



Department
of Education

Ohio's State Tests

ITEM RELEASE

SPRING 2016

**GRADE 8
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

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Content Summary and Answer Key

Question No.	Item Type	Content Strand	Content Standard	Answer Key	Points
1	Multiple Choice	Craft and Structure	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	D	1 point
2	Evidence-Based Selected Response	Craft and Structure	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	A; D, F	1 point
3	Evidence-Based Selected Response	Craft and Structure	Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.	B; D	1 point
4	Multiple Choice	Key Ideas and Details	Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	B	1 point
5	Hot Text Item	Key Ideas and Details	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	---	1 point

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Content Summary and Answer Key

Question No.	Item Type	Content Strand	Content Standard	Answer Key	Points
6	Multiple Choice	Craft and Structure	Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.	D	1 point
7	Evidence-Based Selected Response	Key Ideas and Details	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.	B; D	1 point
8	Multiple Choice	Key Ideas and Details	Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).	A	1 point
9	Hot Text Item	Craft and Structure	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	---	1 point
10	Multiple Choice	Craft and Structure	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.	A	1 point

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Spring 2016 Item Release
Content Summary and Answer Key

Question No.	Item Type	Content Strand	Content Standard	Answer Key	Points
11	Multiple Choice	Craft and Structure	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.	D	1 point
12	Hot Text Item	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.	---	1 point
13	Multiple Choice	Key Ideas and Details	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	B	1 point

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Stimulus for Questions 1 – 7

Stimulus for Questions 1 – 7

Passage 1: Narcissus Myth retold by Edith Hamilton



Narcissus by Michelangelo Caravaggio

- 1 The hero of it was a beautiful lad, whose name was Narcissus. His beauty was so great, all the girls who saw him longed to be his, but he would have none of them. He would pass the loveliest carelessly by, no matter how much she tried to make him look at her. Heartbroken maidens were nothing to him. Even the sad case of the fairest of the nymphs, Echo, did not move him. She was a favorite of Artemis, the goddess of woods and wild creatures, but she came under the displeasure of a still mightier goddess, Hera herself, who was at her usual occupation of trying to discover what Zeus was about. She suspected that he was in love with one of the nymphs and she went to look them over to try to discover which. However, she was immediately diverted from her investigation by Echo's gay chatter. As she listened amused, the others silently stole away and Hera could come to no conclusion as to where Zeus's wandering fancy had alighted. With her usual injustice she turned against Echo. That nymph became yet another unhappy girl that Hera punished. The goddess condemned her never to use her tongue again except to repeat what was said to her. "You will always have the last word," Hera said, "but no power to speak first."
- 2 This was very hard, but hardest of all when Echo, too, with all the other lovelorn maidens, loved Narcissus. She could follow him, but she could not speak to him. How then could she make a youth who never looked at a girl pay attention to her? One day, however, it seemed her chance had come. He was calling his companions, "Is anyone here?" and she called back in rapture, "Here—Here." She was still hidden by the trees so that he did not see her, and he shouted, "Come!"—just what she longed to say to him. She answered joyfully, "Come!" and stepped forth from the woods with her arms outstretched. But he turned away in angry disgust. "Not so," he said; "I will die before I give you power over me." All she could say was, humbly, entreatingly, "I give you power over me," but he was gone. She hid her blushes and her shame in a lonely cave, and never could be comforted. Still she lived in places like that, and they say that she has so wasted away with longing that only her voice now is left to her.

- 3 So Narcissus went on his cruel way, a scorner of love. But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: "May he who loves not others love himself." The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about. As Narcissus bent over a clear pool for a drink and saw there his own reflection, on the moment he fell in love with it. "Now I know," he cried, "what others have suffered from me, for I burn with love of my own self—and yet how can I reach that loveliness I see mirrored in the water? But I cannot leave it. Only death can set me free." And so it happened. He pined away, leaning perpetually over the pool, fixed in one long gaze. Echo was near him, but she could do nothing; only when, dying, he called to his image, "Farewell—farewell," she could repeat the words as a last good-by to him.

¹nymphs: nature spirits

"Narcissus Myth" from *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton.
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Narcissus by Michelangelo Caravaggio. In the public domain.

Passage 2: The Disciple by Oscar Wilde

- 4 When Narcissus died the pool of his pleasure changed from a cup of sweet waters into a cup of salt tears, and the Oreads¹ came weeping through the woodland that they might sing to the pool and give it comfort.
- 5 And when they saw that the pool had changed from a cup of sweet waters into a cup of salt tears, they loosened the green tresses of their hair and cried to the pool and said, "We do not wonder that you should mourn in this manner for Narcissus, so beautiful was he."
- 6 "But was Narcissus beautiful?" said the pool.
- 7 "Who should know that better than you?" answered the Oreads. "Us did he ever pass by, but you he sought for, and would lie on your banks and look down at you, and in the mirror of your waters he would mirror his own beauty."
- 8 And the pool answered, "But I loved Narcissus because, as he lay on my banks and looked down at me, in the mirror of his eyes I saw ever my own beauty mirrored."

¹Oreads: nymphs of mountains or hills

"The Disciple" by Oscar Wilde. In the public domain.

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Question 1

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 1

Read the sentence from paragraph 1 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“As she listened amused, the others silently stole away and Hera could come to no conclusion as to where Zeus’s wandering fancy had alighted.”

What does the phrase stole away reveal about the nymphs?

- Ⓐ It suggests the other nymphs feel guilty around Hera.
- Ⓑ It suggests the other nymphs behave strangely around Hera.
- Ⓒ It shows the other nymphs are secretly taking things from Hera.
- Ⓓ It shows the other nymphs move cautiously in order to avoid Hera.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. The other nymphs do not react out of guilty feelings.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. There is no evidence in the passage to suggest strange behavior by the others.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. The word “stole” is used figuratively and not literally.

Rationale for Option D: **Key** – The others “stole away” to secretly avoid Hera.

Sample Response: 1 point

Read the sentence from paragraph 1 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“As she listened amused, the others silently stole away and Hera could come to no conclusion as to where Zeus’s wandering fancy had alighted.”

What does the phrase stole away reveal about the nymphs?

- ☐ Ⓐ It suggests the other nymphs feel guilty around Hera.
- ☐ Ⓑ It suggests the other nymphs behave strangely around Hera.
- ☐ Ⓒ It shows the other nymphs are secretly taking things from Hera.
- ☒ Ⓓ It shows the other nymphs move cautiously in order to avoid Hera.

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Question 2

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 2

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 2 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“He was calling his companions, ‘Is anyone here?’ and she called back in rapture, ‘Here—Here.’”

What does the phrase in rapture mean as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) with delight
- (B) at a slow pace
- (C) with confusion
- (D) at a low volume

Part B

Select **two** phrases from paragraph 2 that support the answer in Part A.

- ☐ “called back”
- ☐ “still hidden”
- ☐ “did not see her”
- ☐ “answered joyfully”
- ☐ “from the woods”
- ☐ “arms outstretched”

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Scoring Guidelines

Part A

Rationale for Option A: **Key** – Rapture is a state of happiness or pleasure.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. When Echo answers in rapture, she probably answers quickly because of the excitement. This also is not the correct meaning of the phrase.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. To be in rapture does not mean to have confusion.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. When Echo answers in rapture, she does it loudly enough for Narcissus to hear her from the trees, so it is not at a low volume. This also is not the correct meaning of the phrase.

Part B

Rationale for First Option: This is incorrect. Echo is responding to Narcissus, but this phrase does not indicate her emotion.

Rationale for Second Option: This is incorrect. The fact that Echo is not in the view of Narcissus does not indicate that she is in rapture.

Rationale for Third Option: This is incorrect. The fact that Echo is not in the view of Narcissus does not indicate that she is in rapture.

Rationale for Fourth Option: **Key** – Echo responds to Narcissus joyfully, just shortly after responding in rapture.

Rationale for Fifth Option: This is incorrect. The fact that Echo is in the woods does not show that she is in rapture.

Rationale for Sixth Option: **Key** – Echo's outstretched arms are a sign of her joyful emotion toward Narcissus.

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Question 2

Sample Responses

Sample Response: 1 point

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 2 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“He was calling his companions, ‘Is anyone here?’ and she called back in rapture, ‘Here—Here.’”

What does the phrase in rapture mean as it is used in the sentence?

- ☐ with delight
- ☒ at a slow pace
- ☐ with confusion
- ☐ at a low volume

Part B

Select **two** phrases from paragraph 2 that support the answer in Part A.

- ☐ “called back”
- ☐ “still hidden”
- ☐ “did not see her”
- ☒ “answered joyfully”
- ☐ “from the woods”
- ☒ “arms outstretched”

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because it correctly identifies the correct meaning of the phrase “in rapture” in Part A, and it correctly identifies the two phrases from the text that best support the answer from Part A in Part B.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 2 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“He was calling his companions, ‘Is anyone here?’ and she called back in rapture, ‘Here—Here.’”

What does the phrase in rapture mean as it is used in the sentence?

- ☒ with delight
- ☐ at a slow pace
- ☐ with confusion
- ☐ at a low volume

Part B

Select **two** phrases from paragraph 2 that support the answer in Part A.

- ☒ “called back”
- ☐ “still hidden”
- ☐ “did not see her”
- ☐ “answered joyfully”
- ☐ “from the woods”
- ☒ “arms outstretched”

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). While the correct answer is chosen to identify the correct meaning of the phrase “in rapture” in Part A, the phrases chosen in Part B do not offer full support for the answer in Part A. In order to earn full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 2 of “Narcissus Myth.”

“He was calling his companions, ‘Is anyone here?’ and she called back in rapture, ‘Here—Here.’”

What does the phrase in rapture mean as it is used in the sentence?

- ☐ Ⓐ with delight
- ☐ Ⓑ at a slow pace
- ☒ Ⓒ with confusion
- ☐ Ⓓ at a low volume

Part B

Select **two** phrases from paragraph 2 that support the answer in Part A.

- ☐ “called back”
- ☐ “still hidden”
- ☐ “did not see her”
- ☒ “answered joyfully”
- ☐ “from the woods”
- ☒ “arms outstretched”

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). The selected answer in Part A incorrectly identifies the meaning of the phrase “in rapture”. Part B provides the correct supports for the incorrect answer in Part A; however, in order to receive full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

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Question 3

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 3

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

In “Narcissus Myth,” how is the reader’s understanding of Echo different from Narcissus’s understanding of Echo?

- (A) The reader does not know that Echo admires the beauty of Narcissus, but Narcissus knows this.
- (B) The reader knows the feelings that Echo wants to express, but Narcissus does not know this.
- (C) The reader does not know Echo has a limited power to speak, but Narcissus knows this.
- (D) The reader knows that Echo is a nymph, but Narcissus does not know this.

Part B

How does the difference described in Part A affect the tone of the passage?

- (A) It creates a humorous tone because of Narcissus’s love of himself.
- (B) It creates an inspiring tone because of Echo’s determination to speak.
- (C) It creates an angry tone because of Narcissus’s negative attitude toward others.
- (D) It creates a hopeless tone because of Echo’s inability to speak in her own words.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

Scoring Guidelines

Part A

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. The reader knows that Echo likes Narcissus's looks.

Rationale for Option B: **Key** – The reader knows that Echo adores Narcissus but cannot speak her emotions because of the curse Hera put on her.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. The reader knows of Echo's curse, but Narcissus does not.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. There is no indication that Narcissus does not know that Echo is a nymph.

Part B

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. Narcissus's love of himself may be somewhat humorous, but the difference in point of view does not establish that tone.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. Echo's situation is hopeless, so it is not inspiring.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. The passage does not convey an angry tone.

Rationale for Option D: **Key** – The reader knows that Echo wants to speak to Narcissus and also knows that it will not happen.

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Question 3

Sample Responses

Sample Response: 1 point

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

In “Narcissus Myth,” how is the reader’s understanding of Echo different from Narcissus’s understanding of Echo?

- ☐ Ⓐ The reader does not know that Echo admires the beauty of Narcissus, but Narcissus knows this.
- ☒ Ⓑ The reader knows the feelings that Echo wants to express, but Narcissus does not know this.
- ☐ Ⓒ The reader does not know Echo has a limited power to speak, but Narcissus knows this.
- ☐ Ⓓ The reader knows that Echo is a nymph, but Narcissus does not know this.

Part B

How does the difference described in Part A affect the tone of the passage?

- ☐ Ⓐ It creates a humorous tone because of Narcissus’s love of himself.
- ☐ Ⓑ It creates an inspiring tone because of Echo’s determination to speak.
- ☐ Ⓒ It creates an angry tone because of Narcissus’s negative attitude toward others.
- ☒ Ⓓ It creates a hopeless tone because of Echo’s inability to speak in her own words.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because it accurately identifies the difference in points of view between the reader and the character (Narcissus) in Part A, and it selects the accurate choice that shows how that perspective impacts the tone of the passage in Part B.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

In “Narcissus Myth,” how is the reader’s understanding of Echo different from Narcissus’s understanding of Echo?

- ☐ Ⓐ The reader does not know that Echo admires the beauty of Narcissus, but Narcissus knows this.
- ☐ Ⓑ The reader knows the feelings that Echo wants to express, but Narcissus does not know this.
- ☐ Ⓒ The reader does not know Echo has a limited power to speak, but Narcissus knows this.
- ☒ Ⓓ The reader knows that Echo is a nymph, but Narcissus does not know this.

Part B

How does the difference described in Part A affect the tone of the passage?

- ☐ Ⓐ It creates a humorous tone because of Narcissus’s love of himself.
- ☐ Ⓑ It creates an inspiring tone because of Echo’s determination to speak.
- ☐ Ⓒ It creates an angry tone because of Narcissus’s negative attitude toward others.
- ☒ Ⓓ It creates a hopeless tone because of Echo’s inability to speak in her own words.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). The answer selected in Part A does not accurately identify the difference in points of view between the reader and the character (Narcissus). While Part B provides the correct response that shows how that perspective impacts the tone of the passage, the student did not select the correct answer in Part A. In order to receive full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

In “Narcissus Myth,” how is the reader’s understanding of Echo different from Narcissus’s understanding of Echo?

- ☐ Ⓐ The reader does not know that Echo admires the beauty of Narcissus, but Narcissus knows this.
- ☒ Ⓑ The reader knows the feelings that Echo wants to express, but Narcissus does not know this.
- ☐ Ⓒ The reader does not know Echo has a limited power to speak, but Narcissus knows this.
- ☐ Ⓓ The reader knows that Echo is a nymph, but Narcissus does not know this.

Part B

How does the difference described in Part A affect the tone of the passage?

- ☐ Ⓐ It creates a humorous tone because of Narcissus’s love of himself.
- ☒ Ⓑ It creates an inspiring tone because of Echo’s determination to speak.
- ☐ Ⓒ It creates an angry tone because of Narcissus’s negative attitude toward others.
- ☐ Ⓓ It creates a hopeless tone because of Echo’s inability to speak in her own words.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). While the answer selected in Part A accurately identifies the difference in points of view between the reader and the character (Narcissus), the answer selected in Part B does not accurately identify how those differences impact the tone of the passage. In order to receive full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

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Question 4

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 4

In “Narcissus Myth,” what does Hera’s treatment of Echo reveal about Hera?

- Ⓐ She is upset with Zeus.
- Ⓑ She is an unfair goddess.
- Ⓒ She is an enemy of Artemis.
- Ⓓ She is friends with many nymphs.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Key Ideas and Details

Content Standard: Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. The passage states that Hera is curious about Zeus, not upset with him.

Rationale for Option B: **Key** – Echo's punishment shows Hera's usual injustice and makes yet another unhappy girl.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. Echo is a favorite of Artemis, but that is not the reason that Hera punishes Echo.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. Hera's punishment for Echo implies that Hera is not friendly with nymphs.

Sample Response: 1 point

In “Narcissus Myth,” what does Hera’s treatment of Echo reveal about Hera?

- ☐ Ⓐ She is upset with Zeus.
- ☒ Ⓑ She is an unfair goddess.
- ☐ Ⓒ She is an enemy of Artemis.
- ☐ Ⓓ She is friends with many nymphs.

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Question 5

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 5

Select the sentence from paragraph 3 of “Narcissus Myth” that **best** explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

- 3 So Narcissus went on his cruel way, a scorner of love. But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: “May he who loves not others love himself.” The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about. As Narcissus bent over a clear pool for a drink and saw there his own reflection, on the moment he fell in love with it. “Now I know,” he cried, “what others have suffered from me, for I burn with love of my own self—and yet how can I reach that loveliness I see mirrored in the water? But I cannot leave it. Only death can set me free.” And so it happened. He pined away, leaning perpetually over the pool, fixed in one long gaze. Echo was near him, but she could do nothing; only when, dying, he called to his image, “Farewell—farewell,” she could repeat the words as a last good-by to him.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Key Ideas and Details

Content Standard: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- Selection of “But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: ‘May he who loves not others love himself.’;”
- OR
- Selection of “The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about.” (1 point).

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Question 5

Sample Responses

Sample Response: 1 point

Select the sentence from paragraph 3 of “Narcissus Myth” that **best** explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

- 3 So Narcissus went on his cruel way, a scorner of love. But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: “May he who loves not others love himself.” The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about. As Narcissus bent over a clear pool for a drink and saw there his own reflection, on the moment he fell in love with it. “Now I know,” he cried, “what others have suffered from me, for I burn with love of my own self—and yet how can I reach that loveliness I see mirrored in the water? But I cannot leave it. Only death can set me free.” And so it happened. He pined away, leaning perpetually over the pool, fixed in one long gaze. Echo was near him, but she could do nothing; only when, dying, he called to his image, “Farewell—farewell,” she could repeat the words as a last good-by to him.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because the sentence selected accurately explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

Sample Response: 1 point

Select the sentence from paragraph 3 of “Narcissus Myth” that **best** explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

- 3 So Narcissus went on his cruel way, a scorner of love. But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: “May he who loves not others love himself.” The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about. As Narcissus bent over a clear pool for a drink and saw there his own reflection, on the moment he fell in love with it. “Now I know,” he cried, “what others have suffered from me, for I burn with love of my own self—and yet how can I reach that loveliness I see mirrored in the water? But I cannot leave it. Only death can set me free.” And so it happened. He pined away, leaning perpetually over the pool, fixed in one long gaze. Echo was near him, but she could do nothing; only when, dying, he called to his image, “Farewell—farewell,” she could repeat the words as a last good-by to him.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because the sentence selected accurately explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

Sample Response: 0 points

Select the sentence from paragraph 3 of “Narcissus Myth” that **best** explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

- 3 So Narcissus went on his cruel way, a scorner of love. But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: “May he who loves not others love himself.” The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about. As Narcissus bent over a clear pool for a drink and saw there his own reflection, on the moment he fell in love with it. “Now I know,” he cried, “what others have suffered from me, for I burn with love of my own self—and yet how can I reach that loveliness I see mirrored in the water? But I cannot leave it. Only death can set me free.” And so it happened. He pined away, leaning perpetually over the pool, fixed in one long gaze. Echo was near him, but she could do nothing; only when, dying, he called to his image, “Farewell—farewell,” she could repeat the words as a last good-by to him.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points) because the selected sentence does not accurately explain what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

Sample Response: 0 points

Select the sentence from paragraph 3 of “Narcissus Myth” that **best** explains what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

- 3 So Narcissus went on his cruel way, a scorner of love. But at last one of those he wounded prayed a prayer and it was answered by the gods: “May he who loves not others love himself.” The great goddess Nemesis, which means righteous anger, undertook to bring this about. As Narcissus bent over a clear pool for a drink and saw there his own reflection, on the moment he fell in love with it. “Now I know,” he cried, “what others have suffered from me, for I burn with love of my own self—and yet how can I reach that loveliness I see mirrored in the water? But I cannot leave it. Only death can set me free.” And so it happened. He pined away, leaning perpetually over the pool, fixed in one long gaze. Echo was near him, but she could do nothing; only when, dying, he called to his image, “Farewell—farewell,” she could repeat the words as a last good-by to him.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points) because the selected sentence does not accurately explain what causes Narcissus to become obsessed with looking at himself.

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Question 6

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 6

Which statement accurately explains why the Oreads are surprised by the pool's reaction to Narcissus's death in "The Disciple"?

- Ⓐ The Oreads had thought that the pool did not know that Narcissus died, but the pool does know this.
- Ⓑ The Oreads had thought that the pool was filled with Narcissus's tears, but the tears are not from Narcissus.
- Ⓒ The Oreads had thought that the pool would need to be comforted because Narcissus died, but the pool does not know Narcissus.
- Ⓓ The Oreads had thought that the pool was sad about losing Narcissus's beauty, but the pool is sad about losing the opportunity to view itself.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. The Oreads knew that the pool is aware of Narcissus's death.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. There is no indication that the Oreads think that Narcissus's tears filled the pool.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. The pool does know Narcissus and misses him because he enabled the pool to view itself.

Rationale for Option D: **Key** – The main reason the pool is sad to lose Narcissus is because the pool loved to look at itself in his eyes.

Sample Response: 1 point

Which statement accurately explains why the Oreads are surprised by the pool's reaction to Narcissus's death in "The Disciple"?

- ☐ Ⓐ The Oreads had thought that the pool did not know that Narcissus died, but the pool does know this.
- ☐ Ⓑ The Oreads had thought that the pool was filled with Narcissus's tears, but the tears are not from Narcissus.
- ☐ Ⓒ The Oreads had thought that the pool would need to be comforted because Narcissus died, but the pool does not know Narcissus.
- ☒ Ⓓ The Oreads had thought that the pool was sad about losing Narcissus's beauty, but the pool is sad about losing the opportunity to view itself.

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Question 7

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 7

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is the central idea of “The Disciple”?

- (A) When we spend a lot of time with someone, we may not remember to show appreciation for that person.
- (B) When we focus too much on ourselves, we may not be aware of the other people around us.
- (C) When a major change happens in life, we should be open to new opportunities.
- (D) When facing new challenges, we should be kind to those around us.

Part B

Select the sentence from the passage that **best** supports the answer in Part A.

- (A) “. . . his pleasure changed from a cup of sweet waters into a cup of salt tears . . .” (paragraph 4)
- (B) “. . . the Oreads came weeping through the woodland that they might sing to the pool and give it comfort.” (paragraph 4)
- (C) ““We do not wonder that you should mourn in this manner for Narcissus, so beautiful was he.”” (paragraph 5)
- (D) ““But was Narcissus beautiful?” said the pool.” (paragraph 6)

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Key Ideas and Details

Content Standard: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

Scoring Guidelines

Part A

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. The pool spends much time with Narcissus, but the passage does not emphasize the pool taking him for granted. This is not the central idea of the passage.

Rationale for Option B: **Key** – The pool does not notice that Narcissus is beautiful, since the pool only looks at its own reflection in Narcissus's eyes.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. The pool experiences a major change in the loss of Narcissus, but the pool does not seem especially open to developing relationships with the Oreads. This is not the central idea of the passage.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. The intention of the Oreads is to comfort the pool after the loss of Narcissus, but the pool does not receive much comfort. Although plausible, this is not the central idea of the passage.

Part B

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. This shows the change that happens to the pool after the death of Narcissus, but it does not emphasize the pool's lack of awareness of Narcissus.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. The attempt to console the pool does not emphasize the pool's lack of awareness of Narcissus.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. This shows the sympathy the Oreads have for the pool, but it does not demonstrate the pool's lack of awareness of Narcissus.

Rationale for Option D: **Key** – This shows that the pool had not noticed the beauty of Narcissus, who spent a great deal of time on the pool's banks.

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Question 7

Sample Responses

Sample Response: 1 point

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is the central idea of “The Disciple”?

- ☐ Ⓐ When we spend a lot of time with someone, we may not remember to show appreciation for that person.
- ☒ Ⓑ When we focus too much on ourselves, we may not be aware of the other people around us.
- ☐ Ⓒ When a major change happens in life, we should be open to new opportunities.
- ☐ Ⓓ When facing new challenges, we should be kind to those around us.

Part B

Select the sentence from the passage that **best** supports the answer in Part A.

- ☐ Ⓐ “. . . his pleasure changed from a cup of sweet waters into a cup of salt tears . . .” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ Ⓑ “. . . the Oreads came weeping through the woodland that they might sing to the pool and give it comfort.” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ Ⓒ ““We do not wonder that you should mourn in this manner for Narcissus, so beautiful was he.”” (paragraph 5)
- ☒ Ⓓ ““But was Narcissus beautiful?” said the pool.” (paragraph 6)

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because the selections correctly identify the central idea of the text in Part A and the best support for the answer from Part A in Part B.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is the central idea of “The Disciple”?

- ☐ Ⓐ When we spend a lot of time with someone, we may not remember to show appreciation for that person.
- ☒ Ⓑ When we focus too much on ourselves, we may not be aware of the other people around us.
- ☐ Ⓒ When a major change happens in life, we should be open to new opportunities.
- ☐ Ⓓ When facing new challenges, we should be kind to those around us.

Part B

Select the sentence from the passage that **best** supports the answer in Part A.

- ☐ Ⓐ “. . . his pleasure changed from a cup of sweet waters into a cup of salt tears . . .” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ Ⓑ “. . . the Oreads came weeping through the woodland that they might sing to the pool and give it comfort.” (paragraph 4)
- ☒ Ⓒ ““We do not wonder that you should mourn in this manner for Narcissus, so beautiful was he.”” (paragraph 5)
- ☐ Ⓓ ““But was Narcissus beautiful?” said the pool.” (paragraph 6)

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). The selection in Part A correctly identifies the central idea of “The Disciple”, but the selection in Part B fails to identify the best support for the answer in Part A. In order to receive full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is the central idea of “The Disciple”?

- ☐ Ⓐ When we spend a lot of time with someone, we may not remember to show appreciation for that person.
- ☐ Ⓑ When we focus too much on ourselves, we may not be aware of the other people around us.
- ☐ Ⓒ When a major change happens in life, we should be open to new opportunities.
- ☒ Ⓓ When facing new challenges, we should be kind to those around us.

Part B

Select the sentence from the passage that **best** supports the answer in Part A.

- ☐ Ⓐ “. . . his pleasure changed from a cup of sweet waters into a cup of salt tears . . .” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ Ⓑ “. . . the Oreads came weeping through the woodland that they might sing to the pool and give it comfort.” (paragraph 4)
- ☐ Ⓒ ““We do not wonder that you should mourn in this manner for Narcissus, so beautiful was he.”” (paragraph 5)
- ☒ Ⓓ ““But was Narcissus beautiful?” said the pool.” (paragraph 6)

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). The selection in Part A incorrectly identifies the central idea of “The Disciple”, yet the selection in Part B identifies the best support for the correct answer in Part A. In order to earn full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

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Stimulus for Questions 8 – 13

Stimulus for Questions 8 – 13

Passage 1: Biofuels: The Ultimate in Recycling by Jeanne Miller

- 1 Will there come a day when you can use the oil that your egg roll was fried in to power your car? How about the potato peels left over from making instant potatoes? . . .
- 2 In fact, that day already has come. Facilities that convert organic matter, called *biomass*, into clean-burning fuels are more and more often choosing to use waste products from other processes to produce *biofuels*.
- 3 Ethanol and biodiesel are the most common biofuels, and they provide environmentally friendly alternatives to gasoline and to petroleum diesel fuel. Best of all, using surplus materials to produce biofuels solves another big problem: what to do with all the waste we generate.
- 4 *Ethanol*, an alcohol, is produced after yeast or microbes break down a plant's sugars and starches. Combined with gasoline, it adds oxygen to the car engine's combustion process, allowing the fuel to burn more cleanly. A company in Idaho makes ethanol using potato waste from a nearby potato processing plant. A cheese factory in California makes it from unused whey.¹ Almost anything that ever grew can be processed to make ethanol.
- 5 *Biodiesel*, made from chemically altered plant oil or animal fat, is an alternative to petroleum diesel and will work in any diesel engine. When used as a substitute for petroleum, it reduces total air pollution by more than 50 percent and cancer-causing substances in the exhaust by 94 percent. About half of the biodiesel that's produced in this country is made from used vegetable oil.
- 6 Most intriguing of all is the oil produced by a machine developed by Changing World Technologies that uses a thermal depolymerization process (TDP) to take materials apart at the molecular level. The machine was designed to turn almost any waste product into high-quality oil, pure minerals, and clean water. It applies heat and pressure, the same forces nature employed to turn ancient vegetation into fossil fuels.
- 7 However, what took nature thousands or millions of years takes this machine a couple of hours. The company's Philadelphia plant has been operating for four years, taking in waste of all kinds: turkey innards, tires, city garbage, muck dredged up from the harbor, medical wastes. What comes out is light oil, gas, and minerals, all pure and harmless. A larger TDP plant in Carthage, MI, expects to turn 200 tons of daily turkey-processing waste from the Butterball factory just down the road into 10 tons of gas; 21,000 gallons of water; 11 tons of minerals; and 600 barrels of petroleum and other oil. More plants are planned.
- 8 Although producing biofuels generally costs more than pumping petroleum out of the Earth, the added cost is offset by many benefits. These alternative fuels provide energy without harming our environment and depleting our country's resources. They offer the added bonus of solving our solid waste problems. It's a good deal for Planet Earth!

¹whey: watery part of milk after curds have formed and separated

Passage 2: Biofuels: Fuel for the Future or Foolishness?

by Betty J. Pfeiffer

9 The United States is providing funds for the development and use of alternative fuels that will:

- provide energy that is sustainable (won't run out)
- reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

10 Ethanol produced from corn is receiving the most attention, and the most money, from the government—but ethanol accomplishes none of the three goals!

Unfriendly Ethanol

11 The problem with corn ethanol is that it takes about the same amount of fossil fuel to produce an equal amount of ethanol. This leaves us with no net gain in the reduction of carbon emissions, or our use of fossil fuel. . . .

12 But there are more problems with corn ethanol.

13 Corn requires more fertilizer to grow strong and healthy than any other major crop. About 40 percent of all nitrogen fertilizer used for growing our crops is used for corn, and the fertilizer is almost all fossil energy.

14 In spite of over 1,000 uses we have for corn and corn byproducts, about 20 percent of corn grown in the United States is now used to produce ethanol, up from 6.5 percent in 2000. . . .

Beyond Ethanol

15 Fortunately, many others are looking for different solutions. Dr. David Tilman has led a research group at the University of Minnesota (UMN) studying the use of prairie grasses as biofuel since 1994. The researchers have had exciting results!

16 These grasses can be grown on land that is too poor to grow anything else, saving the good land to grow food crops. They are *perennials*, meaning they grow back each year without replanting, so the farmer doesn't have to till the field. Without tilling, all the carbon the plants store in their roots stays there, rather than going back into our atmosphere.

17 This type of biomass is renewable (inexhaustible), almost without human effort. By growing mixtures of various plants together, energy yields were 238 percent greater than if just one type of grass was grown.

18 The prairie grasses were made into fuel without using gasoline, oil, or coal.

19 As an added bonus, the grassland biofuel is carbon negative because the plants sequester² more carbon dioxide in their roots than is released during the production of the biofuel.

²sequester: to seize or separate

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Question 8

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 8

How does the author of Passage 1 show that biofuels help with waste management?

- Ⓐ She names some of the things biofuels can be made from.
- Ⓑ She describes the impact of companies that make biofuels.
- Ⓒ She describes how machines produce biofuels in efficient ways.
- Ⓓ She explains how biofuels reduce toxic chemicals in the environment.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Key Ideas and Details

Content Standard: Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: **Key** – Listing some of the specific things that biofuels are made of shows how biofuel production can help with waste management. Things that would otherwise be thrown away are turned into fuel.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. Although the author of Passage 1 mentioned some of these companies, this does not specifically address the way that waste products are recycled.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. A student might select this option since the author does describe the machine that produces biofuels using TDP technology; however, explaining how the machines produce biofuels does not explain how the problem of waste management is solved.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. Although the author mentions toxic chemicals, these are related to fossil fuel emissions, not waste products.

Sample Response: 1 point

How does the author of Passage 1 show that biofuels help with waste management?

- ☒ She names some of the things biofuels can be made from.
- ☐ She describes the impact of companies that make biofuels.
- ☐ She describes how machines produce biofuels in efficient ways.
- ☐ She explains how biofuels reduce toxic chemicals in the environment.

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Question 9

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 9

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Select the meaning of the word thermal in paragraph 6 of Passage 1.

- A) having to do with biological matter
- B) having to do with waste management
- C) having to do with heat or temperature
- D) having to do with breaking down matter

Part B

Select the phrase from the passage that **best** supports your answer in Part A.

- 6 Most intriguing of all is the oil produced by a machine developed by Changing World Technologies that uses a thermal depolymerization process (TDP) to take materials apart at the molecular level. The machine was designed to turn almost any waste product into high-quality oil, pure minerals, and clean water. It applies heat and pressure, the same forces nature employed to turn ancient vegetation into fossil fuels.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- Selection of C) having to do with heat or temperature;
- AND
- Selection of “It applies heat and pressure,” (1 point).

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Question 9

Sample Responses

Sample Response: 1 point

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Select the meaning of the word thermal in paragraph 6 of Passage 1.

- A) having to do with biological matter
- B) having to do with waste management
- C) having to do with heat or temperature
- D) having to do with breaking down matter

Part B

Select the phrase from the passage that **best** supports your answer in Part A.

- 6 Most intriguing of all is the oil produced by a machine developed by Changing World Technologies that uses a thermal depolymerization process (TDP) to take materials apart at the molecular level. The machine was designed to turn almost any waste product into high-quality oil, pure minerals, and clean water. It applies heat and pressure, the same forces nature employed to turn ancient vegetation into fossil fuels.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because the selection in Part A correctly identifies the meaning of the word “thermal”, and the selection in Part B highlights the best support for the answer in Part A.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Select the meaning of the word thermal in paragraph 6 of Passage 1.

- A) having to do with biological matter
- B) having to do with waste management
- C) having to do with heat or temperature
- D) having to do with breaking down matter

Part B

Select the phrase from the passage that **best** supports your answer in Part A.

- 6 Most intriguing of all is the oil produced by a machine developed by Changing World Technologies that uses a thermal depolymerization process (TDP) to take materials apart at the molecular level. The machine was designed to turn almost any waste product into high-quality oil, pure minerals, and clean water. It applies heat and pressure, the same forces nature employed to turn ancient vegetation into fossil fuels.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). The selection in Part A correctly identifies the meaning of the word “thermal”, but the selection in Part B does not provide the best support for the answer in Part A. In order to receive full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

Sample Response: 0 points

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Select the meaning of the word thermal in paragraph 6 of Passage 1.

- A) having to do with biological matter
- B) having to do with waste management
- C) having to do with heat or temperature
- D) having to do with breaking down matter

Part B

Select the phrase from the passage that **best** supports your answer in Part A.

- 6 Most intriguing of all is the oil produced by a machine developed by Changing World Technologies that uses a thermal depolymerization process (TDP) to take materials apart at the molecular level. The machine was designed to turn almost any waste product into high-quality oil, pure minerals, and clean water. It applies heat and pressure, the same forces nature employed to turn ancient vegetation into fossil fuels.

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points). The selection in Part A does not correctly identify the meaning of the word “thermal”, yet the selection in Part B identifies the best support for the correct answer in Part A. In order to receive full credit for this item, both Part A and Part B must be correct.

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Question 10

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 10

How does the author of Passage 1 respond to the negative view of biofuels?

- Ⓐ by showing that positive outcomes justify any costs
- Ⓑ by pointing out that the argument is unsupported
- Ⓒ by emphasizing the lack of other options
- Ⓓ by presenting only one side of the issue

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: **Key** – The author gives examples that justify the complaint that biofuels are costly. Essentially, the end justifies the means.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. A student may select this because there is no support for the other point of view; however, the author doesn't point this out.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. A student may select this because the author only talks about biofuels as an alternative source of energy; however, this doesn't mean that there are not other options available. The author just doesn't mention them.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. A student may select this because the passage mostly focuses on the positive aspects of biofuels; however, the author does acknowledge the costs of biofuel production, so it is not a one-sided argument.

Sample Response: 1 point

How does the author of Passage 1 respond to the negative view of biofuels?

- ☒ by showing that positive outcomes justify any costs
- ☐ (B) by pointing out that the argument is unsupported
- ☐ (C) by emphasizing the lack of other options
- ☐ (D) by presenting only one side of the issue

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Question 11

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 11

How does the author of Passage 2 lead the reader to think negatively about corn ethanol production?

- Ⓐ by listing the guidelines for government-approved alternative fuels
- Ⓑ by focusing on how the use of corn ethanol affects individual consumers
- Ⓒ by implying that government support for corn ethanol is politically motivated
- Ⓓ by providing data about the environmentally unfriendly aspects of ethanol production

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Craft and Structure

Content Standard: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. The author starts with this list, but this list in itself does not imply that alternative fuel production is negative.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. A student may select this because individual concerns may affect a reader's conclusion; however, this is not the focus of the author.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. A student may select this because the government support is mentioned, but there is nothing to suggest it is politically motivated or that it is being used to make conclusions about corn ethanol.

Rationale for Option D: **Key** – The author provides data to strengthen the argument.

Sample Response: 1 point

How does the author of Passage 2 lead the reader to think negatively about corn ethanol production?

- ☐ Ⓐ by listing the guidelines for government-approved alternative fuels
- ☐ Ⓑ by focusing on how the use of corn ethanol affects individual consumers
- ☐ Ⓒ by implying that government support for corn ethanol is politically motivated
- ☒ Ⓓ by providing data about the environmentally unfriendly aspects of ethanol production

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Question 12

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 12

In Passage 2, the author argues that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production. Select the sentence below that supports this claim.

- 11 The problem with corn ethanol is that it takes about the same amount of fossil fuel to produce an equal amount of ethanol. This leaves us with no net gain in the reduction of carbon emissions, or our use of fossil fuel. . . .
- 12 But there are more problems with corn ethanol.
- 13 Corn requires more fertilizer to grow strong and healthy than any other major crop. About 40 percent of all nitrogen fertilizer used for growing our crops is used for corn, and the fertilizer is almost all fossil energy.
- 14 In spite of over 1,000 uses we have for corn and corn byproducts, about 20 percent of corn grown in the United States is now used to produce ethanol, up from 6.5 percent in 2000. . . .

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Content Standard: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- Selection of “In spite of over 1,000 uses we have for corn and corn byproducts, about 20 percent of corn grown in the United States is now used to produce ethanol, up from 6.5 percent in 2000. . . .” (1 point).

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Question 12

Sample Responses

Sample Response: 1 point

In Passage 2, the author argues that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production. Select the sentence below that supports this claim.

- 11 The problem with corn ethanol is that it takes about the same amount of fossil fuel to produce an equal amount of ethanol. This leaves us with no net gain in the reduction of carbon emissions, or our use of fossil fuel. . . .
- 12 But there are more problems with corn ethanol.
- 13 Corn requires more fertilizer to grow strong and healthy than any other major crop. About 40 percent of all nitrogen fertilizer used for growing our crops is used for corn, and the fertilizer is almost all fossil energy.
- 14 In spite of over 1,000 uses we have for corn and corn byproducts, about 20 percent of corn grown in the United States is now used to produce ethanol, up from 6.5 percent in 2000. . . .

Notes on Scoring

This response earns full credit (1 point) because it accurately identifies the support needed to uphold the author's claim that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production.

Sample Response: 0 points

In Passage 2, the author argues that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production. Select the sentence below that supports this claim.

- 11 The problem with corn ethanol is that it takes about the same amount of fossil fuel to produce an equal amount of ethanol. This leaves us with no net gain in the reduction of carbon emissions, or our use of fossil fuel. . . .
- 12 But there are more problems with corn ethanol.
- 13 Corn requires more fertilizer to grow strong and healthy than any other major crop. About 40 percent of all nitrogen fertilizer used for growing our crops is used for corn, and the fertilizer is almost all fossil energy.
- 14 In spite of over 1,000 uses we have for corn and corn byproducts, about 20 percent of corn grown in the United States is now used to produce ethanol, up from 6.5 percent in 2000. . . .

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points) because it does not accurately identify the support needed to uphold the author's claim that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production.

Sample Response: 0 points

In Passage 2, the author argues that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production. Select the sentence below that supports this claim.

- 11 The problem with corn ethanol is that it takes about the same amount of fossil fuel to produce an equal amount of ethanol. This leaves us with no net gain in the reduction of carbon emissions, or our use of fossil fuel. . . .
- 12 But there are more problems with corn ethanol.
- 13 Corn requires more fertilizer to grow strong and healthy than any other major crop. About 40 percent of all nitrogen fertilizer used for growing our crops is used for corn, and the fertilizer is almost all fossil energy.
- 14 In spite of over 1,000 uses we have for corn and corn byproducts, about 20 percent of corn grown in the United States is now used to produce ethanol, up from 6.5 percent in 2000. . . .

Notes on Scoring

This response earns no credit (0 points) because it does not accurately identify the support needed to uphold the author's claim that corn ethanol production takes the focus away from important food production.

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Question 13

Question and Scoring Guidelines

Question 13

According to Passage 2, why is corn ethanol unacceptable as a solution to today's energy problems?

- Ⓐ It costs the government too much money.
- Ⓑ It requires too many resources for its production.
- Ⓒ It discourages farmers from growing crops for food.
- Ⓓ It demands a guaranteed supply of corn every year.

Points Possible: 1

Content Strand: Key Ideas and Details

Content Standard: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. A student may select this because the beginning of the passage mentions the U.S. funding and that corn ethanol is receiving the most funding from the government. A false assumption would be that it was too expensive to fund; however, this is not the author's objection to corn ethanol.

Rationale for Option B: **Key** – The author cites the amount of fertilizer and fossil fuel needed to produce corn ethanol with the implication that the increased emissions for production would negate the benefits of reduced emissions from using corn ethanol as a fuel.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. The author states that there are more uses for corn, but does not consider corn purely as a food source. In addition, government funding might encourage farmers to choose to grow corn, but this is not implied or stated by the author.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. A student may select this because the passage discusses the difficulty with growing corn. It could be implied that this would make it a problem to guarantee a supply; however, the author does not use this as part of the argument against corn ethanol.

Sample Response: 1 point

According to Passage 2, why is corn ethanol unacceptable as a solution to today's energy problems?

- ☐ Ⓐ It costs the government too much money.
- ☒ Ⓑ It requires too many resources for its production.
- ☐ Ⓒ It discourages farmers from growing crops for food.
- ☐ Ⓓ It demands a guaranteed supply of corn every year.

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