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# English-Language Arts Practice Test

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This is a practice test using sample CAHSEE questions to help you prepare for the CAHSEE. Answer all the questions in the practice test and then check your answers using the ANSWER KEY provided in the back.

When you take the actual CAHSEE, it will be separated into two sections. Session 1 will contain 21 multiple-choice questions and a writing task. Session 2 will contain 58 multiple-choice items. Remember that you may take as much time as you need within the regular school day, and you will have a break between Sessions 1 and 2.

This practice test is designed to familiarize you with the CAHSEE test format and the possible types of items you might see on the real test. Since this practice test contains only a few samples of each standard, it cannot be used to accurately predict how you will perform on the CAHSEE.

Becoming familiar with the test may be helpful, but the absolute best preparation for the English-language arts portion of the test is to read often, discuss what you read, and write about what you have read.



## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 9.

## A Day Away

By Maya Angelou

Most people today know Maya Angelou as one of America's most important poets. One of her stories, "Georgia, Georgia," was the first story by an African-American woman to be made into a television movie. Angelou also wrote the screenplay for the movie *All Day Long* and even directed it. The variety, quality, and passion of her work continue to inspire people today.



- 1 We often think that our affairs, great or small, must be tended continuously and in detail, or our world will disintegrate, and we will lose our places in the universe. That is not true, or if it is true, then our situations were so temporary that they would have collapsed anyway.
- 2 Once a year or so I give myself a day away. On the eve of my day of absence, I begin to unwrap the bonds which hold me in harness. I inform housemates, my family and close

friends that I will not be reachable for twenty-four hours; then I disengage the telephone. I turn the radio dial to an all-music station, preferably one which plays the soothing golden oldies. I sit for at least an hour in a very hot tub; then I lay out my clothes in preparation for my morning escape, and knowing that nothing will disturb me, I sleep the sleep of the just.

- 3 On the morning I wake naturally, for I will have set no clock, nor informed my body timepiece when it should alarm. I dress in comfortable shoes and casual clothes and leave my house going no place. If I am living in a city, I wander streets, window-shop, or gaze at buildings. I enter and leave public parks, libraries, the lobbies of skyscrapers, and movie houses. I stay in no place for very long.

**PRACTICE TEST**

- 4 On the getaway day I try for amnesia. I do not want to know my name, where I live, or how many dire responsibilities rest on my shoulders. I detest encountering even the closest friend, for then I am reminded of who I am, and the circumstances of my life, which I want to forget for a while.
- 5 Every person needs to take one day away. A day in which one consciously separates the past from the future. Jobs, family, employers, and friends can exist one day without any one of us, and if our egos permit us to confess, they could exist eternally in our absence.
- 6 Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us. We need hours of aimless wandering or spaces of time sitting on park benches, observing the mysterious world of ants and the canopy of treetops.
- 7 If we step away for a time, we are not, as many may think and some will accuse, being irresponsible, but rather we are preparing ourselves to more ably perform our duties and discharge our obligations.

- 8 When I return home, I am always surprised to find some questions I sought to evade had been answered and some entanglements I had hoped to flee had become unraveled in my absence.
- 9 A day away acts as a spring tonic. It can dispel rancor, transform indecision, and renew the spirit.

From *WOULDN'T TAKE NOTHING FOR MY JOURNEY NOW* by Maya Angelou, copyright © 1993 by Maya Angelou. Used by permission of Random House, Inc.

64B

1. The words *casual*, *wander*, and *gaze* in Paragraph 3 suggest a feeling of—

- A determination.
- B solitude.
- C bewilderment.
- D relaxation.

L164B006

2. What is the narrator's main purpose in this passage?

- A to entertain readers with a story of an unusual day
- B to inform readers how to organize a day away from home
- C to persuade readers to take some time for themselves
- D to describe to readers what it is like to rediscover a city

L164B007

## California High School Exit Examination

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3. Which statement from the passage **BEST** describes the narrator’s motivation for “a day away”?
- A . . . we will lose our places in the universe.
  - B . . . I sleep the sleep of the just.
  - C . . . I want to forget for a while.
  - D . . . friends can exist one day without any one of us.
- L164B009
4. The narrator **MOST** likely laid out her clothes the night before her day away so that she—
- A wouldn’t forget what she wanted to wear.
  - B wouldn’t have to make a decision in the morning.
  - C would be able to sleep late in the morning.
  - D would be as stylishly dressed as possible.
- L164B010
5. Which of the following is the main theme of the passage?
- A Self-energizing oneself is necessary.
  - B Time is of the essence.
  - C Problems will solve themselves.
  - D A single decision has many consequences.
- L164B011
6. Which sentence below is an example of a simile?
- A I will have set no clock . . .
  - B I do not want to know my name . . .
  - C We need hours of aimless wandering . . .
  - D A day away acts as a spring tonic.
- L164B013
7. Which sentence from the passage is an example of figurative language?
- A Once a year or so I give myself a day away.
  - B On the eve of my day of absence, I begin to unwrap the bonds which hold me in harness.
  - C I enter and leave public parks, libraries, the lobbies of skyscrapers, and movie houses.
  - D It can dispel rancor, transform indecision, and renew the spirit.
- L164B014

**PRACTICE TEST**

8. In which sentence from the passage does the narrator acknowledge those who disagree with her main argument?

- A I inform housemates, my family and close friends that I will not be reachable for twenty-four hours; then I disengage the telephone.
- B I detest encountering even the closest friend, for then I am reminded of who I am, and the circumstances of my life, which I want to forget for a while.
- C If we step away for a time, we are not, as many may think and some will accuse, being irresponsible, but rather we are preparing ourselves to more ably perform our duties and discharge our obligations.
- D When I return home, I am always surprised to find some questions I sought to evade had been answered and some entanglements I had hoped to flee had become unraveled in my absence.

L164B015

9. Which BEST describes the narrator's tone in the second half of the passage?

- A persuasive
- B humorous
- C sarcastic
- D frustrated

L164B016

**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following passage and answer questions 10 through 15.

## The Remarkable Paper Cuttings of Hans Christian Andersen

- 1 Best known as an author of fairy tales, Hans Christian Andersen wrote such children’s classics as “The Ugly Duckling,” “The Little Mermaid,” and “The Emperor’s New Clothes.” Many people may not be aware, however, that he was also an actor, a singer, and an artist, and that as an artist, he excelled at the unusual craft of paper cutting.
- 2 Andersen may have begun practicing paper cutting as a young boy in Denmark. It is known that he loved to play with puppets and frequently created clothes for them from scraps of cloth. He also may have helped cut leather for his father, a shoemaker. These practices could have contributed to his proficiency in using scissors to create works of art.
- 3 Paper cutting was not a well-known craft in Denmark during the 1800s. Some Europeans created silhouettes out of black paper, but Andersen’s cuttings were quite different. Andersen usually used white or brightly colored paper. He never drew an outline first but simply snipped away with a  

Sometimes he used a flat piece of paper. Other times he folded the paper, made some cuts, opened the paper, and then refolded it in a different way before cutting again. When at last he unfolded the finished paper cutting, an intricate design could be seen, often incorporating dancers, swans, windmills, storks, and castles. Frequently, the images were bordered by a stage with curtains and fancy decorations.
- 4 Andersen had many reasons for making his paper cuttings, but the main one was to entertain. Andersen loved to tell his fanciful stories to anyone who would listen. As he spoke, he would take out his scissors and create a remarkable paper cutting to illustrate his words. Audiences remained enthralled as they awaited the end of the tale and the outcome of the mysteriously changing piece of paper. Books, especially those other than instructional, were not very common at the time. People who enjoyed hearing a story purely for the sake of entertainment valued Andersen’s unique skill as a storyteller and an artist.

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- 5 Andersen also found that his paper cuttings helped bridge a communication gap between himself and others. Although an awkward and shy man, Andersen still loved an audience. His stories and paper cuttings helped him to communicate when he would have otherwise felt uncomfortable. He loved to travel and always took his scissors along. When encountering those who spoke different languages, Andersen found he could always make a connection by demonstrating his beautiful paper creations.
- 6 The paper cuttings also became unique gifts for friends and family. Sometimes Andersen would paste the cuttings into scrapbooks and present them to the children of relatives. Other times they were given as tokens of appreciation to hosts and hostesses. When his writing brought him fame, these gifts were even more valued.
- 7 Now more than 100 years old, many of Andersen's delicate paper cuttings still exist in a museum in Denmark devoted to his work. While Andersen will always be remembered for his classic fairy tales, his beautiful works of art also remain for all to enjoy.

02B

**10. Which is the BEST way to summarize the information about Hans Christian Andersen in the first paragraph?**

- A Everyone has read a book written by Hans Christian Andersen.
- B Hans Christian Andersen was gifted in the art of paper cutting.
- C Hans Christian Andersen was active in other areas of the arts.
- D People remember Hans Christian Andersen for more than one talent.

L102B002

**11. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following is MOST likely to happen?**

- A Andersen's paper cuttings will be preserved for many years.
- B The museum will replace the paper cuttings with other objects created by Andersen.
- C Interest in Andersen's books will diminish when people learn about his paper cuttings.
- D Andersen's paper cuttings will become more treasured than his writings.

L102B003

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12. This passage provides the **LEAST** information on which topic related to Hans Christian Andersen?

- A the reason he liked paper cutting
- B why he became proficient at paper cutting
- C the museum devoted to his work
- D the process he used to make his designs

L102B004

13. According to the information in the passage, which phrase describes both Andersen's published stories and his paper cuttings?

- A given as gifts
- B used to entertain
- C famous worldwide
- D created for children

L102B011

14. Which of the following would make this passage easier to understand?

- A a picture of one of Andersen's paper cuttings
- B an excerpt from one of Andersen's fairy tales
- C a quote from someone who owns one of Andersen's paper cuttings
- D an explanation of what inspired Andersen to write fairy tales for children

L102B013

15. What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A to illustrate the importance of having a variety of skills
- B to compare entertainment of the past to that of the present
- C to illustrate how a person used art to overcome shyness
- D to explore a lesser-known talent of a famous writer

L102B014

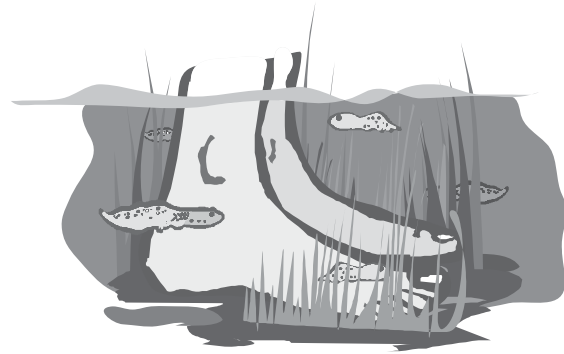
**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following poem and answer questions 16 through 18.

## Reflections After the Rain

By Shonto Begay

Little tadpoles dart around my feet  
as I stand ankle deep in water  
after a brief, but hard summer rainstorm.  
The earth smells fresh and delicious.  
5 Fragrance of wet sand always washes away worries.  
Distant drifting clouds reflect in the pond  
like friendly puffy giants spreading happiness.  
In the distance, goat bells tinkle,  
letting us know they are near.  
10 My mother sits with her feet in the water,  
in silent thoughts of thankfulness.  
The water holes are full once again.  
We do not have to take the flock  
a half day's walk up to the windmill.  
15 Tadpoles tickle my ankles, and I laugh.  
On days of no rain my mother tells me stories  
as we walk the herd up to the mesa,  
stories of the land and stories of her childhood.  
They are always welcome.



20 The dogs bark and bells rattle loudly.  
Something has startled the flock.  
High above against the breaking clouds  
a solitary raven appears.  
It is time to move the sheep and  
25 the goats back toward home.  
I squish my toes into the soft muddy  
bottom of the pond, and the tadpoles scatter.  
The earth smells delicious.  
We are thankful for the rain.

From NAVAJO VOICES AND VISIONS ACROSS THE MESA by Shonto Begay. Copyright, 1995 by Shonto Begay. Reprinted by permission of Scholastic Inc.

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**PRACTICE TEST**

16. Which term **BEST** describes the relationship between the speaker and his mother?

- A aloof
- B doting
- C amiable
- D awkward

L225C005

17. Which of these is a flashback in the poem?

- A The earth smells fresh and delicious
- B The water holes are full once again
- C On days of no rain my mother tells me stories
- D Something has startled the flock

L225C012

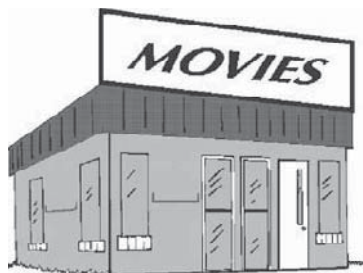
18. The poem **MOST** imparts a feeling of—

- A pride.
- B joy.
- C tenderness.
- D peacefulness.

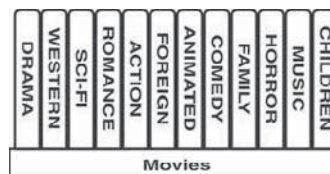
L225C016

## PRACTICE TEST

Read the following article and answer questions 19 through 21.



## Main Street Movies Employee Manual: Organizing Videos



In order to help customers find what they want quickly and to keep track of inventory, it's important to keep the thousands of titles in the Main Street Movies store organized properly. This section of the *Employee Manual* will tell you how to organize videos so that customers will always be able to find them. It will also help you familiarize yourself with the store layout, so that you can help a customer find a particular film or a particular genre of film.

**Each Main Street Movies store has three main sections:**

1. New Releases Wall
2. Film Library
3. Video Games

**New Releases Wall.** Almost 70 percent of movie rentals are new releases, and that is the first place that most customers go when they

enter the store. The center section of shelves on this wall holds **Hottest Hits**. When new titles come into the store (about 40 per month), place them on this wall in alphabetical order.

After 30 days, move the Hottest Hits titles to the shelves on either side, again in alphabetical order. The shelves flanking Hottest Hits are called **Recent Releases**. Titles stay on the Recent Releases shelves eight to ten months before being moved to Film Library shelves. The New Releases Wall, including the Hottest Hits and Recent Releases shelves, holds about 350 titles.

**Film Library.** The thousands of titles in the Film Library are organized into categories (genres). The films within each category are displayed alphabetically. Here are the categories and their two-letter computer codes:

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AC	Action	FA	Family	SC	Science Fiction
CH	Children	FL	Foreign Language*	SI	Special Interest
CL	Classics	FO	Foreign	WE	Western
CO	Comedy	HO	Horror		
DR	Drama	MU	Music		

\*Foreign Language titles include films that were originally made in a foreign language, films that have been dubbed into a foreign language, and films with foreign language subtitles. A sticker on the back of each box specifies which type of film it is.

Special Interest includes these sub-categories:

AN	Animation	IN	Instruction	SP	Sports
DO	Documentaries	RE	Religion	TR	Travel
EX	Exercise				

**Video Games.** Main Street Movies carries games for Super Nintendo, Sony Play Station, and Nintendo 64 game systems. Games for all three systems are arranged together, in alphabetical order.

Although video games represent only a small percentage of our inventory, they are shoplifted more often than any other type of merchandise in our store. Therefore, video games are *never* displayed on the shelves. Shelves in the Video

Game section of Main Street Movies hold cardboard plaques with pictures and information about each game. When a customer wants to rent a particular game, he or she will bring you the plaque. You then retrieve the game from the locked case behind the counter, rent it to the customer, and file the cardboard plaque in the “Video Game Rentals” box. When the game is returned, put the plaque back on the appropriate shelf so that it is available for another customer.

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19. What is the order in which new movies are moved through the store?

- A from Hottest Hits to Film Library to Recent Releases
- B from Film Library to Hottest Hits to Recent Releases
- C from Hottest Hits to Recent Releases to Film Library
- D from Recent Releases to Film Library to Hottest Hits

L0077001

20. Which of the following is NOT a subcategory of Special Interest?

- A Animation
- B Exercise
- C Religion
- D Western

L0077002

21. A customer wants to know if a Foreign Language video has subtitles. Based upon the manual, what is the best way to find this information?

- A Look at the back of the box.
- B Check the computer.
- C Ask an employee.
- D Watch a few minutes of the film.

L0077004

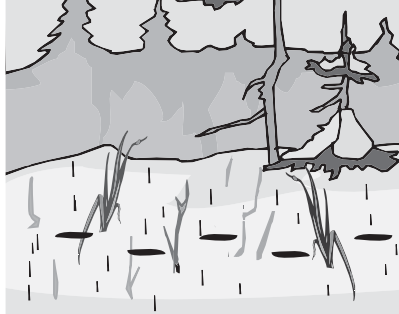
## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following poem and answer questions 22 through 25.

## Early Spring

By Shonto Begay



In the early spring, the snowfall is light  
upon the mesa.  
It does not stick to the ground very long.  
I walk through this patchwork of snow and earth,  
5 watching the ground for early signs.  
Signs of growth. Signs of rebirth.  
Larkspur and wild onions are still  
within the warmth of the earth.  
I hear cries of crows off in the distance.  
10 A rabbit bounds off into the sagebrush flat.  
A shadow of a hawk disturbs the landscape momentarily.  
It sees food and life abundant below that I cannot see.  
The cycle of life continues.  
Even as I stand here shivering in the afternoon chill,  
15 just below me, young seedlings start  
their upward journey.  
Insects begin to stir.  
Rodents and snakes are comfortable in their burrows.

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Maybe to them we also disappear with the cold.  
 20 Not to be seen until spring.  
 For this generation, and many more to come,  
 this land is beautiful and filled with mysteries.  
 They reveal themselves and their stories—  
 if you look very carefully, and listen . . .

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24C

**22. The poet's purpose in writing this poem is MOST likely to encourage people to—**

- A take part in conservation efforts.
- B pay attention to nature.
- C travel to nature reserves.
- D think about the changes of season.

L224C006

**23. Which line from the poem looks MOST to the future?**

- A Signs of growth. Signs of rebirth
- B just below me, young seedlings start
- C Not to be seen until spring
- D For this generation, and many more to come

L224C009

**24. What is distinctive about Lines 19 and 20 of the poem?**

- A They consider a different point of view.
- B They look to the past rather than the present.
- C They refer to a different topic from the other lines.
- D They contradict the overall message of the poem.

L224C013

**25. The point of view of the poem is that of—**

- A a human at ground level.
- B a bird flying through the sky.
- C the plants growing in the earth.
- D the earth preparing for growth.

L224C014

**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following article and answer questions 26 through 31.

## Pro and Con on Vitamin Supplements

### Pro: The Key to a Long and Healthy Life

- 1 No medical breakthrough means so much, to so many people, as the discovery of the role of nutrition in human health and longevity. Numerous scientific studies have shown that specific nutrients hold the key to a strong heart and cardiovascular system, a healthy immune system, a normal nervous system, and more. They can help prevent cancer, loss of memory and vision, physical and mental defects in newborns, and degeneration of health in seniors. Vitamins and minerals are essential to the healthy function of every system within our bodies; without them we would not have the energy to perform even the simplest daily task.
- 2 Perhaps the most important part of any healthy diet, therefore, is a nutritional supplement. The simple “vitamin”—a comprehensive formula of high-quality, high-potency vitamins and minerals—is a sure source of nutrition that can lead to better health, a longer life, and a better quality of life for years to come.



- 3 Those who recommend against a daily supplement, relying on a balanced diet instead, are unrealistic and uninformed. Few people consume the right amounts or types of foods to meet the recommended daily intake of vitamins and minerals. To get a full day’s supply of calcium, for example, you’d have to consume 1 cup of milk, PLUS 1 cup of chopped broccoli, PLUS one cup of navy beans, PLUS one cup of plain yogurt, PLUS four ounces of canned pink salmon.
- 4 The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) Food Guide Pyramid recommends eating 2-3 servings each of meats and dairy products, 2-4 servings of fruits, 3-5 servings of vegetables, and 6-11 servings of breads, cereals, rice, and

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other grains every day. Most people don't meet those guidelines. Some groups in particular, such as senior citizens, find it hard to squeeze that many servings into their daily diets. In a special food guide pyramid modified to address the needs of older Americans, the Tufts University USDA Human Nutrition Research Center specifically recommends supplements of calcium, vitamin D, and vitamin B12, vitamins many older adults find difficult to get in adequate amounts from food alone.

- 5 Even people who get the recommended number of servings may not get the nutrition they expect. In this world of fast and processed food, little nutritive value is left in the food we eat. On top of that, many essential nutrients, such as vitamin C and the energy-producing B vitamins, are water-soluble. Because they are not stored in the body, adequate amounts must be consumed every single day. A supplement is like nutritional insurance. It fills the nutritional gap between the foods you eat and the amount you need. But even if you could meet the recommended daily values for every nutrient every day, would that be enough for vibrant good health? Probably not. Scientific studies show that some vitamins and minerals can fight the aging

process and strengthen your immune system—but only at levels far higher than the recommended daily value. Only through supplementation can you regularly and reliably get the high potencies needed for optimal good health.

- 6 Today, good nutrition is as close as the grocery store shelf. Help yourself to a daily vitamin and mineral supplement, and help yourself to improved health and longevity.

**Con: Danger in Disguise**

- 7 Today, we know that the role of vitamins and minerals goes way beyond the prevention of deficiency diseases, such as scurvy, to actually preventing cancer and heart disease, the most fearsome and ferocious killers of our time. With this knowledge has come the widespread call for nutritional supplementation—and a confusing array of vitamin, mineral, and herbal supplements lining the supermarket shelves.

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- 8 Far from contributing to better health, however, nutritional supplements threaten to turn a scientific breakthrough into a nutritional disaster.
- 9 Promoters of vitamins and minerals—especially the antioxidant vitamins A, C, and E—would have consumers believe that the little vitamin pill in the bottle is all they need for good health. Take your vitamins in the morning, and you're covered. It's okay to eat fast foods for the rest of the day or skip meals to achieve today's fashionably skinny look. But vitamins and minerals are only one part of the nutritional puzzle. A diet rich in fiber and balanced in carbohydrates and protein is essential for good health. You can't get these things from a nutritional supplement. The focus on vitamin and mineral supplements may actually be robbing us of the full nutrition we seek.
- 10 And no supplement can compare to the quality of nutrition found in natural sources. For example, our bodies convert carotenes from plant foods into vitamin A. Many supplements contain a single carotene, beta-carotene. Natural sources are rich in many different carotenes, many of which are much more potent antioxidants than
- beta-carotene. Many supplements contain a synthetic form of vitamin E, when natural vitamin E is more readily absorbed and used by the body. And science is still discovering the wealth of nutrients in foods, including oligomeric proanthocyanidins (OPCs) found in grapes. These antioxidants are up to 50 times more powerful than Vitamin E and are efficiently used by the body.
- 11 You'd be hard-pressed to find a supplement as nutritionally comprehensive and potent as a balanced diet. Even if you could, you'd pay much more than if you got the same nutritional value from natural sources.
- 12 But perhaps the greatest danger presented by nutritional supplements comes from the very real risks presented by self-medication. Anyone can walk into the market and buy as many different supplements as desired. The reported benefits of high dosages of certain nutrients have led some people to believe that the more the better. Many take several vitamin and mineral supplements without regard to total intake or possible interactions.
- 13 High-dose supplements of vitamin A can cause toxicity, leading to bone fractures,

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joint pain, liver failure, and other significant symptoms. Excess vitamin D can result in kidney damage. Too much vitamin K can interfere with anti-clotting medications. Because these fat-soluble vitamins can be stored in the body, where excess amounts can build up to dangerous levels, experts recommend supplementation only with a doctor's supervision.

- 14 Surprising new research suggests that vitamin C pills may speed up hardening of the arteries, the underlying cause of heart attacks and strokes. Researchers said their findings support the recommendations of health organizations, which urge people to avoid high doses of supplements and to get their nutrients from food instead.
- 15 As appealing as they're made to sound, nutritional supplements are danger in disguise. If you're looking for good health, don't look on the supplement shelves of your supermarket. Look in the produce section instead.

078

**26. The USDA Human Nutrition Research Center probably recommends calcium and other supplements for older adults because they—**

- A** drink less vitamin-enriched milk than they should.
- B** may lack the appetite to eat as many servings of food as are needed daily for a sufficient intake of minerals and vitamins.
- C** eat mostly processed food and fast food.
- D** may be more eager than younger adults to experiment with vitamins and minerals to improve the quality and longevity of their lives.

L0078004

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27. Read this sentence from the article.

A supplement is like nutritional insurance.

**What does the author mean by comparing the use of supplements to insurance?**

- A Like nutritional supplements, insurance is necessary in order to maintain good health.
- B Having insurance and using supplements will keep bad health away.
- C Both insurance and vitamins are important in curing health problems.
- D Like insurance, the nutritional value of supplements will be available when you need it.

L0078005

28. Based on the second article, which of these statements is true?

- A Vitamin supplements provide adequate carotenes for the human body.
- B A mineral supplement may be as full of nutrients as a balanced diet.
- C Vitamin supplements are less valuable than eating a variety of healthy foods.
- D A surplus of vitamin supplements can be beneficial to some people.

L0078008

29. What information supports the idea that vitamin supplements are potentially dangerous?

- A Supplements are usually available in powder, tablet, and liquid form.
- B People might accidentally take supplements that interfere with medications.
- C Supplements may play a large role in disease prevention.
- D People tend to be too cautious when using supplements.

L0078009

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30. Instead of depending heavily on vitamin supplements, the author of the second article encourages readers to—

- A eat fruits and vegetables.
- B begin an exercise program.
- C skip meals when necessary.
- D limit the intake of protein.

L0078010

31. Read this sentence from the article.

Help yourself to a daily vitamin and mineral supplement, and help yourself to improved health and longevity.

**What does this sentence mean?**

- A Helping others means encouraging them to take vitamins and minerals.
- B A large helping of vitamins and minerals is necessary for good health.
- C Taking vitamins and minerals is one way that people may help themselves.
- D Taking vitamins and minerals regularly will have a positive effect on a person's health.

L0078010

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Read the following poem and answer questions 32 through 36.

*I've Watched . . .*

I've watched the white clouds pantomime  
The inner workings of my mind,  
Where thought and feeling paint a scene  
As if the blue sky were a dream.

5 I've watched the snow-bogged trees bend down  
And shake their coats upon the ground  
In order that they may reclaim  
A straighter truth from whence they came.

I've watched the congress of the geese  
10 Assemble in a perfect V  
In order that they may keep sight  
Of one another's path of flight.

I've watched the flood tide turn its head  
And slack before the coming ebb  
15 Without want or predilection  
Waiting for the moon's direction.

I've watched the ocean lashed by wind,  
Make a fool of the fishermen,  
Who thought their knowledge of the sea  
20 Ensured them some security.

But all this watching, knows not much,  
For what are wind and sea and such,  
The V of geese, the bent-down tree,  
If nothing more than mystery?



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32. What is the theme of the poem?

- A Clouds can be a reflection of our thoughts.
- B Geese assemble in the shape of a V to navigate properly.
- C Nature remains a mystery, regardless of our observations.
- D Trees often bend beneath the weight of the snow.

L104A002

33. As used in the first two lines, what does *pantomime* mean?

I've watched the white clouds pantomime/  
The inner workings of my mind,

- A move
- B mock
- C dramatize
- D influence

L104A003

34. I've watched the ocean lashed by wind,

In this line from the poem, the word *lashed* suggests that the ocean is being—

- A soothed.
- B troubled.
- C sailed.
- D whipped.

L104A005

35. Which phrase BEST represents the organization of the poem?

- A 5 stanzas about nature and 1 about people
- B 5 stanzas of observation and 1 of conclusion
- C 1 stanza of introduction and 5 of explanation
- D 1 stanza about poetry and 5 about nature

L104A007

36. According to Lines 17–20, the fishermen's knowledge of the sea—

- A reflects their love of natural elements.
- B helps them navigate more effectively.
- C is greater than their knowledge of the weather.
- D does not guarantee them safety.

L104A009

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following brochure and answer questions 37 through 41.

## Santa Lucia Scenic Trail

### A Multi-Purpose Trail

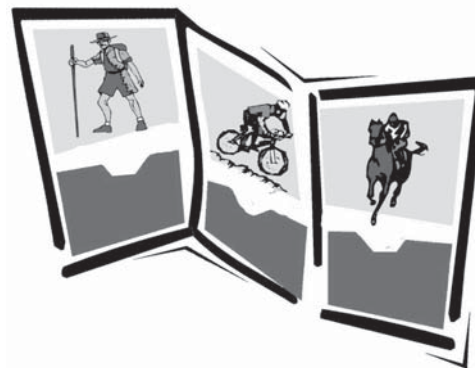
#### The Trail

- 1 The Santa Lucia Scenic Trail is a network of over 50 miles of multi-purpose trails for hikers, runners, walkers, cyclists, and horseback riders. Currently, both paved and unpaved trails wind along the Pacific Coast, where the variety of natural wonders is unsurpassed in beauty. More trails are planned, and they will be built as funds become available.

#### The History

- 2 A combination hiking and biking trail had long been a dream of Carlos Ventura, a lifelong cyclist and resident of San Luis Obispo, California. For years, he was an advocate for more alternative means of transportation, especially recreational bicycle paths. In 1990, paving the way for Ventura's dream, local officials from Cambria and Morro Bay approached the California Department of Natural Resources to acquire an abandoned railroad right-of-way<sup>1</sup> that ran

<sup>1</sup>**railroad right-of-way:** a piece of land on which railroad tracks are built



along the California coast, citing the need for an alternative means of transportation. After numerous public hearings and multiple engineering plans, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) approved the final plan in 1999.

- 3 With a grant from the FHA, the communities of Cambria and Morro Bay and the California Department of Natural Resources worked together to provide 100% funding for the trail. The first section of the trail was dedicated on August 15, 2001, as a multi-purpose trail for walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, and horseback riders. That same day, the Santa Lucia

**PRACTICE TEST**

Scenic Trail Association (SLSTA) was formed with the following objectives:

- expand and maintain existing trails
- encourage trail etiquette
- educate users so that everyone enjoys a safe visit along the trail

- 4 The main trail is a 20-mile, paved multi-purpose trail that runs along the old railroad right-of-way. Two unpaved paths branch off for those who ride horses. More branches of paved and unpaved trails are planned, including trails for cyclists and hikers. Trail maps created by the SLSTA are available at the Welcome Center.

**Trail Etiquette**

- 5 The SLSTA guidelines have been established to ensure cooperation of multiple users: walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, and horseback riders. Remember that each user has equal rights to the trail. To ensure these rights, please respect the following trail etiquette:
- Only non-motorized forms of transportation are permitted.\*

- Cyclists yield to foot traffic; all users yield to horses.
- Cyclists keep right of the trail, except to pass; announce “on your left” when passing; and move off paved trail when stopped.
- Keep pets on leash and clean up after them.
- Carry out everything that is carried onto the trails.
- Camping is prohibited. Contact park ranger for nearest camping facilities.

**Trail Safety Tips**

- 6 To ensure a safe visit, users need to assess their limits and abilities before starting out on a trail. Public phones are located at the main entrance and at the end of the trail; however, there are no public phones along the trail (an emergency phone system has not yet been installed). To ensure everyone’s safety, please review these tips:
- Tell someone your destination and trail before setting out.
  - Wear clothing appropriate for the weather.

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\*Persons using motorized wheelchairs are allowed access to paved trails.

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

- Carry a flashlight and wear reflective clothing before sunrise and after sunset.
- If you are cycling, check equipment, wear a helmet, carry a tire pump, and maintain a safe speed.
- Use caution around horses.

**Problems, Suggestions, Comments**

- 7 To better serve users, the SLSTA welcomes all helpful comments or suggestions. If you notice something that needs attention or someone who is acting in an unsafe manner, do not hesitate to contact the Park Ranger. You can also leave a detailed note at the Welcome Center.
- 8 If you would like to join SLSTA, visit the Welcome Center and sign up. It's free! Plus, you will receive SLSTA's monthly newsletter by e-mail, containing articles by members and SLSTA staff. Paper copies are available for those without access to e-mail.

**Support**

- 9 There are no admission fees for use of the trails. SLSTA relies on donations to avoid charging trail users. Visit the Welcome Center or write SLSTA, P.O. Box 31, Cambria, CA 90228.

**Emergency**

- 10 Dial 911 for police.

**Trail Hours**

- 11 Open daily, dawn to dusk.

01B

37. In the excerpt below, what is meant by the phrase *paving the way for Ventura's dream*?

In 1990, paving the way for Ventura's dream, local officials from Cambria and Morro Bay approached the California Department of Natural Resources to . . .

- A making a sidewalk for Ventura
- B allowing Ventura's idea to proceed
- C covering Ventura's trail with asphalt
- D considering the value of Ventura's plan

L101B001

38. The phrase *trail etiquette* suggests that trail users—

- A will dress in the appropriate fashion.
- B might have many choices of trails.
- C must avoid dangerous maneuvers.
- D should be considerate of other users.

L101B002

**PRACTICE TEST**

39. Which of the following information would be **MOST** helpful to include in the brochure for users of the trail?

- A a biography of Carlos Ventura
- B a list of the nearest convenience stores
- C a map showing the location of the trails
- D a directory of volunteers who work on the trail

L101B013

40. What is a benefit of becoming a member of SLSTA?

- A Members will be given free access to all trails.
- B Members will be allowed to camp along the trail.
- C Members will be permitted to bring friends on trails.
- D Members will receive a newsletter on trail-related topics.

L101B015

41. According to the information in the section entitled “Trail Safety Tips,” what should hikers do before starting out?

- A Always carry a warm jacket.
- B Use caution around horses.
- C Learn the location of public phones along the trail.
- D Inform someone else which trail the hiker will use.

L101B003

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

Read the following passage and answer questions 42 through 45.

## A Universal Language

1 Thousands of different languages exist in the world, some spoken by millions of people and some spoken by only a few. Since it is difficult and time-consuming to learn a new language, many people speak only one. Some people have a little knowledge of one or two other languages but aren't able to put them into practice very often. Travelers to foreign countries often have to rely on a translator or an international dictionary. Wouldn't it be helpful, then, to have a universal language that everyone could understand?

### **Dr. Zamenhof and His Belief in the Benefits of a Universal Language**

2 L. L. Zamenhof believed in such a language. A linguist from Warsaw, Poland, he felt that a common language would contribute to better communication and help ease world tensions. Zamenhof wanted to create a language that did not favor speakers from any geographic area and one that would be easy for everyone to learn. He rejected existing languages because they were either too complicated or would put native speakers at an advantage over others.

3 Zamenhof published his universal language in 1887. It quickly became known as "Esperanto" after his pseudonym, which means "one who is hoping." He was hoping that his language would become accepted and spread throughout the world.

4 Zamenhof did not envision his language as one replacing all other languages but instead as one spoken as a second language by people around the world. In addition to travelers, Esperanto could be useful for anyone wanting to learn more about other cultures. In fact, people from all around the world come together at Esperanto conventions, where the communication barrier is broken because everyone speaks the same language.

### **An Easy Language to Learn**

5 Esperanto is easy to learn. The grammar and other rules of Esperanto are relatively simple, and all words are spelled as they sound. These features make it possible to become fluent in Esperanto much more quickly than in other languages. A knowledge of Esperanto also makes it easier to learn other

**PRACTICE TEST**

- foreign languages, since Esperanto has its roots in many different languages.
- 6 The majority of the words in Esperanto are derived from Latin and Romance languages, and French in particular. The rest of the vocabulary comes from German, English, Russian, Polish, and Greek. The words were chosen to be as easily recognizable as possible.
- 7 Most of the letters in Esperanto are pronounced the same way as they are in English. Some of the exceptions are the letter “J,” which is pronounced as we would pronounce a “Y,” and the letter “R,” which is trilled. The letter “G” is always pronounced as in the word “go,” and never as in the word “gentle.”
- 8 In Esperanto, it is also easy to identify the different parts of speech. Nouns always end in the letter “o” or “on,” with plural nouns ending in “oj” or “ojn.” Some common nouns are “amiko” for friend, “libro” for book, and “vorto” for word. Adjectives always end in the letter “a.” Some common adjectives in Esperanto are “granda,” which means large, and “bruna,” which means brown.
- 9 There are no indefinite articles in Esperanto. The only article used is “la,” which is used like the English word “the.” There is no need to learn different articles for masculine or feminine words, or for any cases.
- 10 Another interesting rule of the language is that word order is more flexible than in most languages. For example, an adjective may be placed before or after a noun.
- The Future of Esperanto**
- 11 Although Esperanto is easy to learn, it has not yet achieved widespread usage as a universal language. One reason is that many people simply prefer their own language. They are proud of their country, and their own language is one way to keep that identity.
- 12 Another reason is that, while many will agree with the idea of a universal language, they do not have the time or motivation to learn one. Learning a new language can be time-consuming, and many people will not take the time to learn one unless they have an inclination to learn languages or see some personal benefit in doing so. Others, perhaps, have not even heard of Esperanto or are unaware that such a universal language exists.
- 13 Despite Esperanto’s seeming lack of popularity, it is estimated that several

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

million people can speak the language. Many magazines are published in Esperanto, and books—from Shakespeare to Dante—have been translated into Esperanto. Esperanto leagues and organizations help maintain the language and provide interested people with information. Perhaps in the future, Esperanto will find its place as a widely used and accepted universal language.

90B

42. Read this sentence from the passage.

Learning a new language can be time-consuming, and many people will not take the time to learn one unless they have an inclination to learn languages or see some personal benefit in doing so.

What does the word *inclination* mean?

- A liking
- B voice
- C profit
- D indifference

L190B004

43. Based on the passage, which of the following sentences is the BEST conclusion about Zamenhof?

- A He wanted the fame that creating a universal language would bring.
- B He wanted to make a contribution to world peace and understanding.
- C He thought English was the best basis for a universal language.
- D He believed that pride in one's country led to conflicts and wars.

L190B006

44. Which of the following sentences BEST summarizes the author's attitude toward Esperanto as expressed in the passage?

- A People should be encouraged to learn and speak Esperanto.
- B People should learn Esperanto if they are interested in it.
- C Esperanto is the perfect language because it is based on many other languages.
- D As a universal language, Esperanto has been a huge failure.

L190B015

**PRACTICE TEST**

45. How does the passage reflect the themes and concerns of the 21st century?
- A It is about global communication.
  - B It describes a particular language.
  - C It reinforces the importance of research.
  - D It focuses on one person's achievement.

L190B016

**PRACTICE TEST**

The following passage is a rough draft. It may contain errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and organization. Read the passage and answer questions 46 through 49.

**ROUGH DRAFT**

## My Brain

(1) Sometimes I think I am probably more right-brained, but other times I feel more left-brained. (2) I love to play music and I especially like to make it up as I go along. (3) For anybody else to hear my music, they might think it sounds like noise. (4) My brother, for one, always complains about it.

(5) I also like to write poetry. (6) It is a way for me to put down on paper how I am really feeling. (7) I write things in my poetry I would probably never tell anyone else. (8) I am also pretty good at giving prepared speeches in my English class. (9) Because I really like to do these kinds of things, I feel that I must be right-brained.

(10) But there are other times I am not so sure about it. (11) For example, I am really pretty good at math and other things that require me to be logical. (12) I also think I am pretty good at writing essays about technical things, like explaining how things work.

(13) And I'm good at remembering things too.

(14) Though I guess I prefer right-brained activities and can do them more easily, I can do left-brained things pretty well if I have to.

(15) I like doing math problems. (16) So I am not sure what that makes me!

**PRACTICE TEST**

46. What is the **MOST** effective revision of the sentence labeled 3?

- A For anybody else who hears my music, they might think, sounds like noise.
- B Anybody else might think, hearing my music, that it sounds like noise.
- C Anybody else who hears my music might think it sounds like noise.
- D Leave as is.

L0012001

47. What is the **BEST** way to combine the sentences labeled 12 and 13?

- A I am good at writing technical essays explaining how things work, and I also have a good memory.
- B Writing technical essays, I am good at explaining how things work and have a good memory.
- C I am good at explaining how things work by writing technical essays and remembering things too.
- D Explaining how things work and technical things are things I am good at writing essays about, and I have a good memory.

L0012002

48. Which of the following sentences does **NOT** fit well in the paragraph in which it is found?

- A “I love to play music and I especially like to make it up as I go along.” (first paragraph)
- B “I also like to write poetry.” (second paragraph)
- C “For example, I am really pretty good at math and other things that require me to be logical.” (third paragraph)
- D “I like doing math problems.” (fourth paragraph)

L0012003

49. In which paragraph would the following sentence fit well and improve the essay?

Problem solving can be fun for me, and I think crossword puzzles are easy.

- A the first paragraph
- B the second paragraph
- C the third paragraph
- D the fourth paragraph

L0012004

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

The following passage is a rough draft. It may contain errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and organization. Read the passage and answer questions 50 through 51.

**ROUGH DRAFT**

## Water on Mars

(1) For a long time, people have considered the possibility that life may have once existed (or may still exist) on the planet Mars. (2) In 1910, Percival Lowell wrote a book suggesting that a large system of "canals" was built on Mars by a civilization that has since disappeared. (3) The "canals" were grooves on the planet's surface which Lowell saw through a telescope he believed had been built by Martians. (4) We now know that Lowell was wrong—there is no evidence of construction on Mars. (5) However, recent photos from the Mars Orbiter Camera suggest that, until very recently, liquid water flowed on the surface of the planet. (6) And some scientists believe that liquid water might still be found beneath the planet's surface. (7) Why is this important? (8) Well, scientists think that water is necessary for life to develop. (9) If there was (or is) water on Mars, it's quite possible that the planet may have supported life at some point during its history. (10) And if there was once life on Mars, the odds that there is life elsewhere in the Universe become much greater. (11) Scientists warn that it's too early to tell for sure, but maybe we Earthlings are not alone after all.

**PRACTICE TEST**

**50. According to the article, which of these facts provides the strongest evidence that life may once have existed on Mars?**

- A** Many people have considered the possibility that life once existed on Mars.
- B** Recent photos suggest that liquid water once flowed on the surface of Mars.
- C** Percival Lowell thought that he saw “canals” on the surface of Mars.
- D** There is no evidence of construction ever having taken place on Mars.

L0155002

**51. What is the correct way to express the ideas in the sentence labeled 3?**

- A** When the “canals” were observed by Lowell, he believed that they had been built by Martians through his telescope.
- B** The “canals” were grooves on the planet’s surface that, when observed by Lowell, appeared to have been built by Martians.
- C** Through a telescope, Martians were those who Lowell believed had built the “canals.”
- D** Leave as is.

L0155005

**PRACTICE TEST**

The following passage is a rough draft. It may contain errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and organization. Read the passage and answer questions 52 through 55.

**ROUGH DRAFT**

## Essay Writing

(1) To begin an essay, a student should have some knowledge of the topic or be willing to search out information. (2) Then one must focus clearly on the prompt, addressing all its major points, and making sure that the central purpose is evident throughout the entire essay. (3) Interesting and convincing examples with lots of specific details are always helpful. (4) The details must show some kind of clear arrangement—chronological, spatial, or order-of-importance. (5) A student writer will also want to revise a first draft so that any errors in grammar and mechanics can be got rid of. (6) Steps can be taken to edit essays. (7) Relying, solely on "SpellCheck," can be risky; (8) it does not catch the common errors that students make, such as confusing "your" and "you're." (9) If students meet all these requirements, then they will have written very effectively.

**PRACTICE TEST**

52. Which of the following sentences, if inserted before Sentence 1, would make the MOST effective opening sentence?

- A Writing an essay is easy if one uses a computer.
- B Good essays are always written in black pen.
- C Any student can write a successful essay.
- D Teachers sometimes assign difficult essays.

L0198001

53. Sentence 2 would be improved if the word *one* were replaced by—

- A the writer.
- B you.
- C we.
- D Leave as is.

L0198003

54. Which sentence is the MOST effective way of stating the idea in the sentence labeled 7?

- A One must rely on “SpellCheck” solely.
- B Relying solely on “SpellCheck” can be risky.
- C “SpellCheck” is not always the sole way to check spelling.
- D Leave as is.

L0198006

55. Which of the following statements supports the main idea of the essay?

- A A student should have some knowledge of the topic.
- B Black pens are best for writing essays.
- C One shouldn’t just rely on “SpellCheck.”
- D One must focus clearly on the prompt, addressing all its major points.

L0198011

**PRACTICE TEST**

The following passage is a rough draft. It may contain errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and organization. Read the passage and answer questions 56 through 58.

**ROUGH DRAFT**

## Amelia Earhart: An Aviation Pioneer

(1) Earhart began her flying career soon after airplanes were first invented. (2) As a child, she was fascinated by the idea of being a pilot. (3) At the age of 23, she took flying lessons from Neta Snook, one of very few women pilots at the time. (4) In 1921 Earhart bought her own airplane. (5) And she used it to set the first of many aviation records. (6) She flew up to 14,000 feet, setting the women's altitude record.

(7) In 1928 Earhart was the first woman to cross the Atlantic by air. (8) The trip took about 21 hours. (9) She published a book about her experiences and followed it with a lecture tour. (10) A few years later, in 1932, she piloted a plane from Newfoundland to Northern Ireland, making her the first woman to fly across the Atlantic alone. (11) Then she went on to do many other things in aviation. (12) In fact, Earhart became an important pioneer in the world of aviation.

(13) In June of 1937 Earhart and her navigator Frederick Noonan left Miami, Florida, in an attempt to fly around the world. (14) The pair made it to New Guinea on June 30. (15) Earhart and Noonan had traveled a distance of 20,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean before

**PRACTICE TEST**

their plane was lost. (16) Amelia Earhart, one of the most renowned aviators in history, dared to attempt the most hazardous flights of her time. (17) In her own words, she summed up her philosophy: "Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace with yourself."

46B-2

56. Which sentence would **BEST** begin the essay?

- A This paper is about Amelia Earhart, a famous pilot.
- B Most people like to read about famous pilots.
- C There are several interesting facts about Amelia Earhart, a famous airplane pilot.
- D Amelia Earhart was one of the most famous airplane pilots of her time.

L146B001

57. What would be the **BEST** source for information on other records set in the history of aviation?

- A a dictionary of aviation terminology
- B biographies of famous women
- C a world almanac and book of facts
- D a guide to the aircraft industry

L146B004

58. Which of the following would be the **MOST** precise way to state the **underlined** words in the sentence labeled 11?

- A have several other good times
- B take some other actions
- C find other adventures
- D set other records

L146B006

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

For questions 59 through 67, choose the answer that is the most effective substitute for each underlined part of the sentence. If no substitution is necessary, choose “Leave as is.”

59. Responsibilities of the job include greeting customers, escorting them to a table, and offering beverages.

- A greeting customers, escort them to a table and offer a beverage.
- B to greet customers, escorting them to tables and offering a beverage.
- C to greet customers, escorting them to a table, and to offer a beverage.
- D Leave as is.

L00SA041

60. After, the volcano erupted, the tiny tropical island was quiet and devastated.

- A After the volcano erupted, the
- B After the volcano erupted the
- C After the volcano erupts, the
- D Leave as is.

L00SA032

61. If Mark will have made fewer errors, he will have passed his driving test.

- A If Mark would have made fewer errors, he would have passed his driving test.
- B If Mark had made fewer errors, he would have passed his driving test.
- C If Mark would of made fewer errors, he would have passed his driving test.
- D Leave as is.

L00SA037

62. The Alaskan rivers are clear and sparkling in summer however, they are frozen in winter.

- A in summer, however they are frozen in winter.
- B in summer; however, they are frozen in winter.
- C summer: however they are frozen in winter.
- D Leave as is.

L00SA043

**PRACTICE TEST**

63. When the money was stolen by the bandits, the owner of the store felt betrayed.
- A When the bandits stole the money, the owner
  - B The money was stolen by the bandits. The owner
  - C By the bandits the money was stolen. The owner
  - D Leave as is.

L00SA026

64. The poetry of Langston Hughes combining the idioms of African-American speech and the rhythms of the blues.
- A The poetry of Langston Hughes will combine
  - B The poetry of Langston Hughes combines
  - C Langston Hughes' poetry combining
  - D Leave as is.

L00SA012

65. When our parents celebrate their silver wedding anniversary later this year, they were married for twenty-five years.
- A they will have been married for twenty-five years.
  - B they have been married for twenty-five years.
  - C they would have been married for twenty-five years.
  - D Leave as is.

L00SA039

66. “Why should I wear a sweater?” grumbled the boy as his mother reminded him again of the cold weather.
- A ‘Why should I wear a sweater’?
  - B “Why should I wear a sweater”
  - C “Why should I wear a sweater”?
  - D Leave as is.

L00SA201

67. If you want to add your name to the list of volunteers; please go to Room 112.
- A list of volunteers please;
  - B list of volunteers, please
  - C list of volunteers: please
  - D Leave as is.

L10SA188






## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST**

For questions 68 through 72, choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

68. “We should \_\_\_\_\_ without the captain,” the coach said impatiently.
- A proceeds  
B precede  
C precedent  
D proceed
- L00SA020
69. “Which of the three Olympic runners is the \_\_\_\_\_?” the spectator asked the judge.
- A more fast  
B fastest  
C most fastest  
D most faster
- L00SA023
70. The legendary goddess was the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the Greek deities.
- A beautifulest  
B more beautiful  
C most beautiful  
D most beautifying
- L00SA022
71. The musician played Wendy’s favorite waltz for her husband and \_\_\_\_\_.
- A I  
B he  
C she  
D her
- L00SA076
72. \_\_\_\_\_ going to be late if they don’t hurry.
- A They’re  
B Their  
C There  
D They’ll
- L00SA078

**PRACTICE TEST** **REMINDER**

-  Write your response to the writing prompt below.
-  You may give your writing a title if you would like, but it is not necessary.
-  You may **NOT** use a dictionary. If you do not know how to spell a word, sound the word out and do the best you can.
-  You may either print or write in cursive.
-  Write clearly! Any erasures or strike-throughs should be as clean as possible.

**Writing Task 1:**

In the story “The Hiking Trip,” the reader learns about the main character, Jeff. Jeff’s personality and emotions are revealed through the actions and dialog presented in the story.

Write an essay in which you describe the personality and emotions of Jeff, the main character. How do his personal characteristics add to the events in the story? How does the author reveal this information about Jeff in the story? Use details and examples from the story to support your ideas.

(10WA2.2)

L0157007

**Checklist for Your Writing**






The following checklist will help you do your best work. Make sure you:

- Carefully read the reading passage and the description of the task.
- Organize your writing with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use specific details and examples from the passage to demonstrate your understanding of the main ideas and the author’s purpose.
- Use precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose.
- Vary your sentences to make your writing interesting to read.
- Check for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence formation.

*NOTE:* The CAHSEE Response to Literature Scoring Guide for this writing task may be found on page 115. “The Hiking Trip” is on page 103.

## California High School Exit Examination

**PRACTICE TEST** **REMINDER**

-  **Write your response to the writing prompt below.**
-  **You may give your writing a title if you would like, but it is not necessary.**
-  **You may NOT use a dictionary. If you do not know how to spell a word, sound the word out and do the best you can.**
-  **You may either print or write in cursive.**
-  **Write clearly! Any erasures or strike-throughs should be as clean as possible.**

**Writing Task 2:**

**By the time students enter high school, they have learned about many moments in history that have influenced our world today. Think about a moment in history you studied and consider its importance.**

**Write a composition in which you discuss a moment in history. Share its importance in today's world. Be sure to support the moment with details and examples.**

(10WA2.3)

L000064






**Checklist for Your Writing**

**The following checklist will help you do your best work. Make sure you:**

- Read the description of the task carefully.**
- Use specific details and examples to fully support your ideas.**
- Organize your writing with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion.**
- Choose specific words that are appropriate for your audience and purpose.**
- Vary your sentences to make your writing interesting to read.**
- Check for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence formation.**

*NOTE:* The CAHSEE Response to Writing Prompt Scoring Guide for this task may be found on page 117.

**PRACTICE TEST****REMINDER**

-  Write your response to the writing prompt below.
-  You may give your writing a title if you would like, but it is not necessary.
-  You may NOT use a dictionary. If you do not know how to spell a word, sound the word out and do the best you can.
-  You may either print or write in cursive.
-  Write clearly! Any erasures or strike-throughs should be as clean as possible.

**Writing Task 3:**

Some students at your school expressed an interest in making the school more attractive by getting rid of the trash on the school grounds.

Write a persuasive essay for your school paper in which you convince the readers of the importance of getting rid of the trash and making the school more attractive. Convince your readers through the use of specific reasons and examples.

(10WA2.4)

L0000060

**Checklist for Your Writing**

The following checklist will help you do your best work. Make sure you:

- Read the description of the task carefully.
- Organize your writing with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion.
- State your position, support it with specific examples, and address the reader's concerns.
- Use words that are appropriate for your audience and purpose.
- Vary your sentences to make your writing interesting to read.
- Check for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence formation.

*NOTE:* The CAHSEE Response to Writing Prompt Scoring Guide for this writing task may be found on page 117.



## California High School Exit Examination

***OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARDS***

In six broad categories, the State of California defines what 10th Graders should know about English-language arts. These are the formal descriptions of those six categories and the number of test questions from each category that appear on the CAHSEE.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Word Analysis</b> Students apply their knowledge of word origins to determine the meaning of new words encountered in reading materials and to use those words accurately. (7 multiple-choice questions)</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reading Comprehension</b> Students read and understand a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, and online information. Students analyze the organizational patterns, arguments, and positions advanced. (18 multiple-choice questions)</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Literary Response and Analysis</b> Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. Students conduct in-depth analyses of recurrent patterns and themes. (20 multiple-choice questions)</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Writing Strategies</b> Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. (12 multiple-choice questions)</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Writing Conventions</b> Students write and speak with a command of standard English language conventions including grammar, sentence construction, and paragraph structure. (15 multiple-choice questions)</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Writing Applications</b> Students write one essay. The essay will be a response to one of the following: a literary or expository passage, a biographical narrative, a persuasive essay, or a business letter. (1 essay)</p>

These are the categories that will appear on your student score report. In greater detail, these broad categories are defined by "standards." The CAHSEE measures 33 standards. The following pages describe those standards, the types of test questions that measure the standards, and more strategies you can use to pass the CAHSEE.