



# Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Practice Test Scoring Guide

Grade 11

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## The Science of Meditation

Meditation has been practiced for thousands of years by people from a wide variety of cultures. Though traditionally a spiritual practice, meditation has more recently been identified by medical professionals as a uniquely effective way to improve mental and physical health. How does meditation work, and what does science have to say about its effects on practitioners?

While there are many ways to meditate, meditation is, at its core, simply a way of focusing awareness. Here is one of the most commonly taught ways to meditate: start by sitting on the floor or in a chair in a comfortable and relaxed position. Once you are comfortable, concentrate your awareness on your breathing. Simply follow your breath in and out, sensing the movement of your diaphragm as you breathe. As you focus on your breathing, notice how your mind tends to wander to other things: something you need to do later in the day, or a conversation you just had with your mother, or a fragment of a song, or questions like “Am I doing this right?” or even “*Why* am I doing this?” When you notice your attention wandering, simply acknowledge this new thought, watch it go by, and then return your awareness to your breathing. Don’t try to fight against these wandering thoughts; telling yourself “I will *not* think of other things!” is just another thought that will distract you from your breathing. With practice and patience, you will find it easier and easier to keep your focus on your breath for extended periods. This type of meditation can be practiced every day and almost anywhere.

People who meditate regularly report numerous benefits. They feel calmer and more relaxed, and more prepared and clear-headed when responding to the challenges and frustrations of everyday life. These reported benefits have been supported by scientific research on meditation, research that has investigated the mental and physical changes that take place when a person meditates. Scientists have learned that meditation produces clear changes in a person’s brain wave patterns and, in turn, affects how the body responds to normal physical demands and stress.

Brain waves are electrical impulses in the brain that correspond to different types or “levels” of awareness. For example, the “beta” brain wave pattern, measurable from about 13 to 100 cycles per second, is the pattern of normal waking consciousness and is associated with alert activity. Scientists measuring the brain waves of meditators have found that when

people meditate, these beta waves give way to different, slower brain wave patterns, including the “alpha” pattern (8 to 13.9 cycles per second) and the “theta” pattern (4 to 7.9 cycles per second). The alpha pattern is associated with what is often called the “relaxation response,” a wakeful yet restful state. The theta pattern corresponds to an even deeper state of mental and physical calm. Meditation, therefore, is a way of intentionally entering into a mental state of relaxation and calm. What is more, people who meditate regularly have a much greater ability to enter these calmer states of mind in their day-to-day living, whenever they need to.

These research findings have led to a tremendous increase in the use and promotion of meditation by health-care providers across the country, particularly for controlling stress. Stress is linked to a long list of mental and physical problems, including anxiety, depression, heart problems, and hypertension. By entering the calmer states of mind that are associated with meditation, practitioners can lower both their heart rate and blood pressure, therefore reversing the effects of the stress response. Meditation has also been shown to be useful in relieving pain, preparing patients for medical procedures, and helping them recover from surgery.

Meditation has also proven to be an effective way to enhance athletic and artistic performance. In many types of martial arts training, meditation is used extensively to develop concentration, mental clarity, and inner emotional balance. Meditative techniques are also used by many athletes, such as the practice of “visualization”—in which an athlete will picture him or herself performing at their best and accomplishing a desired result or goal—before a competition, shot, or routine.

862



Read these two sentences from the text. Then, answer the question that follows.

How does meditation work, and what does science have to say about its effects on practitioners?

By entering the calmer states of mind that are associated with meditation, practitioners can lower both their heart rate and blood pressure, therefore reversing the effects of the stress response.

What is the meaning of practitioner as it is used in the text?

- Ⓐ a person engaged in the practice of a profession such as law or medicine
- Ⓑ a person who does something repeatedly in order to improve
- Ⓒ a person authorized to apply healing techniques to others
- Ⓓ a person who engages in something specified

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

863



Read this conclusion about the text and the directions that follow.

The more someone meditates, the easier it is for them to alter their brain waves.

Click on the sentence from the text that **best** supports the conclusion.

- A) Brain waves are electrical impulses in the brain that correspond to different types or "levels" of awareness.
- B) For example, the "beta" brain wave pattern, measurable from about 13 to 100 cycles per second, is the pattern of normal waking consciousness, and is associated with alert activity.
- C) Scientists have found that when people meditate, these beta waves give way to different, slower brain wave patterns.
- D) The alpha pattern is associated with what is often called the "relaxation response," a wakeful yet restful state.
- E) The theta pattern corresponds to an even deeper state of mental and physical calm.
- F) Meditation, therefore, is a way of intentionally entering into a mental state of relaxation and calm.
- G) What is more, people who meditate regularly have a much greater ability to enter these calmer states of mind in their day-to-day living, whenever they need to.

The correct response, option G, receives a score of 1 point.

864



There are physical health benefits associated with meditation. Using **at least two** details from the text, support this conclusion.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least two details from the text that support the conclusion that there are physical health benefits associated with meditation. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Meditation has been scientifically proven to change brain wave patterns that affect the way we respond to mental and physical stress. People who meditate say that they feel calmer, more relaxed, and better able to tackle everyday stress. This can also help them lower their blood pressure and have fewer heart problems.

A one-point response includes one detail from the text that supports the conclusion that there are physical health benefits associated with meditation.

Sample one-point response:

Meditation has a lot of physical benefits. For example, it can help people recover after having surgery.

A response that does not provide a detail from the text that supports the conclusion that there are physical health benefits associated with meditation receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

Meditation is good for you.

865



This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

Click on the statement that **best** identifies the author's premise in "The Science of Meditation."

- A) Meditation can increase the effectiveness of medication.
- B) Meditation can improve a person's health and performance.
- C) Meditation can take a great deal of concentration to be beneficial.

**Part B**

Choose **two** statements that, if true, would **most** directly challenge the author's premise.

- A) Biofeedback is a form of increased awareness and manipulation of bodily functions.
- B) Medicine that blocks beta waves is often used to treat high blood pressure in heart patients.
- C) Experts who studied meditators found that long-term meditation leads to an inability to concentrate.
- D) Changes in brain structure such as those reported by meditation studies may have negative outcomes.

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option B in part A and options C and D in part B.

## Sustainable Fashion

“Sustainability” is a popular buzzword these days, but what exactly does it mean? According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sustainability “creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony . . . [and] that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.” As the idea of living a sustainable lifestyle has become more widespread in recent years, consumers have begun to demand that the products they buy are produced in sustainable ways. It’s a trend that has made a new type of clothing, dubbed “eco-fashion,” very fashionable indeed.

Why has clothing become such a concern for those who want to live more sustainably? Consider that Americans threw away an estimated 13.1 million pounds of clothing and textiles in 2010, or 5.3% of all solid wastes that made it into U.S. landfills that year (according to the EPA). As large as those numbers are, they do not even include shoes or other wearable accessories that were thrown out. While 15% of this clothing was recovered for reuse and recycling, that still leaves a lot of old clothes and shoes in the nation’s landfills.

But the environmental impact of clothing involves more than just where our used clothes end up. To calculate the true impact of, say, a cotton T-shirt, we must go back to the beginning: to the farm where the cotton was grown. Cotton is a very water-intensive crop that is typically grown with heavy application of insecticides; in fact, cotton accounts for more insecticide use than any other single crop in the world. Cotton that is grown in the U.S. is often shipped off to other countries, such as China and Honduras, where it is processed with chemicals and dyes before being made into our T-shirt. The completed shirt is then shipped back to America, where it is sold. While all that shipping back and forth uses up a lot of energy, shipping actually accounts for less than half of the energy that will eventually be used on that T-shirt over its lifetime. According to the Audubon Society, about 60% of the energy cost of a T-shirt comes from washing and drying it—and washing adds a water cost as well.

Given this environmental impact, it’s easy to see why many consumers are bypassing cotton T-shirts for clothing that is produced in more sustainable ways. And where consumer dollars have gone, clothing makers



have followed. Many companies have started using organic cotton that is grown without pesticides or chemicals. Others use natural fibers that require less water than cotton, such as bamboo or hemp. A wide array of natural fibers—some old, some new—have become increasingly popular with consumers and manufacturers, including wool, silk, jute, corn, flax, and soy.

While some eco-conscious consumers avoid synthetic, petroleum-based fabrics, such as polyester and nylon, even these fabrics can be produced in more sustainable ways by using recycled materials. One clothing company recycles plastic soda bottles and makes them into winter parkas. Other companies recycle old clothes and then remanufacture the synthetic material into new clothes.

Sustainability, however, does not just mean being good to the environment; it also means being fair to fellow human beings. Clothing is often made in ways that are hazardous to workers who are underpaid and mistreated. One of the goals of the eco-fashion movement is to make sure that the farmers who grow the raw materials and the workers who manufacture the clothing are able to work in safe and fair workplaces.

Eco-fashion's rise in popularity has even caught the attention of some top fashion designers who are beginning to add organic silks and recycled-plastic fabrics in their clothing. Overall, however, the fashion industry has been slow to pick up on this trend. While the big design houses have hesitated, many smaller clothing makers have moved quickly to fill the demand, producing clothes in a sustainable way and marketing their eco-friendliness to consumers. If successful, these smaller brands are sure to get the attention of larger brands and others looking to profit from the movement.

Given this rush to capitalize on eco-fashion's newfound popularity, consumers who seek true sustainability in the products they buy would do well to remember the old Latin phrase *caveat emptor*: let the buyer beware. Shoppers everywhere are now bombarded with advertising and packaging that touts the "organic," "fair trade," or "green" qualities of a product. While some of these terms are defined by regulations (for example, organic crops are certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration), others are open to interpretation: what really makes a product "green"? Consumers who wish to purchase truly sustainable products should examine the labels closely—

and perhaps even do some research on the manufacturers—to make sure the products are actually as eco-friendly as they say they are.

Fashion is an industry that is built on constant change, and designers and manufacturers are always seeking out the next big thing. However, there is every reason to believe that sustainable clothing is something more than just a temporary fashion trend. With human populations rising, along with the demand for limited resources, the current popularity of sustainable clothing is likely to become an enduring, long-term shift in the way clothes are made and sold.

867



How does the second paragraph fit in with the structure of the text as a whole?

- Ⓐ It outlines the main reason for the need for sustainable fashion.
- Ⓑ It defines the EPA, which is mentioned a number of other times.
- Ⓒ It details the process of recycling clothing, which is done at U.S. landfills.
- Ⓓ It explains the main effect that sustainable fashion has on the environment.

The correct response, option A, receives a score of 1 point.

868



Why does the author **most likely** place the words "organic," "green," and "fair trade" in quotation marks?

- Ⓐ because the author is quoting another source
- Ⓑ because the author wants these words to stand out
- Ⓒ because consumers are encouraged to buy only these products
- Ⓓ because the use of these words by manufacturers may be misleading

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

870



Read this conclusion and the directions that follow.

The clothing industry has not been operating in an ecologically sustainable way.

Click on **all** the details that support this conclusion.

- A) Growing cotton uses a lot of water.
- B) Cotton growers use a lot of insecticides.
- C) Hemp is a more sustainable fabric than cotton.
- D) People throw away a lot of clothing every year.
- E) Many fashion designers like to use synthetic fabrics.
- F) Some clothing manufacturers use organically grown cotton.

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must choose all three correct responses. The correct responses are options A, B, and E.

871



How has consumer demand for sustainable clothing impacted companies? Use **at least two** details from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least two details from the text that support the student's explanation for how consumer demand for sustainable clothing has impacted companies. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

The consumer demand for sustainable clothing has impacted companies in many ways. One of those ways is that companies are starting to use organic cotton or natural fibers. Another way is that some companies are producing polyester and nylon by using recycled materials.

A one-point response includes one detail from the text that supports the student's explanation for how consumer demand for sustainable clothing has impacted companies.

Sample one-point response:

The consumer demand for sustainable clothing has impacted companies to make clothing using natural fibers. Natural fibers use less water than cotton.

A response that does not provide any detail from the text that supports the student's explanation of how consumer demand for sustainable clothing has impacted companies receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

Consumers change the clothing industry by writing to Congress and manufacturers about the companies' practices.

861



This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

How does the author connect the final paragraph of the text to the first paragraph?

- A) The first paragraph wonders about the popularity of sustainability. The last paragraph demonstrates it will continue.
- B) The first paragraph explains the past role of the consumers. The last paragraph discusses present obstacles they face.
- C) The first paragraph discusses a current issue in the fashion industry. The last paragraph considers future changes.
- D) The first paragraph provides a definition from a large agency. The last paragraph gives specific applications for it.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A) According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sustainability “creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony . . . [and] that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.”
- B) As the idea of living a sustainable lifestyle has become more widespread in recent years, consumers have begun to demand that the products they buy are produced in sustainable ways.
- C) Consumers who wish to purchase truly sustainable products should examine the labels closely—and perhaps even do some research on the manufacturers—to make sure the products are actually as eco-friendly as they say they are.
- D) Fashion is an industry that is built on constant change, and designers and manufacturers are always seeking out the next big thing.

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option A in part A and option B in part B.

872



Select **two** paragraphs from the text that **best** support the conclusion that the clothes people wear affect the environment.

- A) Paragraph 2
- B) Paragraph 3
- C) Paragraph 4
- D) Paragraph 5
- E) Paragraph 6
- F) Paragraph 7

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must choose both correct responses. The correct responses are options A and B.



873



This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Read these sentences from the text and the directions that follow.

It's a trend that has made a new type of clothing, dubbed "eco-fashion," very fashionable indeed.

Shoppers everywhere are now bombarded with advertising and packaging that touts the "organic," "fair trade," or "green" qualities of a product.

Based on its use in the sentences above, determine the definition of the root of each underlined word.

**Part A**

Based on its use in the text, what is the **best** definition of the root word dub?

- A) to designate
- B) to evaluate
- C) to divulge
- D) to bolster

**Part B**

Based on its use in the text, what is the **best** definition of the root word tout?

- A) to promote
- B) to credit
- C) to target
- D) to revise

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option A in part A and option A in part B.

869



Read the conclusion and the directions that follow.

The fashion industry has started to become more sustainable.

Click on the paragraph that **best** supports this conclusion.

While some eco-conscious consumers avoid synthetic, petroleum-based fabrics, such as polyester and nylon, even these fabrics can be produced in more sustainable ways by using recycled materials. One clothing company recycles plastic soda bottles and makes them into winter parkas. Other companies recycle old clothes and then remanufacture the synthetic material into new clothes.

Sustainability, however, does not just mean being good to the environment; it also means being fair to fellow human beings. Clothing is often made in ways that are hazardous to workers who are underpaid and mistreated. One of the goals of the eco-fashion movement is to make sure that the farmers who grow the raw materials and the workers who manufacture the clothing are able to work in safe and fair workplaces.

Eco-fashion's rise in popularity has even caught the attention of some top fashion designers who are beginning to add organic silks and recycled-plastic fabrics in their clothing. Overall, however, the fashion industry has been slow to pick up on this trend. While the big design houses have hesitated, many smaller clothing makers have moved quickly to fill the demand, producing clothes in a sustainable way and marketing their eco-friendliness to consumers. If successful, these smaller brands are sure to get the attention of larger brands and others looking to profit from the movement.

Given this rush to capitalize on eco-fashion's newfound popularity, consumers who seek true sustainability in the products they buy would do well to remember the old Latin phrase *caveat emptor*: let the buyer beware. Shoppers everywhere are now bombarded with advertising and packaging that touts the "organic," "fair trade," or "green" qualities of a product. While some of these terms are defined by regulations (for example, organic crops are certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration), others are open to interpretation: what really makes a product "green"? Consumers who wish to purchase truly sustainable products should examine the labels closely—and perhaps even do some research on the manufacturers—to make sure the products are actually as eco-friendly as they say they are.

The correct response, paragraph 3, receives a score of 1 point.

**866**

What is the main idea of the text?

- Ⓐ Sustainable fashion is an important trend that has been increasing in popularity over the last several years.
- Ⓑ Consumers must be wary of companies who use false advertising to benefit from the eco-friendly trend.
- Ⓒ Workers in the garment industry must be compensated fairly and allowed to work in a sustainable environment.
- Ⓓ The fashion industry is likely to dispose of the eco-friendly trend once consumers become interested in other types of fashion.

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.

## **Much Ado About *Much Ado About Nothing***

It was the first day back at school after the holiday break. Our drama teacher, Mrs. Kent, handed out our next assignment: an in-depth study of a scene from one of Shakespeare's plays. I was so excited to see that I had been assigned a scene from *Much Ado About Nothing*. Finally, here was my long-awaited opportunity to act out a comedy scene from Shakespeare! My joy was short-lived, however, because moments later I saw Luke shuffling my way with that mocking grin on his face that I find so infuriating. Of course Mrs. Kent had assigned Luke to be my partner! Even worse, we were to play Beatrice and Benedick, two of Shakespeare's most famous lovers. Where was Macbeth's dagger when you needed it?

Our partnership started out just as I thought it would. As soon as we sat down to look at the scene, Luke was pompously proclaiming himself an expert.

"Beatrice and Benedick are obviously in love here at the beginning of the play. Anyone with a brain could see that, Kate," he said.

"I have brain enough for both of us, Luke, which is good, since you seem to be in need. Beatrice and Benedick only fall in love because they're tricked into it. They would never have fallen in love otherwise—that much is obvious to anyone with a pulse."

"Oh really? I'll speak slowly so you can understand," Luke said. "In Beatrice's very first line in the play, she asks about Benedick. Why else would she do that? Clearly she's infatuated with him."

"Luke, your interpretation is as interesting as it is correct—which is not at all," I said. "Notice, please, that Beatrice is mocking Benedick in that line, and she continues to do so for the rest of the scene."

"It's because she loves him! Don't you remember that line from *Hamlet*? 'The lady doth protest too much, methinks.' In so many of Shakespeare's plays, when people are trying to conceal their feelings, they emphatically say the opposite. Beatrice and Benedick insult each other because they *like* each other. Any fool can see that!"

"Well, I guess that explains why *you* can see it."

We were getting nowhere. Luke got up to sharpen his pencil (and to complain about me to his friends, no doubt), and I took the opportunity to review my notes from Mrs. Kent's lecture about the play. *Much Ado About Nothing* is a comedy set in Italy a long time ago. At the beginning of the play, Benedick is just returning from a battle when he is reunited with Beatrice. They apparently have this long-running but friendly feud between them, but nobody in the play says why. All they ever do is insult each other, as wittily as possible—they engage in a “merry war betwixt” them, in Shakespeare's words. Their friends devise a plan to trick Beatrice and Benedick into falling in love with each other. Benedick's friends arrange for him to overhear a conversation in which they say how much Beatrice is secretly in love with him. Beatrice's friends pull the same trick on her. The scheme works and the two fall in love and get married, riding off into the sunset and living happily ever after.

Luke sauntered back, so I tried to restart the conversation in a more constructive direction. “In the party scene, Benedick is wearing a mask so Beatrice doesn't know who he is,” I explained. “Even so, Beatrice calls Benedick ‘the prince's jester: a very dull fool.’ It seems painfully obvious to me that she does not love him.”

“She's just messing with his mind, Kate! Beatrice knows it's Benedick behind the mask, so she's having a little fun—because she loves him! Isn't that what women do to the men they like?”

“Nowhere in the text does it say that, and you obviously know nothing about women.”

“Not everything is written on the page, Kate. Some things are written between the lines.”

“This is Shakespeare we're talking about here! The greatest writer in, like, ever! If he had meant for us to read between the lines, he would have written between the lines.”

“That's just silly. He wrote for real live actors, not for robots. Actors interpret the playwright's words and make them their own. That's why a character can be completely different depending on the actor who's playing it.”

“Well, Luke, I happen to trust Shakespeare’s words—the ones he actually wrote. I think that if he had wanted us to imagine that Beatrice and Benedick are in love at the beginning of the play, he would have had someone say it.”

“Aha! Right here in the play, the prince, Don John, says that Beatrice would make ‘an excellent wife for Benedick.’ That’s someone saying they’re in love, don’t you think?”

“But in the very next line, the governor, Leonato, says, ‘If they were but a week married, they would talk themselves mad.’ That’s someone saying they’re not in love, don’t you think?”

It was no use; we needed to appeal to a higher authority: Mrs. Kent. She has been teaching theater for over fifty years, and has directed every Shakespeare play, many more than once. If anyone knew how we should play this scene, it was she.

We met with Mrs. Kent in her office. She sat listening quietly as Luke and I pled our cases. We argued as though we were before the Supreme Court, waving our copies of the play, highlighting the lines that supported our interpretations. Finally, we both sat back breathlessly in our chairs, our respective cases closed, and awaited the judge’s decision.

Mrs. Kent peered at us with a crinkled grin on her face. “Why can’t you both be right? Maybe they’re in love with each other at the beginning of the play and they just don’t know it. Maybe they need their friends’ tricks in order to fully realize their love for one another. We all have thoughts and feelings that we’re not entirely conscious of, don’t you think?”

Luke and I sheepishly thanked Mrs. Kent and left her office. She was right—we could play our characters with our own interpretations of their feelings, and it would work out just fine.

I was almost ready to forgive Luke, but then he made this suggestion: “Let’s practice the scene where Beatrice pretends that she wants Benedick to kill Claudio.”

*“Pretends?!”*

876



Click on **two** sentences that summarize the main idea of the text.

- A) Luke and Kate are both very knowledgeable about Shakespeare.
- B) Luke and Kate present arguments to their teacher and defend their points of view.
- C) Luke and Kate realize that people can have different interpretations of characters in a play.
- D) Luke and Kate disagree about the nature of the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick.
- E) Luke and Kate are told that they need to work together to study a scene from *Much Ado About Nothing*.

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must choose both correct responses. The correct responses are options C and D.

874



Read this excerpt from the text that includes a quotation by William Shakespeare. Then, answer the question that follows.

. . . they engage in a "merry war betwixt" them, in Shakespeare's words.

What is the effect of the underlined figure of speech in the text?

- Ⓐ It mirrors the exaggeration of the claims made by Luke and Kate as they argue about the play.
- Ⓑ It creates irony because Beatrice and Benedick and Luke and Kate accept each other's feelings.
- Ⓒ It provides a summary of the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick as well as Luke and Kate.
- Ⓓ It makes the bitter anger between Beatrice and Benedick seem less harsh, just as Luke is trying to do.

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.



875



Read the excerpt from the text and the directions that follow.

Our partnership started out just as I thought it would. As soon as we sat down to look at the scene, Luke was pompously proclaiming himself an expert.

What does the word pompously mean as it is used in this excerpt?

- Ⓐ loftily
- Ⓑ arrogantly
- Ⓒ dignifiedly
- Ⓓ magnificently

The correct response, option B, receives a score of 1 point.

880



Explain how the structure of this text creates a parallel with the script of a play. Support your answer using at least **two** details from the text.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least two details from the text that support the student's explanation of how the structure of the text creates a parallel with the script of a play. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Although this is a narrated story, not drama, the bulk of the text is presented as a conversation. The first section of dialogue has very brief lines with very few dialogue tags ("he said"). But in the second section, even these drop out, so that from "She's just messing with his mind" to "don't you think?," the text is very much like an excerpt from a play, the only differences being that this story has quotation marks and no identification of who is speaking.

A one-point response includes one detail from the text that supports the student's explanation of how the structure of the text creates a parallel with the script of a play.

Sample one-point response:

Even though this is a story, not a drama, there is a great deal of dialogue, like the parts where Luke and Kate argue about whether Beatrice and Benedick are in love or not.

A response that does not provide any detail from the text that supports the student's explanation of how the structure of the text creates a parallel with the script of a play receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

It's harder to read some of this dialogue than a play because it doesn't tell who is speaking.

881



Contrast the structure and features of what Mrs. Kent says with what Kate and Luke say. Support your answer using **at least two** details from the text.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least two details from the text that help to contrast the structure and features of what Mrs. Kent says with what Kate and Luke say. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Mrs. Kent speaks without attacking her conversation partners. She uses genuine questions that contrast with the provoking or glib questions that Kate and Luke use. She uses the word “maybe” at the beginning of questions when she is giving suggestions to avoid sounding like she knows all the answers. She does not use any exclamations.

A one-point response includes one detail from the text that helps to contrast the structure and features of what Mrs. Kent says with what Kate and Luke say.

Sample one-point response:

She says “maybe” instead of just acting like she’s the expert and knows how it ought to be.

A response that does not provide a detail from the text that helps to contrast the structure and features of what Mrs. Kent says with what Kate and Luke say receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

What Mrs. Kent says—that they’re in love and don’t know it—doesn’t make any sense.

882



Click on the sentences from the text that apply not only to Benedick and Beatrice in Shakespeare's play, but also to Luke and Kate.

- A) We were getting nowhere.
- B) Luke got up to sharpen his pencil (and to complain about me to his friends, no doubt), and I took the opportunity to review my notes from Mrs. Kent's lecture about the play.
- C) *Much Ado About Nothing* is a comedy set in Italy a long time ago.
- D) At the beginning of the play, Benedick is just returning from a battle when he is reunited with Beatrice.
- E) They apparently have this long-running but friendly feud between them, but nobody in the play says why.
- F) All they ever do is insult each other, as wittily as possible—they engage in a "merry war betwixt" them, in Shakespeare's words.
- G) Their friends devise a plan to trick Beatrice and Benedick into falling in love with each other.
- H) Benedick's friends arrange for him to overhear a conversation in which they say how much Beatrice is secretly in love with him.
- I) Beatrice's friends pull the same trick on her.
- J) The scheme works and the two fall in love and get married, riding off into the sunset and living happily ever after.

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must choose both correct responses. The correct responses are options E and F.

883



Click on the **two** sentences that suggest that surfaces can be misleading.

- A) "Nowhere in the text does it say that, and you obviously know nothing about women."
- B) "Some things are written between the lines."
- C) "If he had meant for us to read between the lines, he would have written between the lines."
- D) Luke sauntered back, so I tried to restart the conversation in a more constructive direction.
- E) "Maybe they need their friends' tricks in order to fully realize their love for one another."
- F) "We all have thoughts and feelings that we're not entirely conscious of, don't you think?"

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must choose both correct responses. The correct responses are options B and F.

877



This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

How well acquainted with the works of Shakespeare are Luke and Kate?

- A) Luke and Kate know quite a bit about the works of Shakespeare.
- B) Luke and Kate know nothing about the works of Shakespeare.
- C) Luke and Kate are familiar with one of Shakespeare's plays.
- D) Luke and Kate are experts on Shakespeare's plays.

**Part B**

Click on the excerpt from the text that supports your answer in part A.

- A) It was the first day back at school after the holiday break. Our drama teacher, Mrs. Kent, handed out our next assignment: an in-depth study of a scene from one of Shakespeare's plays.
- B) Our partnership started out just as I thought it would. As soon as we sat down to look at the scene, Luke was pompously proclaiming himself an expert.
- C) It was no use; we needed to appeal to a higher authority: Mrs. Kent. She has been teaching theater for over fifty years, and has directed every Shakespeare play, many more than once.
- D) We argued as though we were before the Supreme Court, waving our copies of the play, highlighting the lines that supported our interpretations.

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option A in part A and option D in part B.

## **On the Final Flight of the Discovery**

**Listen to the presentation. Then, answer the questions.**



Audio presentation available online.

892



Which conclusion can be made from the presentation?

- Ⓐ Space exploration for the general public will never happen in our lifetimes.
- Ⓑ The dangers of space exploration far outweigh the benefits of space exploration.
- Ⓒ Only the very rich will likely be able to enjoy the initial commercial space flights.
- Ⓓ Moral support is the best investment we can provide to make space exploration happen.

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.



893



What is the narrator's opinion on the importance of space exploration?

- Ⓐ Exploring the space frontier is pointless, because space is "empty, uninhabited, and perhaps even unknowable."
- Ⓑ Exploration led to "Americans [crowding] around black-and-white televisions" to watch humans go into space and later explore the Moon.
- Ⓒ If we stop exploring beyond what we know, we will find ourselves "shortsighted, ignorant, and ultimately poorer for our lack of courage and vision."
- Ⓓ If we explore the unknown universe further, we will be ignoring "the realities here on Earth—for there certainly is no end to the terrestrial challenges we face."

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.

879



Explain why the narrator believes that the conclusion of the space shuttle program is the beginning of a new era of space exploration. Use **at least two** details from the presentation to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least two details from the presentation that help to explain why the narrator believes that the conclusion of the space shuttle program is the beginning of a new era of space exploration. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

The conclusion of the space shuttle program is the beginning of a new era of space exploration because the effort will involve private individuals and companies just as much as governments. Private companies are beginning to develop new technology, such as low-Earth orbit spaceships for space tourism. Civilians are able to book commercial flights to experience space themselves. All of this is part of a new era of space exploration, one that does not only involve the vision of governments and allows civilians to experience space.

A one-point response includes one detail from the presentation that helps to explain why the narrator believes that the conclusion of the space shuttle program is the beginning of a new era of space exploration.

Sample one-point response:

The conclusion of the space shuttle program is the beginning of a new era of space exploration because private companies are building new technology for space tourism.

A response that does not provide any detail from the presentation that helps to explain why the narrator believes that the conclusion of the space shuttle program is the beginning of a new era of space exploration receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

The space shuttle program is over, so we will never reach Mars.

878



Describe the persuasive technique the narrator uses to support the idea that space exploration benefits humans. Use details from the presentation to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes a description of the persuasive technique the narrator uses and a correct supporting detail from the presentation. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

The narrator believes that space exploration can benefit humans in many different ways. The narrator appeals to listeners' emotions with words such as "shortsighted," "ignorant," and "poorer." This extreme description attempts to shock the reader into agreement. Furthermore, the narrator is persistent and emphasizes that people need to take an active role in supporting future space exploration by urging, "There is work for all of us to do." The narrator is trying to create a sense of collective energy and unity.

A one-point response includes a description of the persuasive technique the narrator uses without supporting details from the text.

Sample one-point response:

The narrator tries to convince listeners by shocking them with extreme statements, and by emphasizing the need for everyone to take an active role in space exploration.

A response that does not describe the persuasive technique the narrator uses to support the idea that space exploration benefits humans. No credit is awarded for providing details from the presentation without a description of the narrator's persuasive technique.

Sample zero-point response:

The narrator is talking about how space exploration is good for humans.

## **Paul Revere Williams: Architect to the Stars**

**Listen to the presentation. Then, answer the questions.**



Audio presentation available online.

894



The presentation implies which of the following about Paul Revere Williams?

- Ⓐ He valued artistry as well as buyer accessibility in his designs.
- Ⓑ His success can be measured by his popularity among celebrities.
- Ⓒ He developed designs that peaked in popularity during his lifetime.
- Ⓓ His contributions to architecture exceeded those of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The correct response, option A, receives a score of 1 point.

895



Which is **most likely** the purpose of this presentation?

- Ⓐ to promote popularity and sightseeing of Paul Revere Williams' designs
- Ⓑ to convince readers of Paul Revere Williams' importance in architectural history
- Ⓒ to enrage readers about the discrimination faced by Paul Revere Williams in his career
- Ⓓ to inform the audience about the significance of the life and career of Paul Revere Williams

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

896



The presentation includes the following quotation about Paul Revere Williams:

By the end of his career that spanned five decades, Williams had designed over 3,000 structures.

Which character trait of Williams does this quotation **best** support?

- Ⓐ his modesty
- Ⓑ his compulsion to design
- Ⓒ his vision and work ethic
- Ⓓ his practicality and common sense

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.



897



Paul Revere Williams practiced his values when designing homes. What evidence from the presentation **best** supports this statement?

- Ⓐ Having lost his family in early childhood, he deeply understood the role of a house to a family; a home created a solid foundation.
- Ⓑ He dabbled in and mastered a variety of styles—from Tudor, Colonial, and Mediterranean to Art Deco, Modernist, and Futuristic.
- Ⓒ Buildings he designed are located in Nevada, New York, Tennessee, and Washington, DC.
- Ⓓ Buyers of his homes rarely dispense with his original designs.

The correct response, option A, receives a score of 1 point.



A student is writing an argumentative research report to answer the research question, “Should fluoride be added to public drinking supplies to promote dental health?” Read four credible sources that the student found about fluoride. Then, answer the question that follows.

**SOURCE #1:**

Optimal fluoride levels recommended by the US Public Health Service and CDC for drinking water range from 0.7 parts per million (ppm) for warmer climates to 1.2 ppm for cooler climates to adjust for the tendency for people to drink more water in warmer climates.

**SOURCE #2:**

Salts containing Group I elements from the periodic table can dissolve (Li+, Na+, K+, Cs+, Rb+). Exceptions to this rule are rare. Salts containing the ammonium ion (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) can also dissolve. . . . Fluorides frequently do not dissolve; for example, BaF<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub>, and PbF<sub>2</sub>.

**SOURCE #3:**

Exposure to excessive consumption of fluoride over a lifetime may lead to increased likelihood of bone fractures in adults and may result in bone pain and tenderness. Children aged eight years and younger exposed to excessive amounts of fluoride have an increased chance of developing pits in tooth enamel, along with a range of cosmetic effects to teeth.

**SOURCE #4:**

Widespread use of fluoride has been a major factor in the decline in the prevalence and severity of dental caries (i.e., tooth decay) in the United States and other economically developed countries. When used appropriately, fluoride is both safe and effective in preventing and controlling dental caries. . . . To ensure additional gains in oral health, water fluoridation should be extended to more communities, and fluoride toothpaste should be used widely. Adoption of these and other recommendations in this report could lead to considerable savings in public and private resources without compromising fluoride’s substantial benefit of improved dental health.

Which **two** sources contain the **most** useful evidence and should be cited when writing a report arguing a claim and counterclaim concerning fluoride use?

- (A) Sources 1 and 2
- (B) Sources 1 and 4
- (C) Sources 2 and 3
- (D) Sources 3 and 4

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

887



The following excerpt is from a writer's informational paragraph about the Ferris wheel. Read the paragraph and click on the sentence the writer should revise to maintain a consistent focus.

The first Ferris wheel was built for the World's Fair of 1893. It was a colossus that weighed about 2,100 tons. The diameter of the wheel was 250 feet. Its 36 cars were each as big as a trolley car that could hold 60 people. In one day, the Ferris wheel carried up to 38,000 riders. In all, about 1.5 million fair-goers enjoyed the first Ferris wheel. Although the first Ferris wheel was a hit, it did not achieve the lasting fame of the Eiffel Tower.

The correct response, "Although the first Ferris wheel was a hit, it did not achieve the lasting fame of the Eiffel Tower," receives a score of 1 point.



Jazmine is writing an argumentative article about year-round school for her school newspaper. Read the draft of her article and the directions that follow.

Many school districts have switched their traditional calendars to year-round calendars. Administrators and school board members assert that year-round school programs offer students more opportunities, increase test scores, and benefit personnel across the district. However, not only do year-round school programs cost more than traditional school programs, they also do not improve academic results. First, year-round programs increase the money spent on busing, staff, and heating and cooling. In addition, some studies show that students achieve about the same amount whether they attend school year-round or not. Other studies show that students need about the same amount of time in any program to review topics such as math. More time needs to be spent on social studies education. Finally, the school board should weigh the cost of running year-round programs against the benefits of spending money on programs that have proven track records for improving academic success. Some parents want their children to go to school all year, but for the wrong reasons.

Click on the sentences that do **not** belong in Jazmine's article because they weaken the focus.

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must choose all correct sentences. The correct sentences are "Other studies show that students need about the same amount of time in any program to review topics such as math" and "More time needs to be spent on social studies education."

885



A student is writing an informational report about the volcanic island, Surtsey, for a class assignment. Read a paragraph from the report and the question that follows.

Surtsey is a volcanic island that is located off the coast of Iceland. This island is unique because it was formed by volcanic activity and only rose above the ocean's surface in the 1960s. When the island appeared, it was a barren rock with no animal or plant life. Scientists studied Surtsey because they wanted to see if and how life would develop on Surtsey. The first signs of life on the island were the results of seeds that were carried by the wind and waves. Eventually, birds nested on Surtsey. Today Surtsey has a number of plants and other organisms living on it.

Which sentence **best** concludes the paragraph?

- Ⓐ The number and types of island plants and animals have been increasing.
- Ⓑ Someday this island could disappear again if the ocean levels rise over its top.
- Ⓒ The island has nesting grounds for many species of sea birds, including puffins and gulls.
- Ⓓ This island is important because it has been a valuable tool for scientists studying plant and animal life.

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

886



A student is writing a report about arachnids for a class assignment. Read this paragraph from the report and answer the question that follows.

Arachnids are a type of animal that have jointed legs and hard exteriors. All arachnids have eight legs. Although spiders are generally the arachnids most people think of, a number of well-known animals belong to this class. Scorpions, ticks, and mites are all arachnids. More than 100,000 species of arachnids exist. Although some people fear spiders and other arachnids, only a small percentage of these creatures are harmful to humans. In fact, many of these different types of animals can actually be really good for humans to have around because they eat bugs that can make people sick.

Which revision to the underlined sentence uses the **most** precise language?

- Ⓐ In fact, humans should have more of these animals because they eat bad insects.
- Ⓑ In fact, many species of arachnids help humans by eating disease-carrying pests such as insects.
- Ⓒ In fact, these animals help humans all the time in many ways because they eat bugs that can be harmful.
- Ⓓ In fact, many different spiders can help humans because of the different foods that they eat, like bugs that make people ill.

The correct response, option B, receives a score of 1 point.

884



A student is writing a narrative for a creative writing class assignment. She has given her first paragraph to her teacher, who suggested she continue writing, including details in her narrative. Read the paragraph and the directions that follow.

The Fourth of July holiday has always been dear to my heart. Every year, my family gathers together at my aunt's house for a celebration. Her house is not a mansion by the lake, nor does it have an astounding view; the people and the activities are what make the place so serene. We begin our afternoon by eating typical summer food. In the late afternoon, my cousins and I play baseball while our parents talk on the porch. In the evening, we eat together again and then watch the fireworks display put on by our town.

Rewrite the paragraph using appropriate narrative strategies such as the inclusion of dialogue and vivid descriptions.

A two-point response includes narrative strategies such as the inclusion of dialogue and vivid description.

Sample two-point response:

Fried chicken, cornbread, potato salad. Seeing these foods on my baby cousin's face tells me our family's day has arrived: The Fourth at Aunt June's. It's no mansion or lakeview paradise, but it's ours. Every Watson who can walk or be carried shows up on that day every year. Just hearing a few snippets of the parents' conversation sends me flying into the field with my cousins, chasing a fly ball until it takes me halfway through Aunt June's vegetable garden. You think she'd yell, but she goes for the ball too, and when we nearly collide, she always says "I said I had it!" But she's laughing with me, and at night we share a blanket to watch the fireworks spark up from the nearest town. Aunt June makes it summertime, every year.

A one-point response includes general details and some narrative strategies such as dialogue or description.

Sample one-point response:

My aunt's house is the place to go on the Fourth of July. It's not a mansion by the lake, nor does it have an astounding view; it's the people and the activities that make the place so serene. We begin our afternoon by eating watermelon, potato salad, and barbecued chicken. In the late afternoon, my cousins and I play baseball while our parents talk about last night's game on the porch. In the evening, we eat

leftovers and watch the fireworks shoot stars over our own piece of the sky.

A response that does not include narrative strategies that enhance the story receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

I like the Fourth. It's my favorite holiday, and I spend it with my family.



1514



This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

A team of students is writing an explanatory report about a laboratory experiment. Read the paragraph from the report and the directions that follow.

This experiment was designed to determine how temperature affects the rate of water movement through xylem from root to leaf. Our team prepared six celery stalks with leaves. We placed each stalk into a jar with 8 ounces of water, which we stained blue with food coloring. Two were warm, two were cold, and two were hot. We observed the stalks at two-hour intervals. We predicted that the passing of water through a plant, or transpiration, would move faster at higher temperatures. Our observations showed that our prediction was right.

The students want to revise the underlined sentences to elaborate on the process used in their experiment in a way that is consistent with the overall tone and style.

**Part A**

Which is the **best** revision for the following sentence?

Two were warm, two were cold, and two were hot.

- A) Two celery jars were left warm, two were placed in a bath filled with ice and water, and two were put under an 85-degree heat lamp.
- B) Two celery jars were kept at room temperature, two were submerged in an ice bath, and two were placed under a heat lamp at a temperature of 85 degrees F.
- C) Two celery jars were placed on a counter in the room, two were placed on ice, and two were left to sunbathe under a heat lamp at a temperature of 85 degrees F.

**Part B**

Which is the **best** revision for the following sentence?

Our observations showed that our prediction was right.

- A) Our observations indicated that the hottest celery stalk was the most blue, so our prediction was awesome.
- B) Our observations indicated that the blue water moved the fastest through the celery stalk that was kept under the highest temperature: thus our prediction was correct.
- C) Our observations indicated that the celery stalk that was placed under the hot lamp became blue faster than the celery that was cold and was blue faster than the celery that was kept in a warm temperature, therefore our prediction was proven.

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option B in part A and option B in part B.

1510



A student is writing a research paper for his civics class. He found the two sources below. Read both sources and the directions that follow.

- As of 2012, 30 states had laws in place requiring voters to show ID before voting. Of those, some are strict, requiring ID or issuing provisional ballots. Several require photo IDs, which can be difficult to obtain, especially for those who live in rural areas or do not drive. People who may have voted all their lives may now be turned away. Some of the strictest of these laws have been challenged and ultimately overturned. Lawyers on both sides of a Pennsylvania challenge agreed that voter fraud in the state is unheard of. Nevertheless, the judge in that case ruled that election officials may request photo ID—but they may not turn people away who do not have it.
- Texas Attorney General Abbott declared recently that there is no proof that voter ID laws affect certain population groups more than other groups. According to Abbott, votes cast by deceased persons and foreign nationals as well as multiple voting are widespread in Texas, and a strict law is needed to clamp down on such fraud. Abbott joins Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt, who documented examples of fraud and errors at the polls in Pennsylvania. In a close election, he argues, there is enough of this kind of fraud to affect the outcome. People who support the Attorney General and City Commissioner in this effort point out that photo IDs are required for many tasks, from boarding an airplane to taking college entrance exams. Is voting any less important?

The student drafted some possible claims and counterclaims for his paper. Read each statement and decide whether it is supported by Source 1, Source 2, or neither source. Complete the chart by clicking in the boxes next to the statements that apply to the sources.

	Source 1	Source 2	Neither Source
Voter ID laws are reasonable measures to prevent fraud at the polls.			
Strict voter ID laws have the side-effect of treating some people unfairly.			
Strict voter ID laws have improved efficiency at the polls.			
Voter ID laws may hinder citizens' ability to exercise their rights.			

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must complete the chart correctly. The correct responses are "Voter ID laws are reasonable measures to prevent fraud at the polls" matched with Source 2; "Strict voter ID laws have the side-effect of treating some people unfairly" matched with Source 1; "Strict voter ID laws have improved efficiency at the polls" matched with Neither Source; and "Voter ID laws may hinder citizens' ability to exercise their rights" matched with Source 1.