

This document contains the answers to all items on the grade 8 ELA Practice Test, as well as alignment and scoring information. Refer to the [ELA Practice Test Guidance](#) for information on how to incorporate the practice tests into instruction, as well as a scoring activity.

Although the actual test contains only three sessions and two tasks—a Research Simulation Task (RST) AND a Literary Analysis Task (LAT) OR a Narrative Writing Task (NWT)—the practice test includes four sessions and all three tasks so students can address Writing standards 1, 2, and 3. See the [Grade 8 ELA Assessment Guide](#) for more information about the test’s design.

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Alignment
1 Literary Analysis Task	1	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: B	L.8.4, RL.8.4, RL.8.1
	2	EBSR	PART A: D PART B: C	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
	3	TE	PART A: B PART B: See TE Item Key	RL.8.4, RL.8.1
	4	TE	PART A: D PART B: See TE Item Key	RL.8.2, RL.8.1
	5	EBSR	PART A: D PART B: A	RL.8.3, RL.8.5, RL.8.1
	6	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: D	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
	7	PCR	See Scoring Table and Rubric	RL.8.6, RL.8.3, RL.8.1; W.8.2, W.8.4, W.8.9; L.8.1, L.8.2
1 Reading Passage Set	8	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: D	RI.8.5, RI.8.1
	9	EBSR	PART A: B PART B: A	RI.8.6, RI.8.5, RI.8.1

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Alignment
	10	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: D	RI.8.4, L.8.4, RI.8.1
	11	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: A	RI.8.2, RI.8.1
2 Research Simulation Task	12	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: D	RI.8.4, L.8.4, RI.8.1
	13	MS	PART A: B PART B: A, C	RI.8.2, RI.8.1
	14	EBSR	PART A: B PART B: C	RI.8.5, RI.8.1
	15	EBSR	PART A: B PART B: A	RI.8.4, L.8.4, RI.8.1
	16	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: C	RI.8.3, RI.8.1
	17	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: C	RI.8.4, L.8.4, RI.8.1
	18	EBSR	PART A: B PART B: B	RI.8.5, RI.8.1
	19	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: A	RI.8.2, RI.8.1
	20	PCR	See Scoring Table and Rubric Sample Student Responses	RI.8.3, RI.8.1; W.8.2, W.8.4, W.8.9; L.8.1, L.8.2
3 Narrative Writing Task	21	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: C	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
	22	TE	See TE Item Key	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
	23	MS	PART A: A, C PART B: C, D	RL.8.2, RL.8.1
	24	EBSR	PART A: D PART B: C	RL.8.2, RL.8.1
	25	PCR	See Scoring Table and Rubric Sample Student Responses	W.8.3, W.8.4; L.8.1, L.8.2

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Alignment
3 Reading Passage Set	26	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: B	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
	27	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: A	RL.8.3, RL.8.1
	28	TE	See TE Item Key	RL.8.2, RL.8.1
	29	MS	PART A: C PART B: D, E	RL.8.4, L.8.4, RL.8.1
	30	EBSR	PART A: B PART B: B	RL.8.2, RL.8.1
	31	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: A	RL.8.5, RL.8.1
4 Reading Literary and Informational Texts	32	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: B	RI.8.2, RI.8.1
	33	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: D	RI.8.3, RI.8.1
	34	EBSR	PART A: C PART B: D	RI.8.8, RI.8.1
	35	MS	PART A: C PART B: E, F	RI.8.6, RI.8.1
	36	MS	PART A: A PART B: A, B, F	RI.8.4, L.8.4, RI.8.1
	37	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: D	RI.8.5, RI.8.4, RI.8.1
	38	EBSR	PART A: B PART B: A	RI.8.6, RI.8.1
	39	EBSR	PART A: A PART B: C	RI.8.5, RI.8.1
	40	TE	See TE Item Key	RI.8.9, RI.8.1
	41	EBSR	PART A: D PART B: A	RI.8.2, RI.8.1

Item Type	Description	Scoring Information
Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-part item Part A measures reading comprehension Part B asks for evidence to support part A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worth up to two points (2, 1, or 0) Full credit (2 points): both parts correct Partial credit (1 point): Part A is correct; Part B is not correct No credit (0 points): only Part B is correct or neither part is correct
Multiple-Select (MS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires more than one answer (required number of correct answers in boldface in question) Can have one part (e.g., asks student to select three summary details) or two parts (e.g., Part A asks students to choose two themes; Part B asks for evidence for themes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worth up to two points (2, 1, or 0) Full credit (2 points): All answers correct Partial credit (1 point): for one-part MS item, 1 of 2 or 2 of 3 answers are correct or for an EBSR with MS in Part A, 1 of 2 or 2 of 3 answers in Part A are correct OR all answers are correct in part A, but Part B is incorrect No credit (0 points): Both parts are incorrect OR only Part B is correct
Technology-Enhanced (TE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have one part OR be part of an EBSR item Types: Drag and drop, drop-down menu, highlighting words/phrases/sentences, matching information (refer to LEAP 2025 Technology Enhanced Item Types document for more information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worth up to two points (2, 1, or 0) TE Items that are part of an EBSR follow the same general rules as EBSR items. Full credit (2 points): all correct responses—whether one or two parts—and ordered correctly, if required, OR if the item includes six or more correct responses, full credit when student chooses all or nearly all correct responses (number of correct responses minus 1) Partial credit (1 point): depends on item type <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For most one-part TE items: 1 point if student chooses at least half of the correct responses For one-part TE items that require paired responses: 1 point when student chooses at least half of the correctly paired responses For one-part TE items that require ordering (e.g., steps in a process): 1 point when a student chooses and correctly orders more than half of the correct responses For summary items that include at least two extra options (e.g., 6 summary details, but student has to choose and order 4 correctly): 1 point when student chooses all of the correct

		<p>responses but does not place them in the correct order OR when student chooses and correctly orders more than half of the correct responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No credit (0 points): does not meet partial credit rules or for a two-part TE item, only part B is correct
<p><u>Prose Constructed Response (PCR)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires student to show understanding of text(s) by writing a multi-paragraph response Addresses more than one text depending on the task (LAT: 2 texts; RST: 3 texts) Requires evidence from texts Measures Reading Comprehension and Written Expression, and Knowledge of Language and Conventions (LAT and RST); measures Written Expression and Knowledge of Language and Conventions (NWT) 	<p>LAT/RST: Worth up to 19 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Comprehension and Written Expression dimension: score point of 4, 3, 2, 1, 0; holistic score is multiplied by 4 to provide total dimension score Knowledge of Language and Conventions dimension (3, 2, 1, 0) <p>NWT: Worth up to 15 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Expression dimension: score point of 4, 3, 2, 1, 0; holistic score is multiplied by 3 to provide total dimension score Knowledge of Language and Conventions dimension (3, 2, 1, 0)

Key for Technology-Enhanced Items

Session 1, Item 3

- 32 "I was going to try and find some girls my age here in the complex so I wouldn't have to be the new kid in school," I said, trying to sound believable.
- 33 "Honey, you can make friends at your new school in the fall. Besides, this is a wonderful opportunity for you."
- 34 "Opportunity? For me? Or for you?"
- 36 I reached for a story card and scribbled:
- 37 ***Gypsy was sent to prison for stealing the magic ball. And when she was tossed into the dungeon below the castle she found the word "opportunity" written across the stone wall.***
- 38 Staring at the card, I wondered what should happen next. Maybe a daring escape or a sorceress could rescue her. When nothing came to me, I scratched out the word *opportunity* until it was a big blob of blue ink and tossed the card on the floor.
- 39 I heard Mom's footsteps coming toward my closed bedroom door. I held my breath, hoping she wouldn't knock.

Session 1, Item 4

Mom leaned back against the counter and sucked in a great gulp of air. "It's strange actually. I wasn't expecting it, but then at the last minute the funding came through." She folded her arms across her waist, "I'm going to Costa Rica to finish my research." (paragraph 9)

"Opportunity? For me? Or for you?" (paragraph 34)

"I think you're going to like the village." Her voice became a little muffled now, like her mouth was pressed right up against the door. "It's strange and beautiful at the same time and a perfect place to explore. You just might be surprised what you find there." She paused for a moment then continued. "Would you please talk to me?" (paragraph 45)

Clang cla-clang, clang clang. The next morning, I found Mom in the kitchen with a chisel and hammer, chipping away at the kitchen counter. Little flecks of white flew through the air like ceramic snow, landing softly on her olive-colored cheeks. (paragraph 1)

She stepped back and surveyed the half-demolished counter the way someone stands back to study a newly hung photograph. Wiping her cheek with the back of her hand she said, "There was this"—she searched the mess on the floor—"this one broken tile poking out and I thought I should fix it and . . ." (paragraph 5)

Suddenly last night's phone call made perfect sense. I inched closer and pushed at the broken tile with my toes. (paragraph 17)

"You're going to New Mexico and that's final." (paragraph 28)

Note: The image on the next page shows the question prior to a response being entered.

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Session 3, Item 22

Character	Trait	Evidence
peasant	honesty	The peasant takes back the horse and offers to feed him forever.
lion	avarice	The lion allows the fox to tie him to the horse in order to get the promised meal.
fox	honesty	The fox offers to help the horse.

Evidence

The peasant drives the horse away after years of service.

The peasant offers no sympathy to the horse and gives the horse a task to prove himself.

The fox plays a trick on the lion.

The lion roars angrily.

Note: The image on the next page shows the question prior to a response being entered.

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The lion allows the fox to tie him to the horse in order to get the promised meal.

The lion roars angrily.

The peasant takes back the horse and offers to feed him forever.

The fox offers to help the horse.

Session 3, Item 28*

THEMES	EVIDENCE
Persistence is often necessary to achieve a goal.	“Again it came to the young man in a dream, and desired to know where it should live and what form it should take. . . . At length it was told to choose a place itself, and it did so.” (paragraph 6)
The origin of the natural world can be revealed through imaginative stories.	“The next morning thousands of white flowers were seen on the surface of the lakes, and the Indians gave them this name, <i>wah-be-gwan-nee</i> (white flower).” (paragraph 8)

THEMES

- Adventure can be found in unexpected places.
- Friendship is difficult to obtain but is worth the effort.
- People can gain knowledge through overcoming hardships.
- The loss of innocence can change the way people view the world.

EVIDENCE

- “It was such a time, when earth was a paradise and man worthily its possessor...” (paragraph 2)
- “Instead of amusements in close rooms, the sport of the field was theirs.” (paragraph 2)
- “The next night five tall, noble-looking, adventurous braves were sent to welcome the stranger to earth.” (paragraph 6)
- “Children!—yes, they shall be my playmates, and I will kiss their slumber by the side of cool lakes.” (paragraph 7)

*The evidence needs to be placed beside the correct theme, but the themes do not need to be in a particular order.

Note: The image on the next page shows the question prior to a response being entered.

THEMES	EVIDENCE

THEMES

- Adventure can be found in unexpected places.**
- Persistence is often necessary to achieve a goal.**
- Friendship is difficult to obtain but is worth the effort.**
- People can gain knowledge through overcoming hardships.**
- The loss of innocence can change the way people view the world.**
- The origin of the natural world can be revealed through imaginative stories.**

EVIDENCE

- “It was such a time, when earth was a paradise and man worthily its possessor...” (paragraph 2)**
- “Instead of amusements in close rooms, the sport of the field was theirs.” (paragraph 2)**
- “The next night five tall, noble-looking, adventurous braves were sent to welcome the stranger to earth.” (paragraph 6)**
- “Again it came to the young man in a dream, and desired to know where it should live and what form it should take. . . . At length it was told to choose a place itself, and it did so.” (paragraph 6)**
- “Children!—yes, they shall be my playmates, and I will kiss their slumber by the side of cool lakes.” (paragraph 7)**
- “The next morning thousands of white flowers were seen on the surface of the lakes, and the Indians gave them this name, *wah-be-gwan-nee* (white flower).” (paragraph 8)**

Session 4, Item 40

"The value of a humanoid over other designs is the ability to use the same workspace and tools"

Judgment ▼

". . . it is the first dexterous humanoid robot in space"

Fact ▼

". . . NASA and General Motors are working together with assistance from Oceaneering Space Systems engineers to accelerate development of the next generation of robots"

Fact ▼

"Another way this might be beneficial is during a robotic precursor mission."

Speculation ▼

Scoring of Grade 8 PCRs				
Task	Dimensions	Points by Dimension	Total Points	Rubric
Literary Analysis	Reading Comprehension and Written Expression*	16 points (4 times holistic score)	19	LAT/RST Rubric
	Conventions	3 points		
Research Simulation	Reading Comprehension and Written Expression*	16 points (4 times holistic score)	19	LAT/RST Rubric
	Conventions	3 points		
Narrative Writing	Written Expression	12 points (3 times holistic score)	15	NWT Rubric
	Conventions	3 points		

*When scoring the Reading Comprehension and Written Expression dimension, the holistic score (4, 3, 2, 1, 0) is determined, based on which score point best describes that response. That holistic score is multiplied by 4. This means that if a student receives a 2 for Reading Comprehension and Written Expression, the student will receive a score of 8 for this dimension. This score is then added to the Conventions score to provide the total score for the RST and the LAT.

Grades 6–10 Literary Analysis Task (LAT) and Research Simulation Task (RST) Scoring Rubric

Construct Measured	Score Point 4	Score Point 3	Score Point 2	Score Point 1	Score Point 0
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates full comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and inferentially by providing an accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides effective and comprehensive development of the claim or topic that is consistently appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience; uses clear reasoning supported by relevant text-based evidence in the development of the claim or topic; is effectively organized with clear and coherent writing; establishes and maintains an effective style. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and/or inferentially by providing a mostly accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides mostly effective development of the claim or topic that is mostly appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience; uses mostly clear reasoning supported by relevant text-based evidence in the development of the claim or topic; is organized with mostly clear and coherent writing; establishes and maintains a mostly effective style. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates basic comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and/or inferentially by providing a generally accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides some development of the claim or topic that is somewhat appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience; uses some reasoning and text-based evidence in the development of the claim or topic; demonstrates some organization with somewhat coherent writing; has a style that is somewhat effective. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates limited comprehension of ideas stated explicitly and/or inferentially by providing a minimally accurate analysis; addresses the prompt and provides minimal development of the claim or topic that is limited in its appropriateness to the task, purpose, and audience; uses limited reasoning and text-based evidence; demonstrates limited organization and coherence; has a style that is minimally effective. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates no comprehension of ideas by providing an inaccurate or no analysis; is undeveloped and/or inappropriate to the task, purpose, and audience; includes little to no text-based evidence; lacks organization and coherence; has an inappropriate style.
Knowledge of Language and Conventions		<p>The student response demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be a few minor errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage, but meaning is clear.</p>	<p>The student response demonstrates some command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that occasionally impede understanding, but the meaning is generally clear.</p>	<p>The student response demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that often impede understanding.</p>	<p>The student response does not demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity. Frequent and varied errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage impede understanding.</p>

Grades 6–10 Narrative Writing Task (NWT) Scoring Rubric

Construct Measured	Score Point 4	Score Point 3	Score Point 2	Score Point 1	Score Point 0
Written Expression	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is effectively developed with narrative elements and is consistently appropriate to the task; is effectively organized with clear and coherent writing; establishes and maintains an effective style. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is mostly effectively developed with narrative elements and is mostly appropriate to the task; is organized with mostly clear and coherent writing; establishes and maintains a mostly effective style. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is developed with some narrative elements and is generally appropriate to the task; demonstrates some organization with somewhat coherent writing; has a style that is somewhat effective. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is minimally developed with few narrative elements and is limited in its appropriateness to the task; demonstrates limited organization and coherence; has a style that has limited effectiveness. 	<p>The student response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is undeveloped and/or inappropriate to the task; lacks organization and coherence; has an inappropriate style.
Knowledge of Language and Conventions		<p>The student response demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be a few minor errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage, but meaning is clear.</p>	<p>The student response demonstrates some command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that occasionally impede understanding, but the meaning is generally clear.</p>	<p>The student response demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English at an appropriate level of complexity. There may be errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage that often impede understanding.</p>	<p>The student response does not demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity. Frequent and varied errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage impede understanding.</p>

NOTES:

- The reading dimension is **not** scored for elicited narrative stories.
- The elements of coherence, clarity, and cohesion to be assessed are expressed in the grade-level standards W1-W4.
- Tone is not assessed in grade 6.
- Per the [Louisiana Student Standards](#), in grades 6-8, narrative elements may include establishing a context, situating events in a time and place, developing a point of view, and developing characters' motives, in addition to the grades 3-5 narrative elements: establishing a situation; organizing a logical event sequence; describing scenes, objects, or people; developing characters' personalities; and using dialogue as appropriate. The elements to be assessed are expressed in the grade-level standard W3.