

Student Name _____

OHIO GRADUATION TESTS



Writing

Spring 2007

This test was originally administered to students in March 2007. This publicly released material is appropriate for use by Ohio teachers in instructional settings. This test is aligned with Ohio's Academic Content Standards.

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WRITING TEST

DIRECTIONS: The maximum time allowed for the test is 2 1/2 hours. Plan your time to completely respond to the two writing-prompt questions because 36 of the 48 total possible points on this test can be earned by responding to them. One writing-prompt question is at the beginning of the test; the other is at the end. You may refer to the questions as often as necessary.

For writing-prompt questions, space is provided for prewriting activities. This section is provided for planning your writing. Nothing written in this space will be scored.

Make sure the draft you want scored is written in the lined section of the Answer Document. Your draft needs to be legible to be scored. It may be in printed or cursive handwriting.

Revising and editing are encouraged, although, for the purposes of this test, you will not be able to use reference materials. Erasing, crossing out and other editing changes may be made right on your draft in the Answer Document. You may not need to use the entire space provided, but be sure your answer is complete.

For multiple-choice questions, most questions are associated with a brief paragraph or a sentence. Some of the questions are clustered together; others stand alone. After reading the paragraph or sentence and the question, choose the correct answer and mark the corresponding circle in your Answer Document. If you change an answer, be sure to erase the first mark completely.

For the short-answer question, answer completely in the Answer Document in the space provided. You may not have to use the entire space provided, but be sure your answer is complete.

2. Which would be an appropriate topic sentence for a paragraph about categories of seashells?
- A. Seashells come in many sizes.
 - B. Many shells exist in seas around the world.
 - C. People can find shells on beaches after a high tide.
 - D. People collect seashells based on color, texture and size.

3. Read the paragraph and decide what type of organization is being used.

I had just moved to New York and was not happy with living there the rest of my life. By the time I was fourteen, I had decided I would return to Texas to fulfill my career as a teacher. For the next four years, I took courses in Spanish while all my friends took French. I took electives in English so I could be an English teacher. I even received permission to tutor at another school during my lunch hour.

- A. spatial
- B. classification
- C. chronological
- D. comparison/contrast

4. Which sentence appropriately utilizes precise language and eliminates wordiness to convey what Joe should do?
- A. Joe should eat and write.
 - B. Joe should eat breakfast and write a letter to his grandmother, if time permits.
 - C. Joe needs to eat breakfast, and then if he has the time, he must write his grandmother a letter.
 - D. Joe should first eat breakfast, and then with any leftover time, he should write a letter to his grandmother.

Writing

Read the draft paragraph and answer questions 5 and 6.

¹My friend Stephen and I took us a trip to my family's mountain cabin. ²Mother gave the directions to Stephen, thinking he was responsible. ³We hadn't hardly left town when Stephen discovered that he did not have the directions. ⁴We had gone miles out of our way when I finally recognized some familiar landmarks. ⁵When we reached the cabin, we were tired and hungry.

5. In the context of the paragraph, which is the correct way to revise and/or edit sentence 1?

- A. My friend Stephen and I took a trip to my family's mountain cabin.
- B. I and my friend Stephen took a trip to my family's mountain cabin.
- C. My friend Stephen and me took a trip to my family's mountain cabin.
- D. My friend Stephen and me took us a trip to my family's mountain cabin.

6. In the context of the paragraph, which is the correct way to revise and/or edit sentence 3?

- A. We had just left town Stephen discovered that he did not have the directions.
- B. We had hardly left town when Stephen discovered that he did not have the directions.
- C. We had not hardly left town when Stephen discovered that he did not have the directions.
- D. Stephen discovered that he did not have the directions when we were not hardly out of town.

7. Arrange the sentences in bold print into a clear, logical paragraph. Then correctly use the transition word(s) or phrase(s) from the boxed list that link the sentences as you write the paragraph.

You are ready to begin writing your rough draft.

Several steps are important to complete before you can write a good essay.

After researching your topic, map out your paper by using an outline or another form of planning.

Choose a topic that interests you.

List of Transition Words and Phrases

- Finally
- First
- For example
- Meanwhile
- Then
- Most importantly

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

8. Which would be an appropriate revision and/or edit to the sentence below for an elementary school audience?

It has been determined that exposing cows to music with varying tempos may affect the amount of milk they produce.

- A. If you want cows to produce the most milk, you should have them listen to fast music.
- B. Cows that listen to slow music make a different amount of milk than cows that listen to fast music.
- C. Research has shown that milk production varies in relation to the speed of the music that cows are exposed to.
- D. It has been shown that cows produce different amounts of milk when they listen to slow music than they do when they listen to faster music.

Writing

Read the draft paragraph and answer questions 9 and 10.

¹.Last night my town had the biggest snow storm I have ever seen. ².Waking up the snow was piled up to my window when I looked outside. ³.All of my neighbors's houses was covered in white. ⁴.The whole town looked like a winter wonderland.

9. In the context of the paragraph, what is the correct way to revise sentence 2?

Waking up the snow was piled up to my window when I looked outside.

- A. Piled up to my window was the snow as I woke up and looked outside.
- B. Waking up I looked outside and the snow was piling up to my window.
- C. When I looked outside, the snow was piling up to my window as I woke up.
- D. When I woke up and looked outside, the snow was piled up to my window.

10. In the context of the paragraph, what is the correct way to edit sentence 3?

All of my neighbors's houses was covered in white.

- A. All of my neighbor's houses was covered in white.
- B. All of my neighbors' houses was covered in white.
- C. All of my neighbors' houses were covered in white.
- D. All of my neighbors houses were covered in white.

Use the following information from a handbook on language to answer question 11.

Use a comma

- to separate three or more words, phrases or clauses in a series: We bought *pens, pencils and paper*.
- to separate adjectives that equally modify the same noun: He is a *tired, old* man.
- to set off introductory words, phrases or clauses from the rest of the sentence: *Unfortunately*, we came too late.
- to set off parenthetical elements: He is, *as a rule*, a very calm man.

11. Which is the correct way to edit the sentence below?

The long soaking rain helped revive the very dry crops.

- A. The long soaking rain helped revive the very, dry crops.
- B. The long, soaking, rain helped revive the very dry crops.
- C. The long, soaking rain helped revive the very dry crops.
- D. The long soaking, rain helped revive the very dry crops.

12. Roberta is writing a paper tracing her family roots during the Civil War in the style of a genealogy report.

Which resource or reference would enhance the quality of her paper?

- A. atlas
- B. dictionary
- C. personal interview
- D. graphs and tables

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