

Student Name: _____

Ohio Achievement Tests



Reading Student Test Booklet

May 2007

This test was originally administered to students in May 2007.

Not all items from the May 2007 administration will be released in this document. According to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3301.07.11:4(b) . . . not less than forty percent of the questions on the test that are used to compute a student's score shall be a public record. The department (of education) shall determine which questions will be needed for reuse on a future test and those questions shall not be public records and shall be redacted from the test prior to its release as public record.

This publicly released material is appropriate for use by Ohio teachers in instructional settings. This test is aligned with Ohio's Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts.

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Directions:

Today you will be taking the Ohio Grade 8 Reading Achievement Test. 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 question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they will help you understand the question.
2. For short-answer and extended-response questions, use a pencil to write your answers neatly and clearly in the space provided in the answer document. Any answers you write in the Student Test Booklet will not be scored.
3. 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 answer is the same for two- and four-point questions.
4. For multiple-choice questions, shade in the circle next to your choice in the answer document for the test question. Mark only one choice for each question. Darken completely the circles on the answer document. If you change an answer, make sure that you erase your old answer completely.
5. Do not spend too much time on one question. Go on to the next question and return to the question skipped after answering the remaining questions.
6. Check over your work when you are finished.
7. When you finish the test, you may not go on to, or look at, the mathematics section of the Student Test Booklet.

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Summer Camp

- 1 This summer I'll be working in a small, women's clothing store; it's not incredibly exciting, but I like my work. Still, I remember the years I spent at summer camp and I know I'll never feel that way again.
- 2 A giggling bunch of girls, aged eight and nine, scurries as a group down the dusty, rutted path to the lake. We have messily braided hair, skinny legs with scabby knees, and dirty sandals and feet. We pass the infirmary,¹ the weathered, ancient dining hall, and the newer lodge.
- 3 We girls head down the hill, covered in bark chips that get in everyone's shoes, pass through the Senior Boys Unit, cross a small field, and reach the edge of the lake.
- 4 Earlier today, between noon and three o'clock, we arrived at camp. Fathers hefted our trunks, carried them into our cabins, and set them down at the foot of our bunks. Siblings bestowed upon us wisdom gained from previous years ("Don't eat the gruel." "Shower at least twice a week.") along with contraband candy to hide in said trunks, and mothers kissed us good-bye.
- 5 Once all ten of us girls made it into our cabin, we met our counselors and C.I.T. (counselor in training) and played a name game. Then we changed into our swimsuits and trooped down to the lake to take the ever-important swim test.
- 6 Now that we're here, we hang our towels on the rough log fence and remove our shoes, shirts, and shorts. With the dirt and grass tickling our toes, we proceed down onto the dock and pair off. One partner swims while the other counts laps. You have to swim nine laps, or eighteen lengths, to be able to go into the deeper water, an area aspired to by all because it contains the float, which is fun to load with more than the ten-camper limit and try to tip over. Most of the girls in my cabin won't be able to do it. Most of them are first-year campers, and they'll end up relegated to "Beginner's Bay," which doesn't get any deeper than three feet or so. I'm a veteran, and at age nine this is my second year of camp. I'll make all eighteen lengths or die trying.
- 7 My partner, a small eight-year-old with wispy, dark brown hair, whispers to me that I can go first. Not a problem. My confidence is astronomical and absolutely unshakable. I jump right in with a splash that wets my partner and the other chickens on the dock who want to count first. Then I start to swim: one lap of breaststroke, one lap of backstroke, one lap of freestyle, and six more any way I

¹infirmary: medical clinic

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choose, including the dog paddle or any other method of staying afloat that propels me through the water. I'm glad when I swim to the other dock and back for the last time, diving underwater to cover the last yard or so. Now that I'm done, I relax for a moment, reveling in everything about me.

- 8 The tips of my toes barely reach the gravelly bottom as I tread water. Moving into shallower depths is always an option, but I prefer proving my endurance to the onlookers I'm sure are watching. Looking up, really looking for the first time since last year, I can see the dock, a light pine color with blue painted edges. I see the rocky shore, the land beyond it covered in pine needles and shade from the immense trees standing guard above me. Behind them I see the mountains, all around me. The lake stretches out for miles, edged by the mountains, and the sun reflects off the water so brightly that I have to look away.
- 9 The birds sing their tuneless songs from the pines while the lake gurgles and splashes in endlessly breaking waves that never reach the shore. Simultaneously I smell the pines and the water, and the sensations are home, security. This is where I belong.
- 10 I dog-paddle over to the ladder, feeling water splash and lap against me. Grasping the slippery, blue wood in my small hands, I haul myself up far enough to put my foot on the first rung, feeling the edge of it jabbing my foot, the rough paint mixed with sand for traction. I climb out and stand on the smooth, damp dock, wrapping my terry cloth towel around my shoulders. Everything is dripping: hair, bathing suit, self. The sun warms me.
- 11 Then I feel that familiar premonitory² sensation in my nose. *Ahchoo!* I sneeze violently, and the water is gone, leaving that peculiar empty feeling. It's an affirmation³ of a sort, that summer is here, and I'm where I should be.

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²**premonitory:** warning

³**affirmation:** positive statement



Use the passage to answer questions 1 – 9.

1. Which thematic statement best applies to this passage?
 - A. Memories make the past seem better than it really was.
 - B. Childhood memories can be a source of much pleasure.
 - C. Being the best is more important to adults than to children.
 - D. Past experiences help people deal with today's challenges.

2. "Fathers **hefted** our trunks, carried them into our cabins, and set them down at the foot of our bunks." (Paragraph 4)

In the sentence above, what does the word **hefted** mean?
 - A. propped up
 - B. opened
 - C. set up
 - D. lifted

3. Identify three examples of sensory details from the passage. Include a detail for sight, a detail for sound and a detail for touch. Then, explain how the use of sensory details contributes to the reader's understanding of the narrator's camp experience.

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

4. Which words best describe the way the narrator portrays herself as a child at camp?
 - A. bashful and withdrawn
 - B. confident and determined
 - C. trustworthy and responsible
 - D. thoughtful and understanding

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5. "Most of the girls in my cabin won't be able to do it. Most of them are first-year campers, and they'll end up **relegated** to 'Beginner's Bay,' which doesn't get any deeper than three feet or so." (Paragraph 6)

What does **relegated** mean in the second sentence?

- A. carried
 - B. assigned
 - C. reported
 - D. announced
6. How does the narrator act toward the other characters after they are all down at the lake?
- A. The narrator tries to help the shyer campers fit in.
 - B. The narrator tries to show off during her swimming test.
 - C. The narrator tries to hide the fact that she is a weak swimmer.
 - D. The narrator tries to help the younger campers avoid mistakes.

7. "I see the rocky shore, the land beyond it covered in pine needles and shade from the immense trees standing guard above me. Behind them I see the mountains, all around me." (Paragraph 8)

Why does the narrator use personification to describe the large trees in the sentences above?

- A. to indicate that they make her feel confined to the lake
- B. to demonstrate that they provide relief from the hot sun
- C. to show that they make her feel protected in the camp
- D. to show that they look beautiful against the mountains

8. Which literary technique does the author use to tell the story?
- A. flashback
 - B. hyperbole
 - C. foreshadowing
 - D. onomatopoeia
9. Which word best describes the narrator's attitude toward attending summer camp?
- A. gloomy
 - B. regretful
 - C. humorous
 - D. sentimental

Items 10–30 have not been slated for public release in 2007.

On the May 2007 Grade 8 Reading Achievement Test, items 31–36 are field-test items, which are not released.



Silent Picture Shows

- 1 Thomas Alva Edison set the movie industry in motion. The inventor himself was not all that impressed with the concept of motion pictures; he figured the novelty would quickly wear off. How wrong he was!

Film Fascinates

- 2 The first “moving” pictures in 1889 were peep shows viewed through Edison’s Kinetoscope. A length of film revolved on spools inside a cabinet. When a coin was dropped into a slot, an electric light shone on the film. The viewer watched the film through a peephole just big enough for the human eye. The films were about fifty feet in length and ran for less than a minute. Some early Edison films featured a dog with a bone, a baby being bathed, dances, and vaudeville¹ scenes.
- 3 By 1908, the American public had become fascinated with the idea of movies, and nickelodeons were being built all over the country. Although these early motion picture theaters lacked the luxuries of today’s plush theaters in mall settings, the magic of Hollywood was perhaps even more alive in those early days than it is now because of its novelty. And although sound had not been invented, moviegoers used their imaginations to supply the dialogue to the events taking place before them on the screen. The era of the silent movie had begun.

Laughter Sells

- 4 It didn’t take producers long to discover which genres worked well in silent films. Comedy became popular early in the industry’s development. *The Keystone Kops* featured fast-paced, slapstick humor and often violent action; typical escapades included the pie in the face, the wild car chase scene, and wild animals on the loose. Actor/producer Mack Sennett came to Los Angeles in 1912 to work for the Keystone Company. Sennett gave many comedians their start in films, including Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.
- 5 Charles Spencer Chaplin became the most recognized film figure in the world during the era of the silent movie. Chaplin added depth of character and plot structure to the developing art form, rather than relying on simple gags and gimmicks for laughs. His tramp² character, for which he became famous, first appeared in *Kid Auto Races at Venice* (1914). The tramp’s costume was appealing and immediately identifiable—the too-big shoes and pants, the formal vest, and the too-small coat. The derby hat, which he doffed³ to all he met, contrasted with his funny moustache, and it, too, became a trademark of the little tramp’s character. Some of Chaplin’s most famous movies included *The Kid* (1920), *The Gold Rush* (1925), and *City Lights* (1931).

¹**vaudeville:** variety show

²**tramp:** a foot traveler; a wanderer

³**doffed:** lifted off

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- 6 Chaplin's biggest rival was Buster Keaton, who began in films in 1917. Keaton capitalized on dream sequences and trick photography to enhance his art. In two of his best films, *The Navigator* (1924) and *The General* (1926), Keaton dealt with the same theme—the individual pitting his will against an inanimate⁴ object. It was the theme that worked the best for him, and he made the most of it.
- 7 Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy are probably the most memorable team in the history of silent films. Actually, they entered the industry separately; it wasn't until 1927 that they began to work as a team. Incompetence ruled their world and endeared them to their audiences. In *The Music Box* (1932), the two struggle valiantly to get a piano up a flight of stairs half a mountain high, only to succeed in destroying everything in their path. Two of the best-known Laurel and Hardy films, *Our Relations* and *Way Out West*, were produced after the advent of sound. The two made the transition to sound more effectively than either Chaplin or Keaton.



Charlie Chaplin became famous for his portrayal as a lovable tramp.

Talkies Emerge

- 8 By 1929 the silent film era was nearing its end. The technology for "talkies" had been developed, and silent-screen stars were frantically studying voice and diction⁵ in an attempt to make the transition. The majority of theaters throughout the country had been wired for sound. Silent pictures were about to become film history.

"Silent Picture Shows" from *Ideals Magazine*, Volume 41, No. 2. Copyright © 1984 by Ideals Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

⁴**inanimate:** lifeless

⁵**diction:** way words are used

Use the passage to answer questions 37 – 44.

37. Which could appropriately explain how the film industry changed between 1889 and the early 1930s?
- A. a list of silent films released during the time period
 - B. a graph of the number of silent films released each year
 - C. a timeline showing major technological developments
 - D. a table comparing the movies of the most popular actors
38. Why does the author include dates in parentheses following the names of movies in paragraphs 5 and 6?
- A. to emphasize the current age of the movies
 - B. to be sure that the movies are named in chronological order
 - C. to identify the year in which each movie was released
 - D. to show how much time elapsed between the release of the movies
39. “Silent Picture Shows” uses which overall organizational structure?
- A. comparison and contrast
 - B. problem and solution
 - C. chronology of events
 - D. order of importance
40. The films of Charlie Chaplin differed from most other films of his time in which way?
- A. His films had plots that were developed through dream sequences and trick photography.
 - B. His films featured the humorous appearance and actions of a character in a costume.
 - C. His films were based on the conflict between people and inanimate objects.
 - D. His films included more fully developed characters and clearly defined plots.

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41. According to the dictionary, the word “talkie” entered the English language in the early 1900s. Explain what a “talkie” was and how the film industry helped introduce this word to the English language.

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

42. “Keaton **capitalized** on dream sequences and trick photography to enhance his art. In two of his best films, *The Navigator* (1924) and *The General* (1926), Keaton dealt with the same theme—the individual pitting his will against an inanimate object. It was the theme that worked the best for him, and he made the most of it.”

In these sentences, what does **capitalized** mean?

- A. improved on something
- B. thought about something
- C. struggled against something
- D. took advantage of something



43. According to the passage, with which statement would the author most likely agree?
- A. Talking films lacked the depth of the silent movies.
 - B. Silent movies revolutionized the entertainment industry.
 - C. Acting skills were less important in silent films than in modern ones.
 - D. Silent pictures became useless when talking films were introduced.
44. Which detail from the passage suggests that silent movies may have been as stimulating as the early talking pictures?
- A. "... moviegoers used their imaginations to supply the dialogue to the events taking place before them on the screen."
 - B. "It didn't take producers long to discover which genres worked well in silent films."
 - C. "Chaplin added depth of character and plot structure to the developing art form ..."
 - D. "Keaton capitalized on dream sequences and trick photography to enhance his art."

