Middle Level Communication Arts/Literature (Grades 5–8)

Subtest 2 Sample Items

1. Which of the following forms of communication apprehension is most common and generally the easiest to manage or overcome?
   A. audience-specific apprehension
   B. situational apprehension
   C. context-based apprehension
   D. traitlike apprehension

2. Which of the following sentences contains an error in usage?
   A. I am uninterested in becoming a lawyer.
   B. The Union comprises 50 states.
   C. Newton developed the principle of gravity.
   D. Victory alluded them for two years.

3. Which of the following introductory sentences would most effectively engage readers' interest in an essay on the human brain?
   A. The average adult human brain is five to six inches wide, six to seven inches long, and three to four inches high.
   B. In one day, a single human brain generates more electrical impulses than do all the telephones in the world.
   C. In the human brain, the right side keeps track of body position and the position of objects around the body.
   D. The human brain can function for four to six minutes without oxygen, after which brain cells begin to die.

4. Which of the following versions of a sentence from an expository essay would be most effective for a writer to use to convey an idea clearly and concisely?
   A. For years upon years, monarch butterflies have embarked on noble quests from North America to the balmy, craggy lands of central Mexico.
   B. Monarch butterflies travel prodigious distances for aeons in order to evade the icebox-like winters of Canada and find warm refuge in Mexico.
   C. Each year, millions of monarch butterflies migrate from Canada and the United States to their winter grounds in mountainous central Mexico.
   D. Great masses of monarch butterflies form a migratory horde that treks annually from inhospitable U.S. and Canadian lands to Mexico’s oases.

5. Which of the following versions of a sentence from a descriptive essay makes the best use of specific nouns, strong verbs, and effective modifiers to convey the subject precisely?
   A. The graceful ballerina swept across the stage, spun once, and leapt quickly and lightly into her partner’s outstretched arms.
   B. The beautiful dancer moved from left to right, turned around, and jumped high in the air toward a dancer who caught her.
   C. The impressive performer shot across the stage, made one rotation, exploded upward, descended, and a man collected her.
   D. The attractive ballet dancer came out, did various movements, including a jump, after which she fell into her partner’s arms.

Answer Key

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