

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

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*Skills*

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.0 Meaning                    | 3.0 Editing               |
| 1.1 Paragraph Development      | 3.1 Capitalization        |
| 1.2 Organizational Patterns    | 3.2 Punctuation           |
| 1.3 Follows Written Directions | 3.3 Grammar               |
| 2.0 Sentence Structure         | 4.0 Spelling              |
| 2.1 Word Choices               | 4.1 Frequently Used Words |
| 2.2 Sentence Patterns          |                           |
| 2.3 Types of Sentences         |                           |
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Number of questions: 52  
Number of pages: 9

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# MCT PRACTICE TEST IN LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 8 - FORM B

*Directions: For Numbers 1 and 2, choose the best topic sentence for the paragraph.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_. The male bird's bright color makes him a beautiful sight. One would expect the flamingo to be red since its name is a Latin word meaning "flame". The female is not as bright in color as the male. Sometimes the male and female have pink and white feathers.
  - A. The flamingo is a magnificent bird.
  - B. Although they can run, fly, and swim, flamingos are wading birds.
  - C. Flamingos nest in colonies near quiet water or in swamps.
  - D. The flamingo's neck is slender and curves upward like an S.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_. All you need is a glove of good quality and a bat that fits your size and strength. There are many leagues that offer summer fun without being too competitive. Many teams stay together over the years and advance to more competitive leagues. Some teams have corporate sponsors that purchase all of the equipment and uniforms, so the players only need money for meals and incidental expenses.
  - A. Many players choose bats that are too heavy.
  - B. Softball fields can be very difficult to maintain.
  - C. Softball is a fun sport that can be enjoyed without great expense.
  - D. Softball leagues generally begin in the spring.

*Directions: For Numbers 3 and 4, read the topic sentence. Then choose the answer that best develops that topic sentence.*

3. In the old days, the coming of a showboat was a big event.
  - A. The little towns along the rivers grew to big cities. The people built their own theaters and circuses.
  - B. Instead of paying money, some people traded things they had grown or made. The entertainers often got fresh berries or homemade bread.
  - C. It was the only fun for many settlers along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. There were no movies. A boat bringing singers, dancers, and actors was a big treat.
  - D. The last great showboat to float on the rivers was the Golden Road. It stopped giving shows in 1943.
  
4. Building a shelf for storing books is something most people can do.
  - A. Most wooden chairs that are not sturdy are made from inferior materials.
  - B. My father has always loved to teach others about working with wood.
  - C. You will need the proper materials and the correct tools. Choose quality wood and carefully measure and mark before cutting.
  - D. It is easier to pay a carpenter to build furniture for you. Finding a good carpenter is sometimes the most difficult task.