

Student Name: _____

Ohio Achievement Assessments



Reading Student Test Booklet

Large Print
Spring 2010

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Directions:

Today you will be taking the Ohio Grade 8 Reading Achievement Assessment. Three different types of questions appear on this test: multiple choice, short answer and extended response.

There are several important things to remember:

1. Read each reading passage carefully. You may look back at the reading passage as often as necessary. You may underline or mark parts of any passage in your Student Test Booklet.
2. Read each question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they will help you understand the question. Then, choose or write the answer you think is best.
3. Use only a #2 pencil to answer questions on this test.
4. For multiple-choice questions, fill in the circle next to your answer choice. Mark only one answer for each question. If you change your answer, make sure you erase your old answer completely. Do not cross out or make any marks on the other choices.
5. For constructed-response questions, write your answer neatly, clearly and only in the space provided in your Answer Document. Answers written outside of the space provided will not be scored.

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6. Short-answer questions are worth two points. Extended-response questions are worth four points. Point values are printed near each question in your Student Test Booklet. The amount of space provided for your answers is the same for all two- and four-point questions.
7. If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on to the next question. If you have time, go back to the questions you skipped and try to answer them before turning in your Student Test Booklet and Answer Document.
8. Check over your work when you are finished.

A Fine Day for Flying

Faith Hickman Brynie

- 1 If ever any animal needed a reliable weather forecast, it's a migrating bird. A storm can blow a bird far off its course, and severe temperatures, winds, or precipitation can mean death along the way. Since they cannot count on the weather bureau for information, some birds seem to have their own, built-in weather prediction system. Some even use changes in the weather to make their journey easier.
- 2 In autumn, many shorebirds and songbirds fly from the eastern North American coast across the western edge of the North Atlantic Ocean. Tim and Janet Williams at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania have observed the birds leaving from all along the coast, as far south as Miami and as far north as Nova Scotia. The birds first fly to coastal areas, where they fatten up on the plentiful food supply they find there. Then they just seem to hang around, waiting for favorable weather.
- 3 The Williamses have found that the best predictor for departure is the passage of a cold front. The front brings falling temperatures, clear skies, rising barometric pressure,¹ and (most important for the birds) winds blowing from the northwest. When

¹**barometric pressure:** atmospheric pressure measured by a barometer

these winds come, the birds rise into the air, all together, and by the millions. They depart from the coast and point their beaks to the south-southwest. They continue this orientation for the entire flight. The winds first push the birds out over the ocean to the southeast. But the wind direction changes when they hit the trade winds² of the Caribbean, and they are pushed back toward the southwest. Although they never change their direction of flight, they follow a curved path that takes them to their winter home in South America. Without the help of the winds, the birds would run out of fuel and perish somewhere in the South Atlantic.

- 4 The Williamses feel sad that these wonderful feats may soon become a thing of the past. “The great flights of shorebirds are gone forever,” they say. “In the 1800s, shorebirds would pass over Bermuda in great flocks that stretched from horizon to horizon for more than 24 hours. Now, only a few birds can be seen over the islands. The songbirds

²**trade winds:** weather systems with fixed wind patterns



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and shorebirds are threatened by a loss of habitat in the south and breeding areas in the north.”

The Williamses hope that you will learn more from the American Bird Conservancy Web site.

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Use the passage to answer questions 1 – 6.

1. Tim and Janet Williams would likely agree with which statement?
 - A. People can watch the birds for a reliable weather forecast.
 - B. Shorebirds are better than songbirds at using weather patterns to migrate.
 - C. The population of birds will increase if people supply them with more food.
 - D. People need to learn why these birds are in danger so that they can begin conservation efforts.

2. According to the passage, what do birds need **most** during migration?
 - A. clear skies
 - B. changing temperature
 - C. rising barometric pressure
 - D. winds from the northwest



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3. If headings were added to the passage, which of these would be **most** appropriate for paragraph 2?
- A. Songbirds and Shorebirds
 - B. Preparing for the Journey
 - C. Windy Days at the Beach
 - D. Birds From Coast to Coast
4. According to the passage, what is the main reason why the birds travel to coastal areas first?
- A. to raise their young
 - B. to nourish their bodies
 - C. to rest from their journey
 - D. to build nests for laying eggs



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5. Identify one example of persuasion the author uses in paragraph 4. Then, explain how the author uses this example of persuasion to support the Williams' cause.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(2 points)

6. Why are footnotes included in this passage?
- A. to provide an outline of the passage
 - B. to list sources for facts in the passage
 - C. to summarize key points of the passage
 - D. to define unfamiliar terms in the passage

Items 7–23 have not been slated for public release
in 2010.

On the Spring 2010 Grade 8 Reading Achievement
Assessment, items 24–29 are field-test items, which
are not released.



Cloves: A Spice of Life

Ann Stalcup

- 1 There is a saying in Zanzibar: “The clove tree will not grow unless it sees the mountains and smells the sea.” Today, clove trees flourish in Zanzibar’s warm, humid sea breezes, providing 80 percent of the world’s supply of the spice.
- 2 Cloves are the dried buds of a tropical evergreen tree that grows 30 to 40 feet high. The dried buds look like small brown nails. (The English name comes from *clou*, the French word for nail.)
- 3 Clove trees are harvested twice a year. The buds are picked just before they open, which means that each tree has to be picked by hand, day after day, to catch the buds at the perfect moment. Then the buds are dried in the sun, turning from rose in color to brown. Only sun drying will do because artificial drying weakens the cloves’ flavor. Cloves lose more than half their weight when dried. A single tree produces about 75 pounds of cloves per year. Harvesting them takes a lot of skill and costs a great deal because every stage is done by hand. As a result, the price of cloves has always been high.
- 4 Cloves were first grown in the Molucca Islands of eastern Indonesia, the famed Spice Islands of history. The people there planted a clove tree



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each time a child was born. Cloves are no longer grown in the Moluccas, but for a thousand years people all over the world schemed, plotted, and went to war for control of the clove supply.

- 5 The Chinese used cloves 2,300 years ago. One Chinese emperor made people keep cloves in their mouths whenever they spoke to him, so their breath would be fragrant. Almost 2,000 years ago, the ancient Roman nature writer Pliny described cloves. When northern Europeans learned about cloves around A.D. 1200, the spice quickly became so valuable that it was used as money. A pound of cloves could buy three sheep! Europeans, like people before them, prized cloves for three reasons. Cloves have a unique flavor, they help prevent meat from spoiling, and they have useful medicinal qualities.
- 6 Today, clove oil is still used in antiseptics, painkillers, perfumes, insect repellents, and air fresheners. For centuries, cloves were used to treat toothaches, coughs, indigestion, and rheumatism, and they are still used today in some herbal remedies. Refrigeration has largely replaced cloves as a preservative, but nothing has replaced their flavor. As a result, protecting the clove supply continues to be serious business.

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Use the passage to answer questions 30 – 36.

30. Which subheading would be appropriate for the last three paragraphs of this passage?

- A. Cultivation of Cloves
- B. Cooking With Cloves
- C. Cloves As Medicine
- D. History of Cloves

31. The English word **antiseptic** comes from the Greek root word *septos*, which means *rotten*.

“Today, clove oil is still used in **antiseptics**, painkillers, perfumes, insect repellents, and air fresheners.” (Paragraph 6)

What do **antiseptics** do?

- A. prevent decay
- B. eliminate odors
- C. soothe muscles
- D. improve air quality



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32. Which question can be answered using the information in the passage?
- A. Where are most cloves produced?
 - B. Who discovered the medicinal uses of cloves?
 - C. What are some ways to use cloves in cooking?
 - D. Why are cloves no longer grown in the Molucca Islands?

33. "... but for a thousand years people all over the world **schemed, plotted, and went to war** for control of the clove supply." (Paragraph 4)

What does the phrase **schemed, plotted, and went to war** suggest in this sentence?

- A. The power of a country is based on its agricultural success.
- B. Global competition for control of the clove supply was intense.
- C. Secret planning alone was necessary to gain control of the clove supply.
- D. The desire to dominate others brings out the worst in people everywhere.

34. How does the author support the idea that cloves have continued to be popular over the centuries?
- A. by explaining the difficulty and skill involved in harvesting cloves
 - B. by emphasizing that one nation controls clove production
 - C. by tracking the constant rise in the price of clove products
 - D. by describing how different cultures have used cloves



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35. The information in paragraphs 1–3 is organized differently from the information in paragraphs 4–6.

Select either paragraphs 1–3 or paragraphs 4–6 and describe how the information is organized. Then, explain what makes that organization an effective way to present the information.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(2 points)

Item 36 has not been slated for public release in 2010.



Clear the Air

Faith Brynie

- 1 Snuggle up in your favorite chair and breathe deeply with contented relaxation. Or maybe you shouldn't.
- 2 "Studies have shown that indoor air is often 10 to 100 times more polluted than outdoor air," says Bill Wolverton. He is a former NASA¹ scientist and head of Wolverton Environmental Services. "One of the biggest contributors to bad indoor air is off-gassing,"² he explains. "Most materials in our homes are made using chemicals called 'synthetics.' They are human-made, not made by nature. Individual liquid chemicals are mixed, and they react to form solids used in plastics, fabrics, TVs, computers, carpeting, and more. Exposure to a single chemical can cause serious health problems. When multiple chemicals are combined to form solids, the final products are generally safe. But not all chemicals react to form solids. These products will off-gas or release any unreacted chemicals. Some of these chemicals pose health hazards."
- 3 Just about any material in a home or school can off-gas. Vinyl floors, linoleum, carpets, fabrics, dyes, glues, and paints release chemical compounds into

¹**NASA:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

²**off-gassing:** the release of harmful gases into the surrounding air

the air. So do detergents, household cleaners, plastic, and paper. To reduce off-gassing, Wolverton recommends washing new clothing, bedding, and other washable fabrics at least once before use. New furniture and carpeting should be allowed to air out before placing them in any tightly sealed, energy-efficient building.

- 4 While the ultimate solution to off-gassing is to use more environmentally friendly building materials, a short-term solution may be as close as your nearest garden center. Wolverton led a NASA research team in the 1980s. The scientists found that ordinary houseplants can remove large amounts of off-gassed chemicals from indoor air, especially when there is a large amount of leaf surface area compared to the volume of air. However, leaves, roots, and soil bacteria all play a part. Leaves absorb compounds from the air and carry them down to the roots. Roots pull air into the soil as they take up water. Microbes that thrive around a plant's roots break down off-gassed compounds into harmless raw materials. They use them as a food source and release natural fertilizers that make the plant grow bigger and stronger.



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- 5 If you want to grow some plants to improve your home's air, which ones should you choose? For good, all-around air-cleaning action, grow the peace lily, lady palm, Boston fern, areca palm, or a carrion plant. If you have fresh paint or new plastics in your home, grow some potted chrysanthemums. They are big winners when it comes to removing benzene from the air. If you're using paint solvents³ and thinners, inks, glues, or pesticides, grow a dwarf date palm. It will remove the xylene that these materials off-gas. If you have a lot of new paneling, subflooring, cabinets, draperies, or a new mattress, they may be off-gassing formaldehyde. Fight back with a philodendron, rubber plant, spider plant, golden pothos, or English ivy. If you want to combat them all, grow a Gerbera daisy. It was the champion toxin-fighter in the NASA experiments.

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³**solvents:** substances that can dissolve other substances

Use the passage to answer questions 37 – 44.

37. Which argument is supported by evidence in the passage?
- A. Off-gassing remains an unsolvable problem.
 - B. Reducing off-gassing guarantees good health.
 - C. Off-gassing is a common problem in most modern homes.
 - D. Using natural materials is the only way to eliminate off-gassing.
38. Who is the intended audience for this passage?
- A. government officials who want to regulate common sources of pollution
 - B. people who do not know about the problems of off-gassing in their homes
 - C. builders who are interested in using materials that do not contain harmful chemicals
 - D. scientists who study how exposure to synthetic substances causes health problems



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39. Which additional piece of information could the author add to develop the idea that poor indoor air quality is a serious problem?
- A. an analysis of the advantages of synthetic materials
 - B. a list of health problems that result from off-gassing
 - C. an explanation of the negative effects off-gassing can have on houseplants
 - D. a comparison of indoor and outdoor air pollution levels caused by synthetic chemicals
40. If you have just repainted your kitchen and had new cabinets installed, which plant should you put in your kitchen to combat all the off-gassed chemicals?
- A. dwarf date
 - B. English ivy
 - C. Gerbera daisy
 - D. chrysanthemum



41. “Vinyl floors, linoleum, carpets, fabrics, dyes, glues, and paints release chemical compounds into the air. So do **detergents**, household cleaners, plastic, and paper.” (Paragraph 3)

In the word **detergent**, the prefix **de-** means “off.” Based on the chart below, what is the root of the word **detergent**?

Root	Origin	Meaning
<i>tendere</i>	Latin	to stretch
<i>tergere</i>	Latin	to wipe
<i>terrere</i>	Latin	to frighten
<i>torpere</i>	Latin	to be numb or slow

- A. to stretch
- B. to wipe
- C. to frighten
- D. to be numb or slow



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42. Summarize the passage by restating the main point of each of paragraphs 2–5.

Label each main point with the related paragraph number.

Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(4 points)



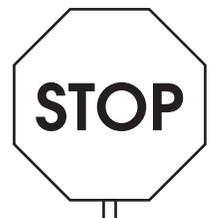
43. Which persuasive technique does the author of this passage use to persuade the reader that off-gassing is a serious issue?
- A. She quotes a recognized authority.
 - B. She describes a relevant personal experience.
 - C. She hints that all informed individuals agree with her.
 - D. She relates dramatic case studies of individuals affected by the problem.

44. "Microbes that thrive around a plant's roots break down off-gassed compounds into harmless **raw** materials." (Paragraph 4)

According to how **raw** is used in the sentence above, which word completes the analogy?

PERPETUAL : CONTINUAL :: **raw** : _____

- A. unrefined
- B. artificial
- C. protein
- D. rare



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