to her Aunt Catherine. She wrote the address on the envelope. Read what she wrote.

Mrs. Catherine Bell
729 Oak Circle
Jackson MS 39204

What change should Helen make to the address on the envelope?

- A. MRS. Catherine Bell
- B. 729 Oak circle
- C. 729, Oak Circle
- D. Jackson, MS 39204

55. Steve has written the following sentence.

The old shed a secret hiding place was popular with the neighborhood boys.

Steve has decided to place commas after shed and place. Is his decision correct?

- A. Yes, the sentence needs commas because it is too long as written.
- B. Yes, the description of the shed is not a necessary part of the sentence.
- C. No, commas will interrupt the natural flow of the sentence.
- D. No, a comma should not come before a verb.

54. Read the following sentence.

The baseball pitcher usually throws the ball _____ than any other player on the team.

Which of the following choices correctly completes the sentence?

- F. harder
- G. hardest
- H. more hard
- J. most hard

56. Read the following sentence.

The green jacket in the store window suddenly interested Brian.

Which change makes this a sentence with a compound subject?

- F. The green jacket in the store window suddenly interested Brian when he saw the price tag.
- G. The green jacket in the store window and the matching shirt suddenly interested Brian.
- H. The green jacket in the store window suddenly interested Brian, and he checked the price tag.
- J. The green jacket with the matching shirt in the store window suddenly interested Brian.

57. Bryan’s teacher has given him an assignment to write a speech about Picture Day at school. Read the following notes Bryan wrote.

The day when all students have their pictures taken is a waste of time. First, we should take a class picture only, not pictures of each student. Class pictures are fun to take and fun to look at. However, the student pictures usually do not come out as well. It is better to take a nice snapshot on your own than to waste a whole day with this useless activity.

What is another detail to support Bryan’s position?

- A. Most parents would like the idea of not having Picture Day.
- B. All the class pictures should be hung up in the halls of the school.
- C. Taking pictures at Tom’s Photo Shop at the mall is more expensive.
- D. A class picture helps us remember everyone instead of just a few people.

58. Gina is writing a story about her puppy, Buster. Read her first draft.

“Why did you chew up your new collar?” I asked Buster. Buster is my new puppy. Buster looked at me. He seemed to say, “I don’t like anything around my neck!”

I realized I had to help Buster get used to the collar. I left it off most of the time. I only put the collar on Buster when we went to the park.

After a few weeks, I “forgot” to take the collar off after we came home. Buster “forgot” to notice.

Which of the following sentences fits at the end of the story?

- F. Buster was finally used to his collar.
- G. The collar rattled as it fell on the ground.
- H. Buster was thirsty after playing at the park.
- J. I filled Buster’s bowl full of his favorite dog food.

59. Read the following paragraph from Jonathan's story.

(1) When I first got to the bus stop, I was the only one there.
 (2) The day was very warm then.
 (3) Soon my classmate Joan arrived.
 (4) Paul and Benny showed up next.
 (5) Finally, we saw the yellow bus in the distance. (6) It pulled up next to us and came to a stop. (7) Millie, our driver, opened the doors, and we climbed aboard.

Jonathan's classmate has suggested that Jonathan remove sentence 2. However, Jonathan has decided not to remove the sentence. Is Jonathan's decision correct?

- A. Yes, because the reader knows that seeing a yellow bus is easier on a warm day
- B. Yes, because the reader knows that riding a bus is more pleasant on a warm day
- C. No, because the reader does not need to know that the day was warm in order to understand the paragraph
- D. No, because the reader does not like to ride yellow buses on warm days

60. Read the following paragraph.

The octopus is a very interesting animal. It has eight legs that it can use like arms. It has a big head, and its eyes stick out at the top of its legs. The octopus is a shy animal. It usually lives alone at the bottom of the ocean. It likes to live among rocks. When it sees an enemy, it shoots out a kind of ink that helps it hide.

Which question can be answered after reading this paragraph?

- F. Where would an octopus most likely be found?
- G. How does an octopus most likely find food?
- H. When does an octopus sleep?
- J. What does an octopus eat?

BE SURE YOU HAVE MARKED ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

