

**VIRGINIA**  
**STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS**

**Spring 2003 Released Test**

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**GRADE 3**  
**ENGLISH: READING AND WRITING**

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**DIRECTIONS**

Read each passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer to each question.

**SAMPLE**

**Swing**

- 1 Swing low,
- 2 Swing high.
- 3 Until your tiptoes
- 4 Touch the sky.
  
- 5 Swing high,
- 6 Swing low.
- 7 Swing where grownups
- 8 Cannot go.

**SAMPLE A**

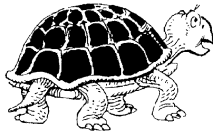
**Which of these words from the poem rhymes with the last word in line 6?**

- A** touch
- B** your
- C** go
- D** high

**SAMPLE B**

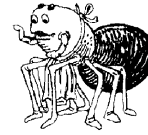
**This poem is mostly about —**

- F** touching the sky
- G** riding on a swing
- H** standing on tiptoe
- J** swinging your arms



## Spider and Turtle

### *A West African Tale*



- 1 Spider was preparing his dinner one day when he heard a knock on the door.
- 2 “Hello,” said Turtle. “I see you are cooking dinner.”
- 3 “Yes,” said Spider, frowning. He did not want to share his food.
- 4 “May I join you?” asked Turtle. “I am very hungry.”
- 5 “Please do,” sighed Spider politely, although he was quite disappointed. He had a big appetite and wanted to eat all the food himself. Suddenly an idea came to him and he said, “In my house, Turtle, you must wash your hands before dinner.”
- 6 Turtle walked down to the stream and washed his hands. As he walked back to the house his hands got dirty. He tried again and again, but it was no use. How could he keep his hands clean when they were also his feet, upon which he had to walk in the dirt? At last, poor Turtle gave up. There was no way he could follow Spider’s rule. Sadly, he walked away without any food.
- 7 Some time later Turtle was swimming in the stream. “I must outwit that Spider,” he thought. Then he thought of a trick.
- 8 “Spider, come join me for dinner!” Turtle called.
- 9 Surprised, Spider agreed. He was always hungry!
- 10 “Please wait here while I prepare the food,” said Turtle, and then he dove down into the water to his home. When he popped up he smiled and said, “Okay, Spider, come and get it!”
- 11 “Aren’t you going to bring my dinner up here?” asked Spider.
- 12 “No,” answered Turtle, “because in my house, you must eat underwater.”
- 13 Spider attempted several times to dive under the water, but he was so light that he could only float. Finally, he had to go home hungry.
- 14 After a while Spider and Turtle grew tired of eating alone. “Let’s meet for dinner in the woods,” Turtle said one day. “Since it’s not my house, you don’t have to eat under the water.”
- 15 “And since it’s not my house, you don’t have to wash your hands in the stream,” Spider said.

**1 Why did Turtle give up on having dinner in Spider’s house?**

- A Spider did not eat food that Turtle liked.
- B Turtle couldn’t keep his hands clean.
- C Spider did not invite Turtle to eat there.
- D Turtle could not walk to Spider’s house.

**2 Read this sentence from the story.**

“Aren’t you going to bring my dinner up here?”

**Which word rhymes with here?**

- F fear
- G there
- H wear
- J care

**3 In paragraph 5, what does the word appetite mean?**

- A idea
- B hand
- C hunger
- D house

**4 Read this sentence from the story.**

He did not want to share his food.

**Which word has the same beginning sound as food?**

- F phone
- G jewel
- H kept
- J half

**5 In paragraph 13, the word attempted means —**

- A got ready
- B tried
- C gave up
- D asked

**6 In most of this story, both Turtle and Spider can BEST be described as —**

- F selfish
- G truthful
- H afraid
- J kind

**7 The main reason someone would read this story is to —**

- A learn about underwater turtles
- B be entertained by a funny story
- C gain facts about Africa
- D find out how real spiders live

**8 Here are some words from the story.**

knock	door	home	idea
-------	------	------	------

**If you put these words in alphabetical order, which one comes second?**

- F knock
- G door
- H home
- J idea

**9 How does Turtle teach Spider a lesson?**

- A He makes food that Spider does not like to eat.
- B He asks Spider to help him make the dinner.
- C He makes Spider wash hands that he does not have.
- D He serves dinner in a place where Spider cannot go.

**10 You can tell this story is a folk tale because —**

- F it happens in a mysterious jungle
- G animals eat food
- H it is a true story from another country
- J animals talk and act like people

## The Girl Who Watched and Waited

- 1 Mrs. Goodall was worried. Where could her little girl be? “Jane! Jane!” she called. But four-year-old Jane Goodall didn’t hear. She was in the neighbor’s henhouse, watching and waiting for the hens to lay eggs.
- 2 At last, Jane ran home. “Mother! Mother! Guess what I’ve just seen!”
- 3 Many years later when she was a grownup, Jane was watching and waiting again. This time, however, Jane was in Africa, and she was watching and waiting for chimpanzees. Jane Goodall spent her life learning about these apes and sharing what she learned with others.
- 4 The first six months of Jane’s work in Africa were the most difficult. The government did not want the young Englishwoman alone in the jungle. Luckily, Jane’s mother agreed to go with her. While Jane watched the chimps every day, Mrs. Goodall stayed at their small camp in the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve. At night, they worked on Jane’s notes together.
- 5 Day after day, Jane climbed the jungle slopes to watch and wait. She spotted many chimpanzees, but they were far away. No matter how slowly or quietly she moved, the chimps ran away from her. She was filled with disappointment. “Will they ever accept me?” she wondered.
- 6 Then both Jane and her mother became ill with jungle fever. For weeks they lay in their tent without the right medicine to treat their illness. When Jane was finally well enough, she returned to her lookout place. “My time is running out,” she thought, “and I have not reached my goal.” She sat on a rock to wait. Slowly the chimps appeared in the open. They stared at her as they gathered figs and ate, but they did not run away. At the end of the day, Jane rushed back to the camp. “Mother! Mother! Guess what I’ve just seen!”
- 7 From that day on, Jane’s work became more and more exciting. She grew closer and closer to the chimps until they became her friends. She gave them names like Goliath, Flo, Fifi, and David Greybeard. She discovered that chimps eat meat, and she learned that they make and use tools. Jane was the first person to see how chimps raise their young in the wild.
- 8 Jane Goodall has spent most of her life studying chimpanzees. Today she travels around the world, sharing her stories and urging people to protect wild animals everywhere.

11 Read this sentence about the story.

By watching them many interesting facts Jane Goodall learned about chimpanzees.

How is this sentence BEST written?

- A About chimpanzees Jane Goodall by watching them learned many interesting facts.
- B Jane Goodall learned many interesting facts about chimpanzees by watching them.
- C Many interesting facts about chimpanzees by watching them Jane Goodall learned.
- D Learned many interesting facts Jane Goodall by watching them about chimpanzees.

12 Read this sentence from the story.

Mrs. Goodall stayed at their small camp in the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve.

Which word rhymes with stayed?

- F cried
- G day
- H paid
- J sled

13 What does the word goal mean in paragraph 6 of the story?

- A plan
- B home
- C report
- D age

14 Which is the BEST summary of the first three paragraphs?

- F Jane's interest in animals as a child led to her working with animals as an adult.
- G As a child, Jane caused her mother to worry when she disappeared to look for animals to watch.
- H Even when she was a little girl, Jane dreamed of traveling to wild and interesting lands.
- J Jane always wanted to be a teacher and share what she knew with other people.

**15 If you put these names in alphabetical order, which one comes first?**

- A Goliath
- B David
- C Fifi
- D Jane

**16 Which sentence from the story BEST states its main idea?**

- F Many years later when she was a grownup, Jane was watching and waiting again.
- G The first six months of Jane's work in Africa were the most difficult.
- H She discovered that chimps eat meat, and she learned that they make and use tools.
- J Jane Goodall has spent most of her life studying chimpanzees.

**17 More information about Jane Goodall could be found in —**

- A a dictionary
- B magazines about pets
- C a book of African folk tales
- D her autobiography

**18 You can tell that this story is a biography because it —**

- F is about the lives of animals in their natural homes
- G takes place somewhere that is far away from here
- H tells about events in the life of a real person
- J is more interesting than other kinds of stories



## The Bus Ride

- 1 Backpack bouncing,
- 2 Half past three.
- 3 Lunchbox empty,
- 4 Shoelaces free.
  
- 5 Through open doors,
- 6 Steps one, two, three.
- 7 I find a seat,
- 8 Who'll sit by me?
  
- 9 I look out the window,
- 10 I watch the trees.
- 11 Children are wiggling,
- 12 Just sit still please!
  
- 13 Around the corner,
- 14 I see my stop.
- 15 The door flips open,
- 16 And out I hop.
  
- 17 Up on the porch,
- 18 Screen door *smack*!
- 19 I kick off my shoes,
- 20 Look for a snack.
  
- 21 Thirsty for water,
- 22 I reach for a cup.
- 23 The day is a seesaw,
- 24 Now I am up.

**19 What is this poem mainly about?**

- A Having a snack at home
- B Going home on the bus
- C Riding on a seesaw
- D Taking the bus to school

**20 Which words in the fourth verse of the poem name PEOPLE, PLACES or THINGS?**

- F *around, open, out*
- G *the, I, my, and*
- H *corner, stop, door*
- J *see, flips, hop*

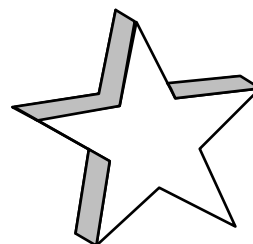
**21 The last word of line 4 of the poem rhymes with the last word in line —**

- A 8
- B 12
- C 16
- D 20

**22 At the end of the poem, the person speaking feels —**

- F lonely
- G friendly
- H sleepy
- J happy

**23 Look at this picture.**



**Which word from the poem begins with the same sounds?**

- A stop
- B free
- C snack
- D flips

**Read this part of a table of contents.  
Use it to answer the next two questions.**

Sleepy Morning .....	10
On Our Way .....	12
Learning, Learning .....	14
Fun in School .....	16
The Bus Ride.....	18
Everyone's Home!.....	20

**24 Which poem begins on page 12?**

- F "On Our Way"
- G "Fun in School"
- H "Learning, Learning"
- J "Everyone's Home!"

**25 On which page can the poem "The Bus Ride" be found?**

- A 14
- B 16
- C 18
- D 20

**DIRECTIONS**

Read the passage. Then read each question after the passage. Choose the best answer.

**SAMPLE A**

***A Special Person***

In English class, Sarah has been asked to write a description of someone special to her. Sarah wants to write about her older brother.

**Which of these would BEST help Sarah write her description of her older brother?**

- A Calling his friends and telling them about him
- B Thinking about all the things she likes about him
- C Making a list of things she wants him to do for her
- D Asking him to take her to the library

**SAMPLE B**

Here is the first part of Sarah's rough draft.

(1)A special person in my life is my big brother. (2)His name is Ben. (3)He is tall. (4)He is thin.

**How can sentences 3 and 4 BEST be joined?**

- F He is tall and thin.
- G He is tall, and is thin.
- H He is tall, and, is thin.
- J Tall, and thin is he.

**SAMPLE C**

Here is the next part of Sarah's rough draft.

(5)He helps me with my homework.

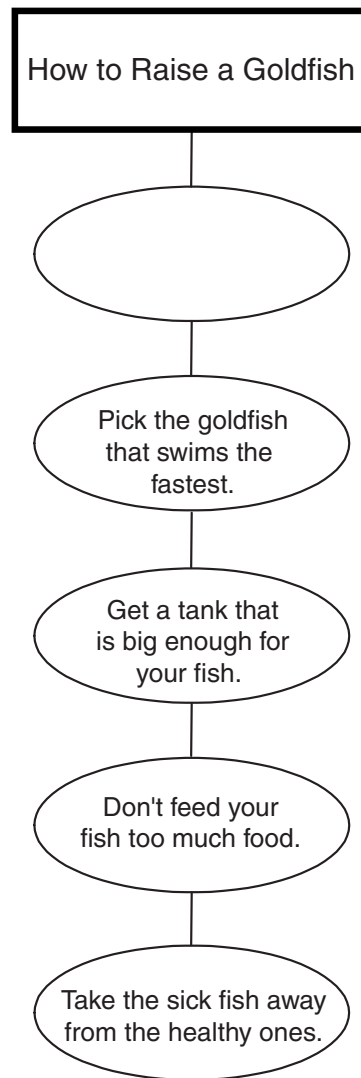
**In sentence 5, He helps should be written —**

- A He were helping
- B He have helped
- C He help
- D as it is

## *How to Raise a Goldfish*

When Nick learned his friend Zach could not have a cat or dog at his family's new apartment, he wrote him a letter to explain how to buy a goldfish and set up a fish tank.

Nick made this web. Use it to answer question 1.



**1 Which of these could Nick add in the empty space on his web?**

- A Round fish tanks are better. I think.
- B There are many different kinds of pets that people have.
- C Find a store that sells fish.
- D My brother has a hamster.

**Here is the first part of Nick’s rough draft. Use it to answer questions 2 and 3.**

Dear Zach,

(1)I’m sorry that you can’t have a cat or dog at your new apartment.

(2)However, you can get a goldfish to keep as a pet. (3)There are some things you should know about goldfish before you buy one. (4)Don’t pick the biggest goldfish at the pet store. (5)Look for the healthy one that swims the fastest.

(6)You should get a big fish tank. (7)Then, you can get more than one goldfish. (8)Each fish needs a gallon of water. (9)Don’t feed your goldfish too much food. (10)Cats and dogs need lots of food. (11)The extra food will sink to the bottom of the tank and make the water look dirty. (12)It won’t eat very much.

**2 Which sentence is in the wrong place in Nick’s letter?**

- F Sentence 1
- G Sentence 2
- H Sentence 9
- J Sentence 12

**3 Which of these sentences does NOT belong in Nick’s letter?**

- A Sentence 9
- B Sentence 10
- C Sentence 11
- D Sentence 12

**Read this next section of Nick's rough draft and answer questions 4–6. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.**

(13)You can put a few things in the fish tank with your goldfish. (14)You can put some sand and a couple of bigger stones on the bottom for the fish to swim around. (15)Don't put too many things in there, though. (16)Everything you put in the fish tank must be very clean. (17)Your goldfish could get sick if you put dirty stones in its tank.

(18)Once one of my goldfish became sick. (19)I didn't know what to do, so I called Mr. Andrews at the pet shop. (20)He told me to take the sick goldfish out of the tank so the other fish wouldn't get sick too. (21)I put the sick goldfish in its own little tank of fresh water. (22)In a few days it was swimming around and looked healthy again? (23)Then I put it back in the big tank with my other fish.

(24)I like haveing goldfish. (25)I think you will too.

(26)Your friend,

Nick

**4 In sentence 20, wouldn't get sick should be written —**

- F wouldn't get sick
- G wouldn't get sick
- H wouldn't have got sick
- J as it is

**5 In sentence 22, healthy again? should be written —**

- A healthy again
- B healthy again.
- C healthy again,
- D as it is

**6 In sentence 24, like haveing should be written —**

- F like having
- G had liked haveing
- H likes having
- J as it is

## *The Star Festival*

Miyoko's teacher has asked the students to write a report about an event that is celebrated in another country.

- 7 Miyoko doesn't know what to write about. Which of these would BEST help her get started?**
- A** Drawing a big map of the world and coloring it
  - B** Thinking about what she likes to do during her favorite American event
  - C** Reading a story about a special birthday party
  - D** Looking through a book that tells about events in other lands



**Here is the first part of Miyoko's rough draft. Use it to answer questions 8–11.**

(1)There is an event in Japan called *Tanabata*. (2)The Japanese people have been celebrating this event for over a thousand years. (3)This is a fun day in Japan. (4)It is also colorful. (5)People make their homes and gardens look beautiful. (6)Brightly colored streamers blow in the wind. (7)Pieces of paper are hung on bamboo poles. (8)If you look closely at the pieces of paper, you might find messages that have been written on them. (9)I have always enjoyed reading stories.

(10)Many Japanese towns have parades on this day. (11)The people march along the street and wearing traditional costumes. (12)Children bang drums, ring bells, and sing as they march. (13)Many people come to town to enjoy these exciting parades.

**8 How can sentences 3 and 4 BEST be joined without changing their meaning?**

- F This is a fun day in Japan is colorful too.
- G This is a fun day in Japan it is colorful.
- H This is a fun day in Japan also colorful.
- J This is a fun and colorful day in Japan.

**9 How should sentence 11 be written?**

- A The people march along the street wearing traditional costumes.
- B The people march along the street they are wearing traditional costumes.
- C Along the street the people marching wearing traditional costumes.
- D Along the street, wearing traditional costumes, people they march.

**10 Which of these could BEST be added after sentence 13?**

- F Colorful pieces of paper are used to write a wish or poem on them.
- G My father speaks Japanese.
- H When the parade is over, some towns have bright fireworks.
- J I went to a circus once in my hometown.

**11 Which sentence does NOT belong in Miyoko's report?**

- A Sentence 7
- B Sentence 9
- C Sentence 10
- D Sentence 12

**Read this next section of Miyoko’s rough draft and answer questions 12 and 13. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.**

(14)In English, this event is called the Star Festival which celebrates the meeting of two stars. (15)The story came to Japan from China in an old legend. (16)This legend tells a story about how these two stars are kept apart by the other stars in the galaxy. (17)The stars are sad because they want to be together. (18)Once a year, usually in the month of July, their wish comes true.

(19)Someday I would like to go to Japan and celebrate *Tanabata* with my grandparents. (20)I would love to see a parade and some beautiful fireworks lighting up the sky. (21)Ill write this wish on many bright pieces of paper. (22)I will hang them on a tree. (23)Maybe my wish will come true too.

**12 In sentence 18, the month of July should be written —**

- F the Month of July
- G the month of july
- H the Month Of July
- J as it is

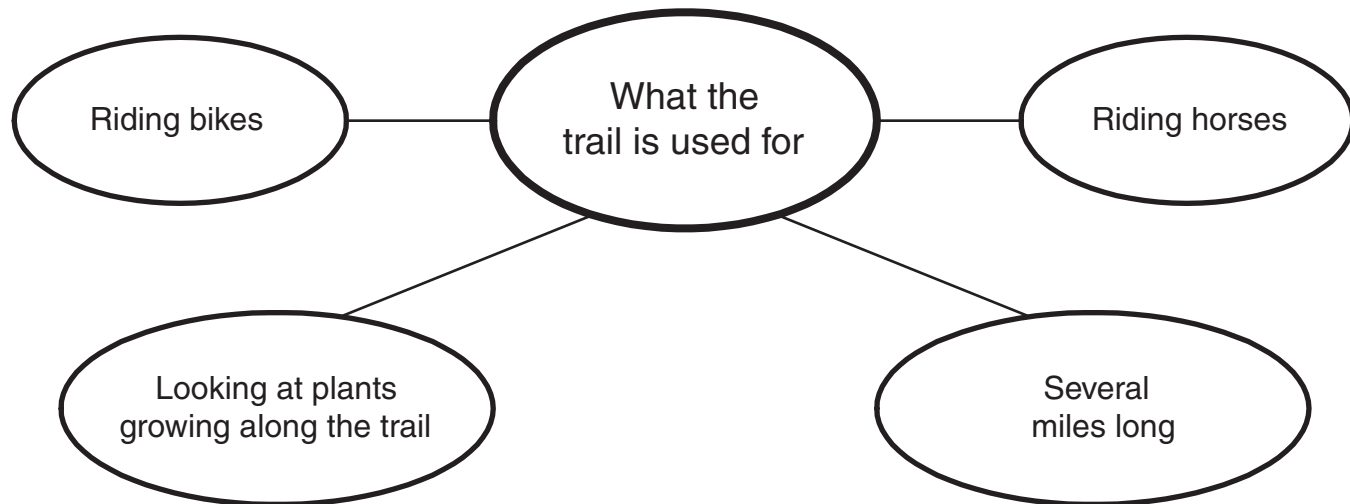
**13 In sentence 21, Ill write should be written —**

- A Ill right
- B I’ll rite
- C I’ll write
- D as it is

## *Virginia Creeper Trail*

Jimmy's teacher has asked the students in his class to write about a special place. Jimmy decides to write about the Virginia Creeper Trail that is near his house.

Jimmy made this web. Use it to answer questions 14 and 15.



**14** This web will help Jimmy to —

- F draw better
- G learn more about the trail
- H decide if he wants to visit the trail
- J plan and write his paper

**15** Which of these does NOT belong on Jimmy's web?

- A Riding bikes
- B Riding horses
- C Several miles long
- D Looking at plants growing along the trail

**Here is the first part of Jimmy’s rough draft. Use it to answer questions 16–18.**

(1)There is a special place near my house. (2)It is called the Virginia Creeper Trail. (3)The trail is 34 miles long. (4)I can see the beginning of the trail from a place in my house. (5)In the summer there are always people on the trail. (6)People walk. (7)People ride bikes on the trail. (8)Even people riding horses on the trail. (9)However, cars, buses, and trucks cannot travel on the trail.

(10)The Virginia Creeper Trail is a place where there are many wonderful things to see. (11)You can see beautiful mountains and valleys. (12)If you watch carefully, you can also see little animals and birds. (13)There are trees, bushes, and colorful flowers of all kinds. (14)One plant that grows on the trail is called the Virginia Creeper. (15)Some people think the trail was named after the Virginia Creeper plant. (16)Other people have a different idea about how the trail was named.

**16 How can sentences 6 and 7 BEST be joined?**

- F** People walk people ride bikes on the trail.
- G** People walk or ride bikes on the trail.
- H** People on the trail walk or people ride bikes.
- J** People walk or they ride bikes or they are on the trail.

**17 Which of these is NOT a complete sentence?**

- A** Sentence 1
- B** Sentence 3
- C** Sentence 6
- D** Sentence 8

**18 Which of these is the topic sentence of the second paragraph?**

- F** Sentence 10
- G** Sentence 12
- H** Sentence 14
- J** Sentence 16

**Read this next section of Jimmy’s rough draft and answer questions 19 and 20. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.**

(17)Long ago, the Virginia Creeper Trail was a American Indian footpath. (18)About 100 years ago, a railroad was builded over the footpath. (19)Besides passengers, the steam engines pulled heavy loads of wood and metals. (20)The old steam engines crept slowly up the steep mountains. (21)Some people think the trail was named the Virginia Creeper Trail because heavy trains crept over the trail.

(22)In 1977, the trains stopped using the trail. (23)Now the trail is quiet again. (24)It is just the way it was when the American Indians made it long ago. (25)I’m glad that I live near the Virginia Creeper Trail.

**19 In sentence 17, was a American Indian should be written —**

- A is a American Indian
- B was an American Indian
- C is an American Indian
- D as it is

**20 In sentence 18, railroad was builded should be written —**

- F Railroad was builded
- G railroad was build
- H railroad was built
- J as it is

## Answer Key

Reading			
Test Sequence	Correct Answer	Reporting Category	Reporting Category Description
1	B	003	Understand elements of literature.
2	F	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
3	C	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
4	F	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
5	B	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
6	F	003	Understand elements of literature.
7	B	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
8	H	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
9	D	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
10	J	003	Understand elements of literature.
11	B	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
12	H	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
13	A	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
14	F	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
15	B	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
16	J	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
17	D	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
18	H	003	Understand elements of literature.
19	B	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
20	H	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
21	A	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
22	J	003	Understand elements of literature.
23	A	001	Use word analysis strategies. (phonetic/structural)
24	F	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
25	C	002	Understand a variety of printed materials/resource materials.
Writing			
Test Sequence	Correct Answer	Reporting Category	Reporting Category Description
1	C	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
2	J	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
3	B	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
4	J	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
5	B	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
6	F	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
7	D	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
8	J	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
9	A	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
10	H	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
11	B	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
12	J	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
13	C	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
14	J	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
15	C	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
16	G	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
17	D	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
18	F	004	Plan, compose, and revise paragraphs, stories, letters, and reports.
19	B	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
20	H	005	Edit for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.