Sample Items

Grade 8

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS
Original CRCT

Grade 8 Items
ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS
1. The sentence below has a spelling error. Fill in the space provided on your answer sheet for the letter of the underlined word that is NOT spelled correctly.

Since the catastrophe, the town has been besieged with hazardous fumes.

A                                 B                    C       D

2. Which part of the sentence is a prepositional phrase?

The middle-aged man drove his shiny, new van through downtown Macon yesterday evening.

A. The middle-aged man
B. drove his shiny, new van
* C. through downtown Macon
D. yesterday evening

3. Which organizational structure is used in the paragraph?

Oatmeal raisin cookies are easy to make and quite tasty. First, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Then, collect the ingredients: butter, sugar, salt, oatmeal, raisins, cinnamon, vanilla extract, baking soda, and eggs. Next, in a bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until smooth. Blend in the eggs and vanilla extract until fluffy. Mix the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Then slowly blend into the butter mixture. Stir in the oats and raisins. Drop spoonfuls of cookie dough onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 9 minutes. Let cookies cool completely before serving.

A. similarity and difference
B. question and answer
C. cause and effect
* D. chronological order
4. Which topic would be the MOST appropriate for a short report?

* A. The impact of the Civil War on Georgia farmers in 1865

B. The lives of Civil War soldiers from 1862 to 1864

C. Major Civil War battles in Tennessee and Georgia

D. The impact of the Civil War on the economy

5. Where does the semicolon go in the sentence?

The football team will play in the new stadium however, the cheerleaders will not be there.

A. after football
B. after team
* C. after stadium
D. after cheerleaders
1. Which underlined word in the sentence is NOT spelled correctly?

   Since the accident/, the town has been blanketed/ with hazardous/ fumes/.

   A. accident  
   B. blanketed  
   C. hazardous  
   D. fumes

2. Which part of the sentence is a **prepositional phrase**?

   The middle-aged man drove his shiny, new van through downtown Macon yesterday evening.

   A. The middle-aged man  
   B. drove his shiny, new van  
   C. through downtown Macon  
   D. yesterday evening
3. Which **organizational structure** is used in the paragraph?

Oatmeal raisin cookies are easy to make and quite tasty. First, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Then, collect the ingredients: butter, sugar, salt, oatmeal, raisins, cinnamon, vanilla extract, baking soda, and eggs. Next, in a bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until smooth. Blend in the eggs and vanilla extract until fluffy. Mix the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Then slowly blend into the butter mixture. Stir in the oats and raisins. Drop spoonfuls of cookie dough onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 9 minutes. Let cookies cool completely before serving.

A. similarity and difference  
B. question and answer  
C. cause and effect  
D. chronological order

**Helpful Hint**
Organizational structure is the way writers put their ideas together so readers can connect the main idea and supporting ideas.
4. Which topic would be the MOST appropriate for a short report?

   A. The impact of the Civil War on Georgia farmers in 1865
   B. The lives of Civil War soldiers from 1862 to 1864
   C. Major Civil War battles in Tennessee and Georgia
   D. The impact of the Civil War on the economy

Remember
A short report is typically 1 to 2 pages long.

5. Where does the semicolon go in the sentence?

   The football team will play in the new stadium however, the cheerleaders will not be there.

   A. after football
   B. after team
   C. after stadium
   D. after cheerleaders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Sequence</th>
<th>Georgia Performance Standard</th>
<th>KEY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Domain: Conventions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ELA8C1.</strong> The student demonstrates understanding and control of the rules of the English language, realizing that usage involves the appropriate application of conventions and grammar in both written and spoken formats. The student:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g. Produces final drafts/presentations that demonstrate accurate spelling and the correct use of punctuation and capitalization.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Domain: Conventions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ELA8C1.</strong> The student demonstrates understanding and control of the rules of the English language, realizing that usage involves the appropriate application of conventions and grammar in both written and spoken formats. The student:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. Analyzes the structure of a sentence (basic sentence parts, noun-adjective-adverb clauses and phrases).</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Domain: Reading and Literature</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ELA8R1.</strong> The student demonstrates comprehension and shows evidence of a warranted and responsible explanation of a variety of literary and informational texts. For informational texts, the student reads and comprehends in order to develop understanding and expertise and produces evidence of reading that:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Applies, analyzes, and evaluates common organizational structures (e.g., graphic organizers, logical order, cause and effect relationships, comparison and contrast).</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Domain: Writing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ELA8W1.</strong> The student produces writing that establishes an appropriate organizational structure, sets a context and engages the reader, maintains a coherent focus throughout, and signals a satisfying closure. The student:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Selects a focus, organizational structure, and a point of view based on purpose, genre expectations, audience, length, and format requirements.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright © 2010. Georgia Department of Education. All rights reserved.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Sequence</th>
<th>Georgia Performance Standard</th>
<th>KEY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Domain: Conventions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ELA8C1.</strong> The student demonstrates understanding and control of the rules of the English language, realizing that usage involves the appropriate application of conventions and grammar in both written and spoken formats. The student:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. Demonstrates appropriate comma and semicolon usage (compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences, split dialogue, and for clarity).</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Sequence</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| All           | • The font size was increased on all items.  
• The line spacing between items was increased. |
| 1             | • The stem has been shortened and clarified.  
• Selected words have been replaced with more familiar entry grade-level vocabulary.  
• Answer choices are listed so that the student can more readily identify the misspelled word. |
| 2             | The key term is boldfaced to highlight the concept being assessed. |
| 3             | • The key term is boldfaced to highlight the concept being assessed.  
• A helpful hint is provided to help the student focus on applying the concept being assessed. |
| 4             | A thought bubble was added to help the student understand the meaning of a short report.|
| 5             | The word semicolon is boldfaced to help the student focus on the skill that is being assessed. |