The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Writing Items only

English Language Arts Item and Scoring Sampler

2017–2018 Grade 6

**STANDALONE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**8.** Read the sentence.
For my research paper, I studied the giant sculptures on exibit at the museum.

Which change would correct a spelling mistake in the sentence?

1. Change research to reserch.
2. Change giant to giante.
3. Change sculptures to sculpters.
4. Change exibit to exhibit.

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**9.** Read the paragraph.

(1) Plants, just like animals, need certain things to stay alive. (2) Water is one thing that is needed to stay alive by both plants and animals. (3) If a plant does not have water, it will start to look droopy, and its leaves will dry up and eventually fall off the stems. (4) If the plant goes without water for too long, it will die. (5) Plants need other things too, such as air and light. (6) Most plants, but not all, also need soil. (7) Those that do not need soil can get the nutrients, or food, that they need in other ways instead.

Which revision that combines sentences 1 and 2 into one sentence **best** improves the style of the paragraph?

1. Plants and certain animals are the same in that they need water to stay alive.
2. By plants and animals, water is needed by both to stay alive.
3. Water, by both plants and animals, is needed to stay alive.
4. Plants, just like animals, need water to stay alive.

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**10.** Read the paragraph.

(1) Some people think bananas, which are available at many grocery stores, make good desserts. (2) They are healthier than many other sweet foods. (3) Many people believe, that sugary desserts should be avoided. (4) Eating fruits like bananas may be a great way to enjoy a healthy dessert.

Which revision should be made to the paragraph?

1. Remove the comma after stores in sentence 1.
2. Add a comma after healthier in sentence 2.
3. Remove the comma after believe in sentence 3.
4. Add a comma after fruits in sentence 4.

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**11.** Read the paragraph.

(1) Monarch butterflies, like many other animals, migrate south for the winter. (2) Butterfly lovers flocks to Michoacán, Mexico, every year to see the millions of monarchs that spend the winter there. (3) These monarchs hatched somewhere in the north the previous spring, and because monarchs have a short lifespan, no single monarch lives long enough to make the return trip. (4) That task is left to their offspring, who somehow find their way north.

Which change should be made to the paragraph to correct the error in agreement?

1. Change migrate to migrates in sentence 1.
2. Change flocks to flock in sentence 2.
3. Change lives to live in sentence 3.
4. Change find to finds in sentence 4.

**WRITER’S CHECKLIST AND OPINION WRITING PROMPT**

**12.**

Some people prefer to study for a test in a quiet place with few or no people. Others prefer to study in a noisy place with many people and sounds. Think about the best conditions for studying for an important test. Consider the location, noise level, time of day, presence of others, or anything else.

Write an argumentative essay for your teacher supporting your claim about which conditions are best for studying for a test and why they are better than other conditions. Be sure to use reasons and evidence to support your argument.

**Writer’s Checklist for the Argumentative Writing Prompt**

PLAN before you write

* Make sure you understand what the prompt is asking you to do.
* Think about your task and your audience.
* Think about the topic and the claim you want to support for that topic.
* Organize your ideas on scratch paper. Use a thought map, outline, or other

graphic organizer to plan your essay.

FOCUS while you write

* State your claim about the topic.
* Support your claim with reasons and evidence.
* Organize your paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
* Use transitions to connect your ideas.

PROOFREAD after you write

I stayed focused on the topic.

I used reasons and evidence to support my claim.

I corrected any errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice.

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**Directions:** On the following pages is the Argumentative Writing Prompt. **12.**

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**Go to the next page to begin writing your response.**