

*SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS FOR*

**PRACTICE TEST, LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE 9**

(Test items developed for skills measured in Terra Nova [CTBS]\*)

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*Skills*

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|-----|--|-----|-----------------------|
| 1.0 | Sentence Structure   | 3.0 | Editing Skills        |
| 1.1 | Writing Conventions  | 3.1 | Using Parts of Speech |
| 1.2 | Combining Sentences  | 4.0 | Thinking Skills       |
| 2.0 | Writing Strategies   | 4.1 | Organize Information  |
| 2.1 | Pre-writing Techniques   | 4.2 | Analyze Information   |
| 2.2 | Topic Sentences/Concluding Sentences/Connective and Transitional Words and Phrases, etc. | 4.3 | Evaluate Outcomes     |
|     |  | 4.4 | Synthesize Elements   |
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Number of questions: 30

Number of pages: 12

Approximate testing time: 40 minutes

CTBS and CAT are parallel tests

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(over)

TERRA NOVA PRACTICE TEST IN LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 9

7. Choose the topic sentence for the paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_ . Some live in the hot, dry desert. Others live at the bottom of freshwater ponds. But the greatest number of them live in swamps. Swamp soil contains little plant food. The plants must get the food they need by feeding on the insects.

- A. Plants in the second group are built to be inescapable traps.
- B. There are two groups of insect-eating plants.
- C. Others may have leaves as sticky as glue.
- D. Insect-eating plants are found in every climate.

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8. Choose the sentence that best completes the paragraph.

This weekend, I will clean my bedroom closet. First, I must remove all the clothes I no longer wear. Next, I will organize the remaining clothes. \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. I will go to the store to get an iron.
- B. Finally, I will arrange my shoes and the top shelf.
- C. I will look under the bed for my missing book.
- D. Next, I will look through my photograph albums.

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9. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- A. He have studied hard for the semester exam.
- B. Cheese, bread, and milk is on my grocery list.
- C. The cost of the camp includes all the meals.
- D. Fresh lemonade are always good in the summer.

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10. Choose the sentence that best fills the blank in the paragraph.

Ilse Bing was one of the first photographers to use a camera to create works of art. Cameras had been around since the late 1800's. \_\_\_\_\_ . Bing took pictures of people who were dressed beautifully or oddly.

- A. However, most photographers used them to take pictures of news events or famous people.
- B. The special paper gave her prints the cloudy, gray appearance of old paintings.
- C. She became interested in making photo landscapes in black and white.
- D. Exhibits of Bing and Gilpin photographs are show in cities all over the world.