

## 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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