



GRADE SIX

AIR PREPARATION

Here are two Passage Sets. Each Passage Set contains two readings and one writing question that you can use to prepare for the AIR exam.

Passage Set One

Passage 1: from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

In this excerpt from A Midsummer Night's Dream, a nobleman named Egeus brings his daughter Hermia to the duke of Athens, Theseus, with a complaint against her because she is refusing to marry the man he has chosen for her.

THESEUS

1 Thanks, good Egeus. What's the news with thee?

EGEUS

Full of vexation¹ come I with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.—
Stand forth, Demetrius.—My noble lord,

5 This man hath my consent to marry her.—
Stand forth, Lysander.—And my gracious duke,
This man hath bewitched the bosom of my child.—
Thou, thou, Lysander, thou hast given her rhymes,
And interchanged love tokens with my child.
10 Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung

...

With cunning hast thou filched my daughter's heart,
Turned her obedience (which is due to me)
To stubborn harshness.—And, my gracious duke,
Be it so she will not here before your grace

15 Consent to marry with Demetrius,
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens.
As she is mine, I may dispose of her—
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death—according to our law
20 Immediately provided in that case.

THESEUS

What say you, Hermia? Be advised, fair maid:
To you your father should be as a god,
One that composed your beauties, yea, and one
To whom you are but as a form in wax,

25 By him imprinted and within his power
 To leave the figure or disfigure it.
 Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

HERMIA

So is Lysander.

THESEUS

. . .

But in this kind, wanting your father's voice,
 30 The other must be held the worthier.

HERMIA

I would my father looked but with my eyes.

THESEUS

Rather your eyes must with his judgment look.

HERMIA

I do entreat your grace to pardon me.
 I know not by what power I am made bold
 35 Nor how it may concern my modesty
 In such a presence here to plead my thoughts,
 But I beseech your grace that I may know
 The worst that may befall me in this case,
 If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

THESEUS

40 Either to die the death or to abjure
 Forever the society of men.
 Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires.
 Know of your youth. Examine well your blood—
 Whether, if you yield not to your father's choice,
 45 You can endure the livery of a nun,
 For aye to be in shady cloister mew'd,
 To live a barren sister all your life,
 Chanting faint hymns to the cold, fruitless moon.

. . .

HERMIA

So will I grow, so live, so die, my lord

1-the state of being annoyed, frustrated, angered, or worried

Excerpt from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. In the public domain.

Passage 2: from *Tales from Shakespeare: A Midsummer-Night's Dream* by Charles and Mary Lamb

50 THERE was a law in the city of Athens which gave to its citizens the power of compelling their daughters to marry whomsoever they pleased; for upon a daughter's refusing to marry the man her father had chosen to be her husband, the father was empowered by this law to cause her to be put to death; but as fathers do not often desire the death of their own daughters, even though they do happen to prove a little refractory, this law was seldom or never put in execution, though perhaps the young ladies of that city were not unfrequently threatened by their parents with the terrors of it.

51 There was one instance, however, of an old man, whose name was Egeus, who actually did come before Theseus (at that time the reigning duke of Athens), to complain that his daughter Hermia, whom he had commanded to marry Demetrius, a young man of a noble Athenian family, refused to obey him, because she loved another young Athenian, named Lysander. Egeus demanded justice of Theseus, and desired that this cruel law might be put in force against his daughter.

52 Hermia pleaded in excuse for her disobedience, that Demetrius had formerly professed love for her dear friend Helena, and that Helena loved Demetrius to distraction; but this honourable reason, which Hermia gave for not obeying her father's command, moved not the stern Egeus.

53 Theseus, though a great and merciful prince, had no power to alter the laws of his country; therefore he could only give Hermia four days to consider of it: and at the end of that time, if she still refused to marry Demetrius, she was to be put to death.

54 When Hermia was dismissed from the presence of the duke, she went to her lover Lysander, and told him the peril she was in, and that she must either give him up and marry Demetrius, or lose her life in four days.

55 Lysander was in great affliction at hearing these evil tidings; but recollecting that he had an aunt who lived at some distance from Athens, and that at the place where she lived the cruel law could not be put in force against Hermia (this law not extending beyond the boundaries of the city), he proposed to Hermia that she should steal out of her father's house that night, and go with him to his aunt's house, where he would marry her.

Excerpt from *Tales from Shakespeare: A Midsummer-Night's Dream* by Charles and Mary Lamb In the public domain.

Prompt 1: Construct a multi-paragraph, written response in which you compare and contrast the approaches each author takes to tell the story of Egeus and his daughter Hermia. Your response must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the source set. [W.6.2]

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- review the sources;
- plan your response;
- write a thorough response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to:

- include an introduction;
- use evidence from the sources to support your explanation; and
- include a conclusion.

Write your multi-paragraph response on your own paper.

Passage Set Two

Passage 1: from “Why Do Mullet Leap” by Mark McGrouther

Mullet are a type of fish, found in coastal and tropical waters, that is widely caught for food.



1. Mullet are commonly seen leaping out of the water. Why do they do this?
2. Over the years there have been numerous theories concerning the leaping of mullet. There seems to be two categories of leaping: predator avoidance and aerial respiration.
3. Leaping to avoid predators usually involves more than one fish jumping simultaneously, retaining an upright posture and entering the water cleanly.
4. The second type of leaping involves a single fish that does a slower, shorter leap, often flipping onto its side or even onto its back. They may also roll at the surface or move with their head above the water.
5. Research suggests that Sea Mullet use this second category of movements to fill the pharyngobranchial organ (an area at the back of the throat) with air. The trapped air is believed to allow the fish to remain active in water of low oxygen concentration for about five minutes.
6. Several interesting lines of evidence support this theory. The number of jumps is correlated with the concentration of oxygen in the water. The less oxygen, the more jumps.
7. Secondly, Sea Mullet feed during the day often in bottom sediments that have low oxygen concentrations. Jumping occurs much more commonly during the day. Sea Mullet rarely jump at night.

Excerpt from *Australian Museum Magazine*, 2011.

Passage 2: from “Why Mullet Jump” by Terry Gibson

8. Every Florida fishing guide wishes that he or she had a penny for every time a client has asked them, "Why do mullet jump?" We get asked this just about every trip.
9. Mullet are one of the state's most ecologically and culturally important fish. Nearly every predator that anglers¹ target in this state feeds on them, and adults help keep the bottom and water clean by feeding on decaying leaves and algae.
10. Fried and smoked mullet have also long been a cultural staple for Floridians.
. . .
11. These bright silver fish exhibit a variety of behaviors near, at and above the surface.
12. One of the fish's behaviors is easily explained. When pursued by predators, entire schools go vaulting across the surface at great speeds and at low angles almost parallel to the surface. You'll probably hear the commotion before you see it.
. . .
13. The real mystery is why mullet seem to jump for joy or sport. Fish on any saltwater inland waterway in the state, and in most large freshwater lakes, and you'll notice individuals leaping as high as three feet and falling onto their sides.
14. Here's what I tell people: There are only theories. It's possible that mullet jump to shake off clinging parasites. It's possible that they jump during the spawning season to break open their egg sacks, in preparation for the spawn. But Dr. Grant Gilmore, a renowned marine biologist from Vero Beach, has another interesting idea.
15. Gilmore is fascinated by the sounds that fish and other marine organisms make, and he studies them using underwater microphones. Because they most often swim in dark or off-color water, he wonders if they jump for the sake of letting others in the school know where they are. Interesting . . .

1-fishermen

Excerpt from “Why Mullet Jump” by Terry Gibson (visitflorida.com)

Prompt 2: Construct a multi-paragraph, written response in which you make and support a claim about which author does a better job of introducing, illustrating, and elaborating the reasons mullets jump out of the water. Your response must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the source set. [W.6.1]

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- review the sources;
- plan your response;
- write a thorough response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to:

- include a claim;
- use evidence from multiple sources; and
- avoid overly relying on one source.

Write your multi-paragraph response on your own paper.



GRADE SIX

Grading

Answers Should Be Judged Based on Writing Rubrics provided by ODE.

-Prompt 1 should use the Informative/Explanatory Rubric:

[AIR ELA 6-12 Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric](#)

-Prompt 2 should use the Argumentative Rubric:

[AIR ELA 6-12 Argument Writing Rubric](#)