

Communication Arts/Literature (Grades 5–12)

Subtest 1 Sample Items

1. An Internet or intranet multimedia application should be considered for a presentation when the subject matter involved is:

- A. experienced best through direct, purposeful contact with real objects.
- B. linked linearly and not easily segmented into nodes or chunks.
- C. exposed to frequent or even periodic changes, additions, or deletions.
- D. established, old, or inflexible with very little if anything new ever added.

2. Which of the following questions should a teacher ask to evaluate students' literal comprehension of a story about a girl and her dog?

- A. What kind of dog does the main character have, and what do the two like to do together?
- B. Why would the main character want to give up her dog, and what might the consequences be?
- C. What would happen if the main character moved with her dog from the country to the city?
- D. How could the main character train her dog to navigate safely through busy streets and heavy traffic?

3. Read the excerpt below from a functional text; then answer the question that follows.

Steps to Buying a House

Step 1: Shop for a mortgage. It's important to find out up front how much you can borrow so that you'll know how much house you can get.

Step 2: Hire a lawyer, if you don't already have one.

Step 3: Find out the selling prices, NOT asking prices, of houses in your preferred neighborhood or community and come up with a down payment, which is usually between 15 and 20 percent of the price.

Step 4: Find a licensed real-estate agent with a good reputation and no complaints or suspensions on his or her record.

Step 5: Go looking for your new home, and when you find a prospect, make a reasonable offer. Try to learn what the seller's circumstances are and whether the asking price has been reduced at all over time. You don't have to offer the asking price.

Step 6: Wait for a reply, and expect to receive a counteroffer from the seller if your offer was below the asking price.

Step 7: Once your offer is accepted, you'll likely need to put down a deposit (1 percent) to keep the house until the contract is signed. Do NOT sign the contract until you have reviewed it with your lawyer.

Step 8: Contact your lawyer. He or she should expect to receive the contract from the seller's lawyer. Make sure that you understand what each clause in the contract means, even if the language is confusing (this is what your lawyer is for). Pay particular attention to the "contingencies" and "all goes well" conditions described in the contract. The contract should set the closing date, which is negotiable.

Step 9: If everything in the contract is agreeable, sign it and provide a check for the down payment.

Step 10: Submit your mortgage application and application fee. Review with the lender all the closing costs and fees before signing the loan contract.

Step 11: On the closing date, sign all the papers, and be ready to write lots of separate checks for each of the closing costs.

According to the information in this excerpt, after an offer for a house is accepted but before signing a contract, a home buyer should:

- A. determine typical selling prices in the area.
- B. find a real-estate agent.
- C. contact his or her lawyer.
- D. submit his or her mortgage application.

4. Read the poem below; then answer the question that follows.

Passing through huddled and ugly walls,
 By doorways where women haggard
 Looked from their hunger-deep eyes,
 Haunted with shadows of hunger-hands,
 Out from the huddled and ugly walls,
 I came sudden, at the city's edge,
 On a blue burst of lake—
 Long lake waves breaking under the sun
 On a spray-flung curve of shore;
 And a fluttering storm of gulls,
 Masses of great gray wings
 And flying white bellies
 Veering and wheeling free in the open.

Which of the following sound devices is used in the first six lines of the poem to create one mood and in the last seven lines to create a different, contrasting mood?

- A. consonance
- B. onomatopoeia
- C. assonance
- D. alliteration

5. Which of the following excerpts is most characteristic of the style and subject matter of the works of Virginia Woolf?

- A. She was slender, and apparently scarcely past girlhood: an admirable form, and the most exquisite little face that I have ever had the pleasure of beholding: small features, very fair; flaxen ringlets, or rather golden, hanging loose on her delicate neck; and eyes, had they been agreeable in expression, they would have been irresistible: fortunately for my susceptible heart, the only sentiment they evinced hovered between scorn and a kind of desperation, singularly unnatural to be detected there.
- B. So with the house empty and the doors locked and the mattresses rolled round, those stray airs, advance guards of great armies, blustered in, brushed bare boards, nibbled and fanned, met nothing in bedroom or drawing-room that wholly resisted them but only hangings that flapped, wood that creaked, the bare legs of tables, saucepans and china already furred, tarnished, cracked.
- C. The next morning it was still snowing furiously when we got away with our new stock of saddles and accoutrements. We mounted and started. The snow lay so deep on the ground that there was no sign of a road perceptible, and the snowfall was so thick that we could not see more than a hundred yards ahead, else we could have guided our course by the mountain ranges.
- D. The woods were already filled with shadows one June evening, just before eight o'clock, though a bright sunset still glimmered faintly among the trunks of the trees. A little girl was driving home her cow, a plodding, dilatory, provoking creature in her behavior, but a valued companion for all that. They were going away from the western light, and striking deep into the dark woods, but their feet were familiar with the path, and it was no matter whether their eyes could see it or not.

Source: Woolf, Virginia. "To the Lighthouse." Used by permission of The Society of Authors as the Literary Representative of the Estate of Virginia Woolf.

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	C	I. Media Literacy	0002
2	A	II. Reading	0004
3	C	II. Reading	0006
4	C	III. Literature	0008
5	B	III. Literature	0009

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