

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR
PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 8 - FORM B
(Test items developed for skills measured in MCT)

Skills

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1.0 Context Clues | 5.0 Extended Meaning/Thinking |
| 1.1 Words in Context | 5.1 Genres |
| 1.2 Analogies | 5.2 Persuasive and Propaganda
Techniques |
| 2.0 Word Structure | 5.3 Organizational Patterns |
| 2.1 Suffix/Prefix/Root Words | 5.4 Author's Purpose/Point of View |
| 3.0 Vocabulary | 5.5 Figurative Language |
| 3.1 Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms | 5.6 Predicts, Draws Conclusions,
Infers |
| 4.0 Main Idea/Details | 5.7 Connects Literature to Real-
Life |
| 4.1 Main Idea/Summary | 6.0 Workplace Data |
| 4.2 Details | 6.1 Follows Directions |
| 4.3 Locates Information | 6.2 Locates Information |
| 4.4 Story Elements | 6.3 Specialized Vocabulary |
| 4.5 Uses Visual Aids | |
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Number of questions: 50
Number of pages: 12

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MCT PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 8 - FORM B

Directions: Read the following story to answer Numbers 1 through 5.

BRAIN DAMAGE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Magnetic imaging and psychological tests have proven that people who suffered brain injuries while young may not have normal moral or social behaviors.

Two people, as young children, had brain injuries to the part of the brain above the eyes. Their behavior was similar to that of patients who have been diagnosed as "psychopaths" or "sociopaths" by a team of Iowa researchers. The two were raised in stable, middle-class homes by caring, college-educated parents. Their siblings were well-adapted. But, the two subjects mentioned had great disregard for moral and social standards, being irresponsible and lacking remorse over harm they did to others.

In 1848, a railroad worker made history by surviving a dynamite accident which sent an iron rod through his head. The rod was removed, but his personality was radically changed. Before the accident, he was a good worker, but after it, he became a hopeless, uncaring drifter.

Today's research shows that adults injured in the area of the brain known as the orbitofrontal cortex, or OFC, seem to understand right from wrong but can't use that in their everyday decisions. They can't link the knowledge of feelings of the past to what they decide in the present. There are no emotions to guide them, so they just do what seems best at the moment and indulge in risky behavior.

The woman and man used in the studies had lifelong impairment. The woman, age 20, had been run over by a car when she was 15 months old. Even at age three she didn't respond to any kind of punishment. She was intelligent and capable but failed in school and was arrested for shoplifting.

The man, age 23, had a tumor removed at three months of age. By age nine, he had no motivation and had explosive outbursts of anger. He became obese and couldn't hold a job. He lied

for no reason. Neither he nor the woman in the study had any interest in the children they each parented in casual relationships.

MRIs of both people's brains showed damage to the OFC. So, there seems to be a connection between specific brain damage and anti-social behavior. People who suffer the brain injuries as young children never develop a moral compass.

This study raises hope that someday drugs or other methods may be used to change severe anti-social behaviors brought about by brain injuries. The studies were conducted at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. The new challenge to society is to remove the problem from its present location in psychiatry and criminal services and study its neurological and biological causes.

1. Read this sentence from the passage.

But, the two subjects mentioned had great disregard for moral and social standards, being irresponsible and lacking remorse over harm they did to others.

What do you think the word *remorse* means?

- A. regress
- B. peace
- C. structure
- D. regret

2. Which of the following statements best summarizes the passage?

- A. Magnetic imaging and psychological tests are not reliable ways to determine brain damage in younger people.
- B. Accidents that cause severe brain damage are for the most part preventable.
- C. More studies need to be done in the area of OFC brain damage in older adults.
- D. Young people who experience damage to the OFC area of their brains may never have acceptable moral and social behavior.