

Communication Arts/Literature (Grades 5–12)

Subtest 2 Sample Items

1. Which of the following skills would be most important to use when listening actively to a friend in trouble?

- A. using silence and minimal reinforcers to communicate genuine interest and support
- B. expressing helpfulness by offering advice and guidance judiciously
- C. using nonverbal cues that project an attitude of courage and confidence
- D. asking specific, probing questions that help reveal the roots of the problem quickly

2. Which of the following sentences contains an error in usage?

- A. The coach's temper flared and his voice rose.
- B. The carpenter used a vise to secure the wood for drilling.
- C. The driver navigated the tortuous road skillfully.
- D. The lawyer tried to illicit the truth from the witness.

3. Which of the following details would provide a writer with the best support for the topic sentence below?

Although the human heart is susceptible to many problems, such as leaking valves and inflamed membranes, coronary heart disease, which can lead to heart attack and heart failure, is actually the number-one killer.

- A. In the United States, heart disease is the cause of death for 500,000 men and women annually, while worldwide, it take the lives of 7.2 million people each year.
- B. The cause of most heart attacks is plaque that becomes embedded within the artery wall, which eventually ruptures, cracks the wall, and triggers the formation of a blood clot.
- C. During an average lifetime, the human heart will beat two to three billion times and pump 50 to 65 million gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of vessels.
- D. It is true that more men than women have heart attacks, and they have them at a younger age, but after menopause, rates of heart disease in women increase two to three times.

4. A writer is developing an essay in which she will argue that increased commercialism on the Internet would be good for consumers. Which of the following questions would be most important for the writer to anticipate and be prepared to respond to in the essay?

- A. What percentage of children under 12 years and adults over 70 years currently use the Internet to purchase goods and services?
- B. What additional protections would consumers have from the irresponsible collection, storage, and use of their personal information on the Internet?
- C. Why do consumers turn to the Internet to buy products that are readily available in brick-and-mortar businesses right in their local communities?
- D. How much more time would consumers spend navigating through the additional Internet pop-up ads and marketing surveys that they would encounter?

5. A student is developing an analytical essay on the characters Dogberry and Verges in William Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. As part of the essay, the student plans to make the claim that Dogberry often uses many words to convey one basic idea. Which of the following excerpts from the play, all of which are lines from Dogberry, would best support the student's claim?

- A. They say he wears a key in his ear and a lock hanging by it and borrows money in God's name, the which he hath used so long and never paid that now men grow hardhearted and will lend nothing for God's sake. Pray you, examine him upon that point.
- B. Marry, sir, they have committed false report; moreover, they have spoken untruths; secondarily, they are slanders; sixth and lastly, they have belied a lady; thirdly, they have verified unjust things; and to conclude, they are lying knaves.
- C. Why, you speak like an ancient and most quiet watchman, for I cannot see how sleeping should offend. Only have a care that your bills be not stolen. Well, you are to call at all the alehouses and bid those that are drunk get them to bed.
- D. Well, for your favor, sir, why, give God thanks, and make no boast of it; and for your writing and reading, let that appear when there is no need of such vanity. You are thought here to be

the most senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch; therefore bear you the lantern.

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	A	I. Listening and Speaking	0011
2	D	II. Components of Writing	0014
3	A	III. Modes of Writing	0017
4	B	III. Modes of Writing	0018
5	B	III. Modes of Writing	0020

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