

**CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL
EXIT EXAM**

**ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS
PRACTICE TEST
FORM ELA F**

Source:

**Standards and Assessment Division
California Department of Education**

Edited by:

RUSD Department of Educational Accountability

READING

Read the following poem and answer questions 40 through 43.

I've Watched . . .

I've watched the white clouds pantomime
The inner workings of my mind,
Where thought and feeling paint a scene
As if the blue sky were a dream.



5 I've watched the snow-bogged trees bend down
And shake their coats upon the ground
In order that they may reclaim
A straighter truth from whence they came.

I've watched the congress of the geese
10 Assemble in a perfect V
In order that they may keep sight
Of one another's path of flight.

I've watched the flood tide turn its head
And slack before the coming ebb
15 Without want or predilection
Waiting for the moon's direction.

I've watched the ocean lashed by wind,
Make a fool of the fishermen,
Who thought their knowledge of the sea
20 Ensured them some security.

But all this watching, knows not much,
For what are wind and sea and such,
The V of geese, the bent-down tree,
If nothing more than mystery?

READING

40. Which phrase **BEST** represents the organization of the poem?
- A 5 stanzas about nature and 1 about people
 - B 5 stanzas of observation and 1 of conclusion
 - C 1 stanza of introduction and 5 of explanation
 - D 1 stanza about poetry and 5 about nature

L104A007

I've watched the ocean lashed by wind,

41. In this line from the poem, the word *lashed* suggests that the ocean is being—
- A soothed.
 - B troubled.
 - C sailed.
 - D whipped.

L104A005

42. According to lines 17 – 20, the fishermen's knowledge of the sea—
- A reflects their love of natural elements.
 - B helps them navigate more effectively.
 - C is greater than their knowledge of the weather.
 - D does not guarantee them safety.

L104A009

43. What is the theme of the poem?
- A Clouds can be a reflection of our thoughts.
 - B Geese assemble in the shape of a V to navigate properly.
 - C Nature remains a mystery, regardless of our observations.
 - D Trees often bend beneath the weight of the snow.

L104A002

READING

The following story describes a young boy's heroic actions to help his injured brother. Read the story and answer questions 44 through 46 and Writing Task 1.



Hiking Trip

"I never wanted to come on this stupid old hiking trip anyway!" His voice echoed, shrill and panicked, across the narrow canyon. His father stopped, chest heaving with the effort of the climb, and turned to look at the boy.

"This is hard on you, son, I know. But you've got to come through with courage and a level head."

"But I'm scared! I don't even want to have courage!" he retorted. He jerked his head the other way and wiped his eyes across his arm.

"If not courage, fine," his father replied sternly. "Then have enough love for your brother to think this through!" He pulled a bandana from his back pocket and tied it around his neck. Then he gently placed his hand on the boy's shoulder and continued, more softly this time. "Now, I don't know if I can make it without stopping every so often. And we just don't have the time to stop. You're young, but you're strong and fast. Do you remember the way back from here to the road, if you had to go alone?"

Jeff flashed back to the agonizing scene of his seventeen-year-old brother at their campsite that morning. He'd been bitten by a snake yesterday during a rough hike through very rocky terrain. By the time they returned to their tents, he was limping badly. Then this morning he couldn't put on his boots, and the pain seemed to be getting worse. He needed medical attention right away, so leaving him there was their only choice.

"Jeffrey? Jeffrey, could you do it? Could you make it to the road without me if you had to?"

Jeff blinked and looked past his father's eyes to the end of the canyon, several miles away. He nodded slowly as the path and the plan began to take hold in his mind.

"What was the name of that little town we stopped in to get matches, Dad?"

His father smiled and replied, "Flint. After we left Flint, we parked at the side of the road a few miles out of town. When you see which way our car is facing, you'll know that the town is back the other direction." Jeff

READING

thought about this and then nodded. They both drank water and then continued scrambling over the rocks.

Nothing was as pretty as it had seemed when they first hiked this way to their campsite. Before, the boulders and rocks had been an interesting challenge. Now, they were obstacles that threatened their footing and their velocity. Overhanging limbs had earlier been natural curiosities in the cliffs. But now they were nature's weapons, slapping and scratching the boy and the man who crashed by and pushed through as quickly as they could.

Stone by stone, they made their way up the canyon. Jeff's father grew smaller and smaller in the distance. "He must be stopping a lot," Jeff thought. He waved to him from a bend in the canyon wall. His father waved back. Jeff turned and made the final ascent up an easier slope toward the road and spotted his father's car. He lurched toward it, half stumbling, and leaned on the hood, breathless.

"Can't stop," he thought. "Mark's in big trouble. Gotta keep going." The fast, loud thudding in his ears was deafening, and as he pulled himself upright, he was surprised as a car sped by, heading toward Flint. "Hey, mister!" he shouted, waving both arms. He began to walk, faster and faster until he was jogging. Then he quickly crossed the highway and broke into a full-speed run, holding his left arm straight out, his thumb up.

His chest was burning with every breath when he

suddenly heard several loud honks from behind. He turned as the brakes squealed and saw "Bob's Towing & Repair, Flint" right behind him. "Jump in, boy! What's up?" Jeff explained between gasps as the truck picked up speed. The driver reached for his two-way radio as soon as he heard about Mark. "Better get the helicopter in there," he seemed to be shouting into his hand. But Jeff wasn't sure about that because everything got fuzzy and then went black and quiet.

Hours later, Jeff opened his eyes to find strange surroundings and his father on a chair nearby.

"You're a hero, son," his father said with a smile. "You saved Mark."

"What happened?" Jeff asked through a wide yawn.

"Where are we?"

"This is a motel room in Flint. You made it into town and sent the helicopter into the canyon after Mark. I can't tell you how happy I was when I saw it overhead. I'm so proud of you!"

Jeff sat up suddenly. "Where's Mark? Is he OK?"

"They airlifted him out and got him to the hospital. His leg's still in bad shape, but he's going to be just fine in a couple of days. Thanks to you, son."

Jeff's worried face relaxed as his father spoke. "How about you, Dad? How did you get out?"

READING

“Well, I finally hiked myself out of that canyon and to the road. I won’t be going back there any time soon. That’s for sure. Anyway, I couldn’t see the car, and as I headed for Flint I got lucky and was able to hitch a ride from a fellow named Bob in a tow truck.”

Jeff laughed out loud. “I guess Bob makes a good living going up and down that road. I hope you gave him a good tip, Dad!”

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44. This story is an example of which of the following genres of writing?

- A a narrative short story
- B an informational text
- C a persuasive essay
- D a biographical essay

L0157003

45. Which of the following sentences BEST explains Jeff’s biggest problem in the story?

- A He needed to face his fear of losing his father’s respect.
- B He needed to find someone to take him to the town of Flint.
- C He needed to climb the rock-covered hill to get to the top.
- D He needed to face his fear in order to help his brother.

L0157006

46. What kind of person is Jeff’s father in the story?

- A understanding and motivating
- B aggressive and annoying
- C humorous and entertaining
- D impatient and anxious

L0157005

WRITING

The following is a rough draft of an article explaining how to write an essay. It may contain errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and organization. Some of the questions may refer to underlined or numbered sentences or phrases within the text. Read the article and answer questions 47 and 48.

Essay Writing

(1) To begin an essay, a student should have some knowledge of the topic or be willing to search out information. (2) Then one must focus clearly on the prompt, addressing all its major points, and making sure that the central purpose is evident throughout the entire essay. (3) Interesting and convincing examples with lots of specific details are always helpful. (4) The details must show some kind of clear arrangement—chronological, spatial, or order-of-importance. (5) A student writer will also want to revise a first draft so that any errors in grammar and mechanics can be got rid of. (6) Steps can be taken to edit essays. (7) Relying solely on “SpellCheck” can be risky; (8) it does not catch the common errors that students make, such as confusing “your” and “you’re.” (9) If students meet all these requirements, then they will have written very effectively.

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WRITING

47. Which of the following sentences, if inserted before sentence 1, would make the MOST effective opening sentence?
- A Writing an essay is easy if one uses a computer.
 - B Good essays are always written in black pen.
 - C Any student can write a successful essay.
 - D Teachers sometimes assign difficult essays.

L0198001

48. Which is the MOST effective substitution for the underlined part of sentence 5?
- A and ridding of errors in grammar and mechanics.
 - B to get rid of errors in grammar and mechanics.
 - C and getting rid of errors in grammar and mechanics.
 - D Leave as is.

L0198004

WRITING

The following is a rough draft of an essay that discusses the legend of the Abominable Snowman. It may contain errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and organization. Some of the questions may refer to underlined or numbered sentences or phrases within the text. Read the essay and answer questions 49 through 52.

The Abominable Snowman

(1) The Abominable Snowman is a hairy, apelike thing that is said to live in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal. (2) Natives of this region have believed in the existence of this beast for many centuries. (3) However, since no one has ever found a Yeti (the Nepalese name for the Abominable Snowman), doubts still remain.

(4) Some people who believe in the Yeti point to the discovery of peculiar footprints found above the snowline of the Himalayas. (5) There were footprints left by animals, and some people think that they were very much like human footprints but that they must have been made by animals which were much heavier and larger than humans. (6) Scientists who have studied the footprints, however, agree that they were most likely left by bears. (7) "Bears are quite capable of walking on their two hind legs," says zoologist Hans Miller. (8) "This also explains many supposed Yeti sightings. (9) At a distance, a bear walking in such a way could easily appear to be a creature of human form. (10) In fact, three of the five Yeti sightings last year were determined to be bears. (11) The others remain unexplained." (12) Nonetheless, many people remain convinced that the Yeti is real. (13) "There has to," says Raju, a mountain guide, "be something out there. (14) There have been too many sightings for this all to be the product of overactive imaginations." (15) And, yet, it seems that the world will not be convinced of the existence of the Yeti until it is confirmed by hard evidence, a live specimen, or at least a skeleton. (16) For now, it appears that the Yeti will continue to inhabit the shadowy region between legend and reality.

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WRITING

49. Which of the following words is the **BEST** way to express the meaning of the word *thing* in sentence 1?
- A object
 - B item
 - C creature
 - D article

L0176001

50. Which of the following ideas is supported by details or evidence in the essay?
- A The world will never believe in the existence of the Yeti.
 - B Yeti sightings cannot be explained by overactive imaginations.
 - C A bear walking on its hind legs can appear to be a Yeti.
 - D All mountain guides believe in the Yeti.

L0176002

51. What is the **BEST** way to write sentence 13?
- A "There has to be something out there," says Raju, a mountain guide.
 - B "There has to be something out there, says Raju, a mountain guide."
 - C "There has to, says Raju, a mountain guide, be something out there."
 - D Leave as is.

L0176004

52. Based on the essay, which of the following would be the **BEST** source of information to demonstrate that the Yeti most likely does **NOT** exist?

- A a book of Nepalese legends which contains stories about the Yeti
- B a documentary about the Yeti containing interviews with Yeti believers
- C a poster which has pictures of all known Himalayan mammals
- D a magazine article which demonstrates the falsehood of all supposed Yeti sightings

L0176003

WRITING

For questions 53 through 57, choose the answer that is the most effective substitute for each underlined part of the sentence. If no substitution is necessary, choose "Leave as is."

53. When our parents celebrate their silver wedding anniversary later this year, they were married for twenty-five years.
- A they will have been married for twenty-five years.
- B they have been married for twenty-five years.
- C they would have been married for twenty-five years.
- D Leave as is.
- L00SA039
54. Akia told us about her safari across the plains of East Africa in our geography class.
- A In our geography class, Akia told us about her safari across the plains of East Africa.
- B Akia told us about her safari in our geography class across the plains of East Africa.
- C In our geography class Akia told about her safari across the plains of East Africa to us.
- D Leave as is.
- L00SA134
55. If Mark will have made fewer errors, he will have passed his driving test.
- A If Mark would have made fewer errors, he would have passed his driving test.
- B If Mark had made fewer errors, he would have passed his driving test.
- C If Mark would of made fewer errors, he would have passed his driving test.
- D Leave as is.
- L00SA037

56. "Why should I wear a sweater?" grumbled the boy as his mother reminded him again of the cold weather.

- A 'Why should I wear a sweater'?
- B "Why should I wear a sweater"
- C "Why should I wear a sweater"?
- D Leave as is.
- L00SA201

57. The Alaskan rivers are clear and sparkling in summer however, they are frozen in winter.

- A in summer, however they are frozen in winter.
- B in summer; however, they are frozen in winter.
- C summer: however they are frozen in winter.
- D Leave as is.
- L00SA043

WRITING

For questions 58 through 60 choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

58. The musician played Wendy's favorite waltz for her husband and _____.

- A I
- B he
- C she
- D her

L00SA076

59. _____ going to be late if they don't hurry.

- A They're
- B Their
- C There
- D They'll

L00SA078

60. When she _____ the award, she blushed and quickly returned to her seat.

- A excepted
- B accepts
- C accepted
- D excepts

L00SA016

**CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS
PRACTICE TEST FORM ELA F**

FORM: ELA F					
		English-Language Arts			
Item	Standards Tested				
No.	Session Three	(Circle the Correct Answer)			
40	Literary Response and Analysis	A	B	C	D
41	Word Analysis, Fluency, & Systematic Vocabulary Development	A	B	C	D
42	Literary Response and Analysis	A	B	C	D
43	Literary Response and Analysis	A	B	C	D
44	Literary Response and Analysis	A	B	C	D
45	Literary Response and Analysis	A	B	C	D
46	Literary Response and Analysis	A	B	C	D
47	Writing Strategies	A	B	C	D
48	Writing Strategies	A	B	C	D
49	Writing Strategies	A	B	C	D
50	Writing Strategies	A	B	C	D
51	Writing Strategies	A	B	C	D
52	Writing Strategies	A	B	C	D
53	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
54	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
55	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
56	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
57	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
58	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
59	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D
60	Writing Conventions	A	B	C	D

**CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS
PRACTICE TEST FORM ELA F**

FORM: ELA F	
Item	
No.	Key
40	B
41	D
42	D
43	C
44	A
45	D
46	A
47	C
48	B
49	C
50	C
51	A
52	D
53	A
54	A
55	B
56	D
57	B
58	D
59	A
60	C