

English as a Second Language (Grades K–12)

Subtest 2 Sample Items

1. The Great Vowel Shift that took place during the transition from Middle English to Early Modern English was characterized by:

- A. systematic alteration of the pronunciation of long vowels.
- B. gradual deletion of archaic vowel sounds from the phonemic system.
- C. systematic simplification of approximately 100 vowel sounds to the existing 5 vowels.
- D. gradual incorporation of foreign vowel sounds into the phonemic system.

2. Children frequently develop native-like proficiency in a second language with greater ease than adults. The best explanation for this phenomenon is that compared to adults children tend to:

- A. have a greater ability to internalize language.
- B. experience less influence from affective factors.
- C. have a larger capacity for abstract thinking.
- D. experience less transfer from the home language.

3. Which of the following practices in a culturally diverse school is likely to be most effective in promoting cultural pluralism in the school community?

- A. sponsoring traditional music and dance presentations by multicultural performers several times a year
- B. including in the social studies curriculum lessons about each home culture represented in the school
- C. observing holidays and other celebrations from students' home cultures throughout the year
- D. incorporating multicultural perspectives into all aspects of the school's curriculum and policies

4. Which of the following student activities during a sheltered mathematics unit on statistics and probability is likely to be most effective in making learning meaningful for high school English language learners?

- A. analyzing charts that depict the probability that a person has various physical characteristics (e.g., brown eyes, left-handedness)
- B. determining the probability of a certain outcome in a game (e.g., coin toss; rock, paper, scissors)
- C. gathering statistical data about their city and comparing the data to that of other cities in the state, nation, and/or world
- D. conducting research about a particular profession that requires knowledge of statistics and presenting their findings to the class

5. Which of the following steps would be most appropriate for an elementary school ESL teacher to take *first* when planning a lesson on Minnesota geography for beginning-level English language learners?

- A. gathering authentic resources to enhance students' development of relevant language and content-area skills
- B. identifying relevant Minnesota English language proficiency standards and grade-level academic standards
- C. creating informal assessments to measure students' comprehension of key concepts and mastery of learning objectives
- D. designing a variety of activities that address students' diverse learning styles and language and content-area needs

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	A	I. Linguistics, Language Acquisition, and Cultural Pluralism	0007

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
2	A	I. Linguistics, Language Acquisition, and Cultural Pluralism	0008
3	D	I. Linguistics, Language Acquisition, and Cultural Pluralism	0009
4	C	II. Principles of Second-Language Teaching	0011
5	B	II. Principles of Second-Language Teaching	0012

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