

Sample Test: Language Arts

1. **If a student has a poor vocabulary the teacher should recommend that**  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 1.10)*
  - A. The student read newspapers, magazines and books on a regular basis.
  - B. The student enroll in a Latin class.
  - C. The student writes the words repetitively after looking them up in the dictionary.
  - D. The student use a thesaurus to locate synonyms and incorporate them into his/her vocabulary.
2. **The arrangement and relationship of words in sentences or sentence structure best describes**  
*(Average) (Skill 1.1, 3.13, 7.10)*
  - A. Style.
  - B. Discourse.
  - C. Thesis.
  - D. Syntax.
3. **Which of the following is a formal reading level assessment?**  
*(Easy) (Skill 2.8)*
  - A. A standardized reading test
  - B. A teacher-made reading test
  - C. An interview
  - D. A reading diary.
4. **The literary device of personification is used in which example below?**  
*(Average) (Skill 4.2)*
  - A. “Beg me no beggary by soul or parents, whining dog!”
  - B. “Happiness sped through the halls cajoling as it went.”
  - C. “O wind thy horn, thou proud fellow.”
  - D. “And that one talent which is death to hide.”

5. Several students in Mr. Hossfeld's class have not met their grade level expectations in the past. Which teaching method would be most effective for interesting underachievers in his Language Arts class?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 4.11)*

- A. Assign use of glossary work and extensively footnoted excerpts of great works.
- B. Have students take turns reading aloud the anthology selection.
- C. Let students choose which readings they'll study and write about.
- D. Use a chronologically arranged, traditional text, but assigning group work, panel presentations, and portfolio management.

6. Which definition below is the best for defining diction?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 5.1)*

- A. The specific word choices of an author to create a particular mood or feeling in the reader.
- B. Writing which explains something thoroughly.
- C. The background, or exposition, for a short story or drama.
- D. Word choices which help teach a truth or moral.

7. Which is not a true statement concerning an author's literary tone?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 4.13)*

- A. Tone is partly revealed through the selection of details.
- B. Tone is the expression of the author's attitude toward his/her subject.
- C. Tone in literature is usually satiric or angry.
- D. Tone in literature corresponds to the tone of voice a speaker uses.

8. What were two major characteristics of the first American literature?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 5.4 and 5.12)*

- A. Vengefulness and arrogance
- B. Bellicosity and derision
- C. Oral delivery and reverence for the land
- D. Maudlin and self-pitying geocentricism

9. Which of the following is a subject of a tall tale?  
(Rigorous) (Skill 5.9)

- A. John Henry.
- B. Paul Bunyan.
- C. George Washington.
- D. Rip Van Winkle.

10. Which term best describes the form of the following poetic excerpts?  
(Rigorous) (Skill 5.9 and 7.3)

And more to lulle him in his  
slumber soft,  
A trickling streame from high rock  
tumbling downe,  
And ever-drizzling raine upon the  
loft.  
Mixt with a murmuring winde,  
much like a swowne  
No other noyse, nor peoples  
troubles cryes.  
As still we wont t'annoy the  
walle'd towne,  
Might there be heard: but careless  
Quiet lyes,  
Wrapt in eternall silence farre  
from enemyes.

- A. Ballad
- B. Elegy
- C. Spenserian stanza
- D. Octava rima

11. Which sonnet form describes the following?  
(Rigorous) (Skill 5.9)

*My galley, chargèd with  
forgetfulness,  
Thorough sharp seas in winter  
nights doth pass  
'Tween rock and rock; and eke  
mine en'my, alas,  
That is my lord, steereth with  
cruelness;  
And every owre a thought in  
readiness,  
As though that death were light in  
such a case.  
An endless wind doth tear the sail  
apace  
Of forced sighs and trusty  
fearfulness.  
A rain of tears, a cloud of dark  
disdain,  
Hath done the weared cords great  
hinderance;  
Wreathèd with error and eke with  
ignorance.  
The stars be hid that led me to this  
pain;  
Drownèd is Reason that should me  
comfort,  
And I remain despairing of the port.*

- A. Petrarchan or Italian sonnet
- B. Shakespearean or Elizabethan sonnet
- C. Romantic sonnet
- D. Spenserian sonnet

12. **An example of figurative language in which someone or something inhuman is addressed as though present and able to respond describes:**

*(Average) (Skill 5.11)*

- A. Personification.
- B. Synecdoche.
- C. Metonymy.
- D. Apostrophe.

13. **The quality in a work of literature which evokes feelings of pity or compassion is called**

*(Easy) (Skill 5.12)*

- A. Colloquy.
- B. Irony.
- C. Pathos.
- D. Paradox.

14. **An extended metaphor which compares two very dissimilar things - one lofty, one lowly, is a definition of a/an**

*(Average) (Skill 5.15)*

- A. Antithesis.
- B. Aphorism.
- C. Apostrophe.
- D. Conceit.

15. **Which of the following is a complex sentence?**

*(Easy) (Skill 6.2)*

- A. Anna and Margaret read a total of fifty-four books during summer vacation.
- B. The youngest boy on the team had the best earned run average, which mystifies the coaching staff.
- C. Earl decided to attend Princeton; his twin brother Roy, who aced the ASVAB test, will be going to Annapolis.
- D. "Easy come, easy go," Marcia moaned.

16. **Middle and high school students are more receptive to studying grammar and syntax**

*(Rigorous) (Skill 6.2 and 6.6)*

- A. Through worksheets and end -of- lesson practices in textbooks.
- B. Through independent, homework assignments.
- C. Through analytical examination of the writings of famous authors.
- D. Though application to their own writing.

17. A punctuation mark indicating omission, interrupted thought, or an incomplete statement is a/an *(Rigorous)* (Skill 6.2 and 6.6)
- A. Ellipsis.
  - B. Anachronism
  - C. Colloquy.
  - D. Idiom.
18. Which of the following contains an error in possessive inflection? *(Easy)* (Skill 6.5 and 6.6)
- A. Doris’s shawl
  - B. Mother’s-in-law frown
  - C. Children’s lunches
  - D. Ambassador’s briefcase
19. Analyze and correct the information. Wally groaned, “Why do I have to do an oral interpretation of “The Raven.”” *(Average)* (Skill 6.6)
- A. Groaned, “Why...of ‘The Raven’ ?”
  - B. Groaned “Why... of “The Raven” ?
  - C. Groaned “, Why...of “The Raven?”
  - D. Groaned, “Why...of “The Raven.”
20. Analyze and correct the information. Mr. Smith respectfully submitted his resignation and had a new job. *(Average)* (Skill 6.6)
- A. Respectively submitted his resignation and has
  - B. Respectively submitted his resignation before accepting
  - C. Respectfully submitted his resignation because of
  - D. Respectfully submitted his resignation and has
21. Analyze and correct the information. There were fewer peices of evidence presented during the second trial. *(Average)* (Skill 6.6)
- A. Fewer peaces
  - B. Less peaces
  - C. Less pieces
  - D. Fewer pieces

22. Analyze and correct the information. The teacher **implied** from our angry words that there was conflict **between you and me**.  
*(Easy) (Skill 6.6)*
- A. Implied...between you and I
  - B. Inferred...between you and I
  - C. Inferred...between you and me
  - D. Implied ... between you and me
23. Which of the following is not one of the four forms of discourse?  
*(Average) (Skill 6.6)*
- A. Exposition
  - B. Description
  - C. Rhetoric
  - D. Persuasion
24. “Clean as a whistle” or “As Easy as falling off a log” are examples of  
*(Average) (Skill 7.1)*
- A. Semantics
  - B. Parody
  - C. Irony
  - D. Clichés

25. In the passage below, the dead body of Caesar is addressed as though he were still a living being. What is the figure of speech present in line one below?  
*(Average) (Skill 7.1)*
- “O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers.”  
Marc Antony from *Julius Caesar*
- A. Apostrophe
  - B. Allusion
  - C. Antithesis
  - D. Anachronism
26. A sixth-grade science teacher has given her class a paper to read on the relationship between food and weight gain. The writing contains signal words such as “because,” “consequently,” “this is how,” and “due to.” This paper has which text structure?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 7.1)*
- A. Cause & effect
  - B. Compare & contrast
  - C. Description
  - D. Sequencing

27. Mr. Robinson’s students are assigned to write one of the following:  
*(Average) (Skill 7.1)*
- a recipe
  - directions for how to play a game
  - an interview with a college graduate
  - a movie review

By completing this assignment, his students are engaging in which type of writing?

- A. Exposition
- B. Narration.
- C. Persuasion.
- D. Description.

28. The following passage is written from which point of view?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 7.3)*

*As she mused the pitiful vision of her mother’s life laid its spell on the very quick of her being - that life of commonplace sacrifices closing in final craziness. She trembled as she heard again her mother’s voice saying constantly with foolish insistence: Derevaun Seraun! Derevaun Seraun!\**

\* “The end of pleasure is pain!”  
(Gaelic)

- A. First person, narrator
- B. Second person, direct address
- C. Third person, omniscient
- D. First person, omniscient

29. Which of the following should not be included in the opening paragraph of an informative essay?  
*(Average) (Skill 7.8)*

- A. Thesis sentence
- B. Details and examples supporting the main idea
- C. A broad general introduction to the topic
- D. A style and tone that grab the reader’s attention

30. Mr. Michaela’s students are writing essays using the writing process. Which of the following is not a technique they will use to prewrite? *(Average) (Skill 7.8)*

- A. Clustering
- B. Listing
- C. Brainstorming
- D. Proofreading

31. Which of the following is not an approach to keep students ever conscious of the need to write for audience appeal?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 7.3)*
- A. Pairing students during the writing process
  - B. Reading all rough drafts before the students write the final copies
  - C. Having students compose stories or articles for publication in school literary magazines or newspapers
  - D. Writing letters to friends or relatives

32. What does the word “meandered” mean in the sentence below?  
*(Easy) (Skill 3.13)*

*Michael was taking a long time to return to his seat after sharpening his pencil at the back of the room. After leaving the sharpener, he meandered around the room before eventually making his way back to his own seat.*

- A. rolled
- B. roamed
- C. slithered
- D. stomped

33. When reading the book *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz, the reader feels like they are a part of the action. The author uses so many details to bring the reader into the setting of the story, and this puts the reader right beside Alex Rider, the main character in the story.

**Is this a valid or invalid argument? (Average) (Skill 5.1)**

- A. Valid
- B. Invalid

34. Let’s go see the movie *Alice in Wonderland*. It’s a great movie and Johnny Depp is awesome!

**Is this a valid or invalid argument? (Average) (Skill 5.1)**

- A. Valid
- B. Invalid

35. **DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Mr. Smith gave instructions for the painting to be hung on the wall. And then it leaped forth before his eyes: the little cottages on the river, the white clouds floating over the valley, and the green of the towering mountain ranges that were seen in the distance. The painting was so vivid that it seemed almost real. Mr. Smith was now absolutely certain that the painting had been worth the money.

Is this passage biased?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 4.1)*

- A. Yes
  - B. No
36. **From the last sentence, one can infer that: *(Rigorous) (Skill 4.5)***
- A. The painting was expensive.
  - B. The painting was cheap.
  - C. Mr. Smith was considering purchasing the painting.
  - D. Mr. Smith thought the painting was too expensive and decided not to purchase it.
37. **Boys are smarter than girls. Is this sentence fact or opinion? *(Easy) (Skill 11.3)***
- A. Fact
  - B. Opinion

38. **Turkey burgers are better than beef burgers. Is this sentence fact or opinion? *(Easy) (Skill 4.13)***

- A. Fact
- B. Opinion

39. **What conclusion can be drawn from the passage below? *(Rigorous) (Skill 4.13)***

*When she walked into the room she gasped in disbelief as her hands rose to her face and her eyes bulged large. After she picked her jaw up off the floor, a huge smile spread across her face as her best friend came up and wrapped her arms around her and wished her a happy birthday.*

- A. The girl didn't know anyone in the room
- B. The girl saw something shocking
- C. The girl was being thrown a surprise party
- D. The girl got punched in the face

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Deciding which animal to get as the family pet can be a very difficult decision, and there are many things to take into consideration. First, you must consider the size of your home and the area that will be dedicated to the pet. If your home is a smaller one, then you probably want to get a small dog or even a cat. If you are lucky enough to have larger home with plenty of room inside and out, then most certainly consider a large or even a more active breed of dog. One other thing to consider is how often and how long you are outside of the home. Cats do not need to be let out to relieve themselves. They are normally trained to use a litter box. On the other hand, dogs require being let out. Dogs also require more exercise than cats and often need to be walked. This can be aggravating to an owner especially on rainy days. Therefore, when deciding which pet is best for your family, it is necessary to consider more than whether or not you want a dog or a cat, but which animal will best fit into your family's lifestyle.

40. How does the author feel about dogs?  
*(Rigorous) (Skill 4.13)*
- A. The author likes dogs and cats the same
  - B. The author thinks that dogs are aggravating
  - C. The author believes they require more care than cats
  - D. The author feels that dogs are more active than cats

41. What does the word “interject” mean in the sentence below?  
*(Easy) (Skill 3.7)*

*Nancy was speaking with her best friend Sierra. Nancy's little sister was standing nearby and was eavesdropping on their conversation. Suddenly, she heard something that interested her and had to interject her opinion about the subject the girls were talking about.*

- A. repeat
- B. pierce
- C. intersect
- D. state

42. How does the author feel about the size of people's houses?  
(Rigorous) (Skill 4.13)

- A. The author believes that people with larger homes are lucky
- B. The author thinks that if you have a small house you should have a cat
- C. The author feels that only people with large homes should own animals
- D. The author thinks that only those who own homes should own pets

43. From this passage, one can infer that:  
(Rigorous) (Skill 4.1)

- A. The author owns a cat
- B. More people own dogs than cats
- C. Cats are smarter than dogs
- D. The author owns a dog

44. From this passage, one can infer that:  
(Rigorous) (Skill 4.1)

- A. Either a dog or cat will be right for every family who wants a pet
- B. Choosing a pet is not solely one family member's job
- C. Only someone who enjoys exercising should get a dog
- D. Big dogs will not survive in a small house

45. Johnny Depp stars in the movie *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Is this sentence fact or opinion?  
(Easy) (Skill 4.13)

- A. Fact
- B. Opinion

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

According to Factmonster.com, the most popular Internet activity is sending and/or reading email. Approximately 92% of Internet users report using the Internet for this purpose. 89% of Internet users report that they use the Internet to search for information. Two popular search engines are Google and Yahoo! The introduction of the Internet has made it easy to gather and research information quickly. Other reasons that Internet users use the Internet is for social media, to search for driving directions, look into a hobby or interest, or research a product or service before buying, just to name a few. Creative enterprises such as remixing songs or lyrics stood at the bottom of reasons people use the Internet. Surprisingly, only 11% of Internet users said they use the Internet for creative purposes. Perhaps people are using specific software to be creative.