The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Writing Only

English Language Arts Item and Scoring Sampler

2018–2019 Grade 6

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST DIRECTIONS FOR LANGUAGE QUESTIONS**

**Directions:**

On the following pages are the Language questions . .

**Directions for Multiple-Choice Questions:**

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices. For the multiple-choice questions:

* Read each question and choose the best answer.
* Only one of the answers provided is correct.
* Record your choice in the answer booklet.

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**STANDALONE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**11.** Read the paragraph.

(1) Students at Creekview Middle School must have one year of a foreign language class before they go on to attend high school. (2) Many students take more than one year of foreign language because you enjoy the experience of learning a different language.
(3) A student last year said that her favorite part of being in a foreign language class was the end-of-year field trip to the annual Festival of Languages. (4) All students agreed that their trip to the festival was a memorable event.

Which change should be made to the paragraph to correct the inappropriate shift in pronoun person?

1. Change they to you in sentence 1.
2. Change you to they in sentence 2.
3. Change her to your in sentence 3.
4. Change their to our in sentence 4.

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**12.** Read the paragraph.

(1) Big Ben is one of the most famous clock towers in the world, and it is also one of the largest. (2) In fact, it is the third largest clock tower in the world. (3) The name “Big Ben” refers to the bell, which was named after Sir Benjamin Hall, who ordered it. (4) As for the bell itself, it weighs an astonishing thirteen tons.

Which sentence should end with an exclamation point to **most** effectively show excitement?

1. sentence 1
2. sentence 2
3. sentence 3
4. sentence 4

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**13.** Read the paragraph.

(1) The kiwi is a flightless bird that lives in the grasslands of New Zealand. (2) This interesting bird has an excellent sense of smell. (3) Which it uses to find bugs and seeds on the ground. (4) The kiwi is the only bird that has nostrils at the tip of its beak.

Which sentence should be revised to correct the inappropriate sentence fragment?

1. sentence 1
2. sentence 2
3. sentence 3
4. sentence 4

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**14.** Read the paragraph from a story.

(1) Upon entering the butterfly garden, Min and Cameron were amazed. (2) Hundreds of butterflies fluttered through the air above them. (3) Min sat down on a large, knobby tree stump. (4) A pretty butterfly landed on her.

Which revision of sentence 4 **best** uses details to describe the event?

1. A dark butterfly with rare colors set down on Min’s arm after being in the air for quite

some time.

1. An extraordinary butterfly with incredible markings on its wings flew down and found itself on Min’s arm.
2. A large brown butterfly with pale blue spots hovered and then, with a whisper of its wings, perched gently on Min’s arm.
3. A large butterfly with some different patterns on its wings just stayed in the air for a while and then was resting on Min’s arm.