

SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR
PRACTICE TEST FOR LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE 7
(Test items developed for skills measured in MCT)

Skills

- 1.0 Meaning
 - 1.1 Paragraph Development
 - 1.2 Organizational Patterns
(Application, List of
Directions, Menu)
 - 1.3 Follows Written Directions
 - 2.0 Sentence Structure
 - 2.1 Word Choices
 - 2.2 Sentence Patterns
 - 2.3 Types of Sentences
(Interrogative, Imperative,
Declarative, Exclamatory)
 - 3.0 Editing
 - 3.1 Capitalization
 - 3.2 Punctuation
 - 3.3 Grammar
 - 4.0 Spelling
 - 4.1 Frequently Used Words
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Number of questions: 50
Number of pages: 8

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(OVER)

MCT PRACTICE TEST IN LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 7

For Numbers 1 and 2, choose the topic sentence that would best complete each paragraph.

1. _____ . The grain (usually rice or wheat) is put in large cannons that are then plugged at one end. The cannons are pushed into an oven and heated to 550 degrees. After 40 minutes, the cannons' plugs are pulled. Hot air rushes into the cannons. Moisture in the cereal grains turns to steam. The grains puff up like popcorn.
 - A. Puffed cereal is made in an odd way.
 - B. Many children enjoy eating puffed cereal.
 - C. Puffed rice cereal is a favorite kind of cereal.
 - D. Hot ovens are used in many different ways.

2. _____ . First, wells are drilled deep into the earth to find oil. Then the oil is pumped out of the ground and taken to large refineries. Here it is heated in special furnaces to 400 degrees Celsius. This high temperature causes the oil to boil and become a mixture of gases.
 - A. The gas mixture rises in the tower, and the different parts of the mixture cool along the way and become liquid again.
 - B. It takes a lot of work to produce the gasoline that runs cars and trucks.
 - C. Gasoline is an important export in America.
 - D. All Americans use a large quantity of gasoline.

For Number 3, read the topic sentence. Then choose the answer that best develops that topic sentence.

3. For more than 160 million years, dinosaurs ruled the earth.
 - A. A meteorite as large as a mountain slammed into the warm, sunny Earth. After the explosion, a huge cloud of dust mushroomed into the air. For months, the dust cloud shut out the light and warmth of the sun. With no sunlight, the plants died.
 - B. Some were no larger than chickens. Others were fifty feet long and weighed eight tons. Some dinosaurs ate plants, while others ate other dinosaurs. But the last of these reptiles disappeared about sixty-five million years ago.
 - C. Luis Alvarez and his son Walter studied a layer of clay that held dinosaur bones. In this clay, the two men found iridium. This substance is rarely found in the earth's crust.
 - D. Today many scientists don't agree with the idea of "quick death." Others think the idea should be studied. As time goes by, scientists will continue to study the case of the disappearing dinosaurs.