

GRADE 7 ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS PRE-TEST

Baseline Diagnostic Assessment • Indiana Academic Standards (2023)

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION & VOCABULARY

Read each passage and question carefully. Choose or write the best response based on textual evidence.

PASSAGE 1: THE ECHO OF THE FORGE

As the afternoon sky turned a bruised, stormy purple, Marcus worked tirelessly at the iron anvil. The rhythmic clanging of his hammer had echoed through the village of Oakhaven since dawn, just as his father's had for forty years. While other apprentices fled to their homes at the first rumble of thunder, Marcus stayed to finish tempering the village gate hinges. His hands were calloused and stained with soot, but his focus never wavered. He knew that without these reinforced hinges, the floodgates would collapse under the storm's pressure, leaving the lower valley unprotected.

Question 1

7.RC.1 (E)

Based on *Passage 1*, which statement best infers Marcus's character motivation, supported by explicit text evidence?

- A. Marcus stays because he fears being punished by his father if the work is unfinished.
- B. Marcus is driven by a deep sense of responsibility to protect his community from harm.
- C. Marcus wants to prove that he is faster and stronger than the other village apprentices.
- D. Marcus enjoys working in storm conditions because it helps cool the heated metal faster.

Question 2

7.RC.2 (E)

Which option best describes the development of a central theme in *Passage 1*?

- A. The theme that personal sacrifice for the greater good defines true commitment develops through Marcus's persistence despite the approaching storm.
- B. The theme that physical strength overcomes all obstacles develops through Marcus's ability to wield heavy iron hammers.
- C. The theme that nature is always harsher than human ambition develops through the stormy purple sky.
- D. The theme that tradition should be strictly followed develops through Marcus repeating his father's exact routine.

Question 3

7.RC.3 (E)

How does the setting and rising conflict of the storm contribute to the narrative structure of the text?

- A. It creates a subplot involving the apprentices' home lives.
- B. It introduces an internal conflict regarding Marcus's choice of trade.
- C. It creates urgency and elevates the stakes of Marcus's task, driving the plot toward its climax.
- D. It provides a humorous resolution to an otherwise dull work day.

Question 4

7.RC.13 (E)

The Latin root **bell** means "war" or "conflict" (as in *belligerent*). Based on this root and the prefix *re-* (again/against), what is the definition of the word **rebellion**?

- A. A peaceful agreement between opposing nations.
- B. An act of violent or open resistance against an established authority or government.
- C. The study of ancient military hardware and armor.
- D. A state of quiet preparation prior to a harvest season.

PASSAGE 2: THE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT DILEMMA

(1) In today's interconnected world, young people leave digital footprints with every click, post, and search. (2) While social media offers unprecedented opportunities for learning and social connection, many teenagers fail to realize that their online posts form a permanent record. (3) Critics argue that strictly monitoring youth internet access restricts personal freedom and self-expression. (4) However, recent surveys reveal that over 70% of high school college admissions officers and prospective employers review applicants' public social media profiles before making decisions. (5) Therefore, learning to curate a positive, responsible online presence is not about censoring youth; it is an essential modern life skill.

Question 5

7.RC.7 (E)

What is the author's primary perspective in *Passage 2*, and how do they distinguish it from opposing views?

- A. The author believes social media should be banned for teens, directly opposing critics who want total freedom.
- B. The author advocates for digital literacy, distinguishing their view from critics by showing that responsibility protects future opportunities rather than just restricting freedom.
- C. The author claims employers have no right to check online profiles, opposing current corporate policy.
- D. The author argues that online posts are temporary, refuting the claim that digital footprints last.

Question 6

7.RC.8 (E)

Which evaluation best assesses the argument and evidence presented in Sentence 4 of *Passage 2*?

- A. The claim is weak because it relies on emotional language and personal anecdotes rather than facts.
- B. The evidence is relevant and sufficient because it provides a specific statistic from key decision-makers (admissions officers and employers) to support the importance of online presence.
- C. The reasoning is biased because it only considers students who want to attend college.
- D. The evidence is irrelevant to the overall discussion about digital footprints.

Question 7

7.RC.12

Consider the words **curate**, **clean**, and **sanitize**. Although they have similar basic meanings, how does the connotation of **curate** differ in Sentence 5?

- A. "Curate" implies carefully selecting and organizing positive content, whereas "sanitize" suggests hiding or erasing bad things.
- B. "Curate" has a negative connotation of deception and exaggeration.
- C. "Curate" means erasing all online accounts completely.
- D. There is no difference in connotation among these three words.

PART 2: WRITING & LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Demonstrate command of English grammar, mechanics, sentence structure, and composition.

Question 8

7.W.1 (E)

Short Constructed Response: Prompt: Should middle schools replace traditional printed textbooks with personal digital tablets? Write a brief 3–4 sentence argument introduction. You must include: (1) A clear claim, (2) Acknowledgment of an opposing viewpoint, and (3) A transition into your reasoning.

Question 9

7.W.6a (E)

Which of the following sentences correctly resolves the subject-verb agreement error?

- A. The list of debate team requirements are posted on the main hallway bulletin board.
- B. The list of debate team requirements is posted on the main hallway bulletin board.
- C. The list of debate team requirements were posted on the main hallway bulletin board.
- D. The list of debate team requirements remain posted on the main hallway bulletin board.

Question 10

7.W.6b (E)

Which sentence successfully corrects the misplaced modifier in: *"Walking down the hallway, the lockers were painted bright blue."*

- A. The lockers were painted bright blue, walking down the hallway.
- B. Bright blue lockers were painted while walking down the hallway.
- C. As the students walked down the hallway, they noticed the lockers were painted bright blue.
- D. Walking down the hallway, blue was the color of the painted lockers.

Question 11

7.W.6c (E)

Classify the following sentence structure: *"Although she was tired, Maria finished her science project, and she went straight to bed."*

- A. Simple sentence
- B. Compound sentence
- C. Complex sentence
- D. Compound-complex sentence

Question 12

7.W.7a (E)

Which option places commas correctly around the introductory subordinate clause?

- A. When the final bell rang students, rushed out of the classroom, to catch the bus.
- B. When the final bell rang, students rushed out of the classroom to catch the bus.
- C. When the final bell, rang students rushed out of the classroom to catch the bus.
- D. When, the final bell rang students rushed out of the classroom to catch the bus.

PART 3: COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Analyze discussion dynamics, active listening, and media evaluation strategies.

Question 13

7.CC.3 (E)

Constructed Response: During a class discussion on school uniform policies, a peer presents a study showing that uniforms reduce morning stress for families. Explain how an active listener should acknowledge this new evidence, even if they personally oppose uniforms.

Question 14

7.CC.8 (E)

Constructed Response: Describe two specific techniques that media advertisers use (such as color choice, loaded language, or celebrity endorsement) to attract attention and persuade young audiences. Briefly explain how one technique influences perception.
