

Lift

LEVEL 3 Pre-Test

READING

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

An Uncertain New Partner

- 1 Mei rushed eagerly into her lab. She was deeply absorbed in a new solar energy product she was researching—but just then, her supervisor, Ali, came in, followed by someone new.
- 2 “Mei, I’d like to introduce you to Jack,” said Ali.
- 3 “Greetings, the Mei. I am the Jack.”
- 4 Ali chuckled. “It may take a while for Jack to get the language correct; after all, he is an android, and his language still needs some tweaking. However, he has shown excellent ability in the field of solar research—so, Mei, meet your new partner!”
- 5 Mei’s heart sank. *Does Ali think I can’t do this work on my own, that I need some robotic creature that calls me “the Mei”?* she wondered. But before she could express her thoughts, Ali slipped out, leaving Mei standing in front of “the Jack.”
- 6 Mei gave an annoyed sigh, spun around, and hurried to her desk. *I don’t care what this new partner can say or do, she fumed. Ali may not have confidence in me, but he’s wrong. He’s acting as if my product is a fragile house made of straw, but with all the work I’ve put into it, it’s a solid house made of brick! I don’t need this silly android!*
- 7 Mei dove diligently into today’s task of determining how to get a group of people to test her new product: a solar device that transfers energy directly to people. She had tried for weeks to send information beams about the product to people’s minds, but most people blocked them.
- 8 Jack walked over and quickly scanned her desk, which was filled with prototypes and screens. “I perceive that you are attempting to transmit information beams to human brains—a process in which I may be of some assistance.”
- 9 As Mei glanced up at him resentfully, Jack continued, “With my AI, I have conducted millions of information-beam transfers at my previous lab, and their data shows that I am successful with this.”
- 10 “Really?” replied Mei sarcastically. “Well, if you’re so smart, Einstein, why don’t you give it your best try?”

- 11 Fifteen minutes after Mei described to Jack exactly what she required, Jack was able to send out successful information beams that would have taken Mei weeks to complete. Within a half an hour, Mei had a large group of people willing to test the procedure further.
- 12 “I can’t believe you were able to do this!” exclaimed Mei.
- 13 “I sense appreciation,” commented Jack, and Mei smiled.
- 14 As they continued to work together, Mei grew more accustomed to Jack and his odd android mannerisms. Having an android as a lab partner was like raising a child: Jack was constantly offering amazing ideas, and he often said foolish things. Ultimately, however, they worked well together.
- 15 Once Mei completed the sample research with her product, she was very pleased with the results.
- 16 “I sense satisfaction,” said Jack.
- 17 “Actually,” said Mei, “I feel grateful—for you and your persistent help.” Jack and Mei smiled at each other and then resumed their work.



- 1** Which statement **best** expresses a theme, or message, in this story?
- (A) You should always trust yourself.
 - (B) It's important never to compromise too much.
 - (C) Your first thoughts about someone may be incorrect.
 - (D) You can always depend on family.
- 2** Which sentence **most clearly** supports the inference that Mei dislikes Jack?
- (A) Mei gave an annoyed sigh, spun around, and hurried to her desk.
 - (B) Within a half an hour, Mei had a large group of people willing to test the procedure further.
 - (C) "I can't believe you were able to do this!" exclaimed Mei.
 - (D) As they continued to work together, Mei grew more accustomed to Jack and his odd android mannerisms.
- 3** Read paragraph 4 of "An Uncertain New Partner."
How do Ali's words develop the plot of the story?
- (A) They hint that Mei's project will fail.
 - (B) They explain why Mei cares about her research.
 - (C) They show that Ali wants to get involved in Mei's work.
 - (D) They put Mei and Jack together as unlikely partners.

- 4** Read paragraph 6 of "An Uncertain New Partner."
Mei compares her research to a house made of brick. What does this analogy tell the reader about how Mei views her research?
- (A) She is distracted by her research.
 - (B) She is confident in her research.
 - (C) She is disappointed in her research.
 - (D) She is hoping to build houses with her research.

- 5** In 3–5 sentences, describe how Mei's thoughts about Jack change by the end of the story.



DIRECTIONS: Read the poems and answer the questions.

I'll Stretch It a Little

Amos R. Wells

- The wintry blast was fierce and cold,
And the lassie's coat was thin and old.
Her little brother by her side
Shivered and pitifully cried.
- 5 "Come underneath my coat," said she,
"And see how snug and warm you'll be."
The brother answered, nothing loth,
"But is it big enough for both?"
"Yes," said the girl, with cheery wit;
- 10 "I'll stretch it out a little bit."
- Ah, brothers, sisters, where the mind
Is bent upon an action kind,
What though the means are sparely spun,
And hardly seem to serve for one?
- 15 Stretch them with love, and straightaway you
Will find them amply wide for two!



Purpose

Edgar A. Guest

Not for the sake of the gold,
Not for the sake of the fame,
Not for the prize would I hold
Any ambition or aim:
5 I would be brave and be true
Just for the good I can do.

I would be useful on earth,
Serving some purpose or cause,
Doing some labor of worth,
10 Giving no thought to applause.
Thinking less of the gold or the fame
Than the joy and the thrill of the game.

Medals their brightness may lose,
Fame be forgotten or fade,
15 Any reward we may choose
Leaves the account still unpaid.
But little real happiness lies
In fighting alone for a prize.

Give me the thrill of the task,
20 The joy of the battle and strife,
Of being of use, and I'll ask
No greater reward from this life.
Better than fame or applause
Is striving to further a cause.



6 Which **best** expresses the theme of “I’ll Stretch It a Little”?

- (A) No power is greater than the power of love.
- (B) Everyone needs and deserves to feel loved.
- (C) Love helps sacrifices and difficulties feel easier.
- (D) Love requires sacrifices.

7 Which pair of lines from “Purpose” is the **best** evidence for the inference that the speaker isn’t interested in getting special attention for doing good things?

- (A) I would be useful on earth,
Serving some purpose or cause,
- (B) Doing some labor of worth,
Giving no thought to applause.
- (C) Any reward we may choose
Leaves the account still unpaid.
- (D) Give me the thrill of the task,
The joy of the battle and strife,

8 Which statement describes the use of rhyme and repetition in “I’ll Stretch It a Little” and in “Purpose”?

- (A) Both poems repeat sounds through the use of rhyme, but only “Purpose” repeats words.
- (B) “I’ll Stretch It a Little” repeats rhyming sounds, but “Purpose” uses rhyme less often.
- (C) Both poems repeat words for emphasis, but only “I’ll Stretch It a Little” uses rhyme to repeat sounds.
- (D) “Purpose” repeats sounds through pairs of rhyme, but “I’ll Stretch It a Little” has almost no repetition at all.

9 In “I’ll Stretch It a Little,” an analogy is made between the girl’s coat and an abstract idea. What does the poem suggest is like a coat?

- (A) the need for people to work together to solve problems
- (B) the powerful connections among members of a family
- (C) people’s worries about the future
- (D) whatever is required to help a person

10 In 3–5 sentences, compare and contrast the form, rhythm, and rhyme in the poems “I’ll Stretch It a Little” and “Purpose.”



DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Yuri Gagarin: Space Pioneer

- 1 On April 12, 1961, at around nine o'clock in the morning, Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel to space. This milestone was the beginning of a journey that humans are still traveling today.
- 2 Gagarin was a citizen of the Soviet Union, a federation of states that constituted the largest country in the world at the time. He was born in 1934 in a small village many miles from the capital city of Moscow. Eventually, he made his way to the Soviet Air Force cadet school. He later applied to become a cosmonaut—that is, a Soviet astronaut.
- 3 Gagarin's flight, in a spacecraft called *Vostok 1*, marked a major step forward for the Soviet space program. Gagarin orbited the earth once, in a 108-minute flight. He traveled as high as 203 miles above the earth's surface before returning. As a pilot, Gagarin was well trained for the enormous force—about eight times the force of gravity—that he experienced during his descent back to Earth.
- 4 At the time of the flight, an organization called the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) oversaw aerospace records. According to its rules, a spaceflight was made official only if the pilot landed with the spacecraft. Soviet leaders said that Gagarin had done so. However, the truth (revealed ten years later) was that the *Vostok* wasn't built to land. Instead, Gagarin ejected from the craft about four miles above the ground. It crashed, but he parachuted safely to the earth's surface. Despite this, Gagarin is still rightly celebrated as the first person to orbit the planet.
- 5 After he returned, Gagarin was hailed as a hero around the world. Spaceflight was still extremely dangerous, however. Soviet leaders did not want to risk Gagarin's life again now that he was a global icon. As a result, Gagarin didn't return to space. Instead, he served in the government and conducted test flights for the Air Force. Tragically, Gagarin died in an accident during a test flight in 1968 at the age of 34.
- 6 Gagarin's achievements and legacy are significant. Throughout the 20th century, the Soviet Union and the United States were very competitive. Eventually, however, spaceflight became a way for the two global powers to cooperate. They conducted a joint spaceflight, called *Apollo-Soyuz*, in 1975. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, the United States sent some of its astronauts to a Russian space station called *Mir*, the word for "peace" in Russian.
- 7 Later, Russia partnered with many other countries to conduct research in the International Space Station, a global research lab that has orbited the planet since 1998. This and other exciting projects like it can be traced back to Gagarin's flight more than fifty years ago.



- 11** Which sentence from “Yuri Gagarin: Space Pioneer” provides the **best** evidence that a spaceflight can cause physical stress?
- (A) He traveled as high as 203 miles above the earth’s surface before returning.
 - (B) Gagarin’s flight, in a spacecraft called *Vostok 1*, marked a major step forward for the Soviet space program.
 - (C) As a pilot, Gagarin was well trained for the enormous force—about eight times the force of gravity—that he experienced during his descent back to Earth.
 - (D) Soviet leaders did not want to risk Gagarin’s life again now that he was a global icon.

- 12** Read paragraph 2 of “Yuri Gagarin: Space Pioneer.”

Which is the **best** summary of the paragraph?

- (A) Gagarin was born in 1934 in a village far from the capital of the Soviet Union.
- (B) Born in a Soviet village, Gagarin trained as an Air Force cadet before becoming a cosmonaut.
- (C) Gagarin's historic achievement was unlikely, considering his background.
- (D) Astronauts in the Soviet space program were called cosmonauts.

- 13** Read paragraph 5 of “Yuri Gagarin: Space Pioneer.”

Which statement **best** analyzes how ideas in the paragraph are connected?

- (A) The paragraph compares Gagarin's historic flight to later space missions.
- (B) The paragraph shows how Gagarin's attitude changed after he was hailed as a hero.
- (C) The paragraph shows how Gagarin's achievement did not make spaceflight any safer.
- (D) The paragraph contrasts Gagarin's status as a hero with the fact that he did not return to space.

- 14** Read paragraph 6 of “Yuri Gagarin: Space Pioneer.”

Which is the **best** summary of the paragraph?

- (A) One example of cooperation between countries is the *Mir* space station.
- (B) Gagarin's legacy is most important to the people of Russia, who view him as a hero.
- (C) The United States and the Soviet Union were competitive throughout the 20th century.
- (D) Gagarin's achievement helped the United States and the Soviet Union to start working together in space.

- 15** In 3–5 sentences, describe the author’s viewpoint about Yuri Gagarin. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

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DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

The Benefits of In-Person Classes

- 1 Even as this school year continues, teacher teams across the country are thinking about what school should be like next year. A key discussion point is whether to hold school online or in person in the classroom. E-learning programs are readily available, and they offer benefits for some students. Nevertheless, the classroom is the ideal setting for learning because it offers better instruction and interaction.
- 2 One can argue against distance learning by noting technical challenges, such as ensuring reliable internet connections and access to laptops and printers. But these are practical problems that funding can solve. More important reasons why students should experience in-class instruction have to do with things that money cannot buy.
- 3 The first reason for in-person learning is direct instruction. Face-to-face instruction matters for at least two reasons: feedback and encouragement. Experienced teachers can more easily identify students who are struggling with their work, who are not paying attention, or who need encouragement. The teachers can then move quickly to support individual students or to involve the class. Teachers can also provide feedback in a one-on-one setting within the classroom. Offering feedback like this is hard to do in an online setting, with students appearing in class only as a group of faces on a screen.
- 4 The second reason that even the best e-learning programs cannot match classroom time is student interaction. Studies show that students learn better in rich social environments. This is especially important for younger students. In class, students work together. They experience social interaction, which keeps minds alert. They enjoy quick breaks from work, in the hallway between classes or at lunch, that refresh their attention and build relationships. Online learning cannot offer the diverse interactions found in a room full of students. No chat room or display of emojis can substitute for these interactions, which promote better mental health and, therefore, support learning.
- 5 This is not to say that e-learning is never a wise choice. For example, students recovering from illness or injury at home can work online to keep up with their studies and to interact in a limited way with classmates. Students in rural school settings can benefit as well. Smaller schools that serve less populated areas often do not offer advanced classes such as Calculus II. Having access to such classes online broadens rural students' learning opportunities. Additionally, some older students need to balance work and school. For them, distance learning can make the difference between finishing high school and quitting without a diploma.
- 6 However, for most students, in-class instruction is the better option. The social aspects of learning with classmates and the direct interactions with teachers create a supportive environment for learning. Most students do better in this environment than at home with a laptop and headphones. At home, encouragement to keep working on a challenging assignment tends to be less effective, despite parents' good intentions. The best mix of instruction and interaction happens at school, so keep young people where they need to be—in their classrooms.

GO ON 

- (A) One can argue against distance learning by noting technical challenges, such as ensuring reliable internet connections and access to laptops and printers.
- (B) Offering feedback like this is hard to do in an online setting, with students appearing in class only as a group of faces on a screen.
- (C) Online learning cannot offer the diverse interactions found in a room full of students.
- (D) Smaller schools that serve less populated areas often do not offer advanced classes such as Calculus II.

- (A) One can argue against distance learning by noting technical challenges, such as ensuring reliable internet connections and access to laptops and printers.
- (B) Experienced teachers can more easily identify students who are struggling with their work, who are not paying attention, or who need encouragement.
- (C) Studies show that students learn better in rich social environments.
- (D) No chat room or display of emojis can substitute for these interactions, which promote better mental health and, therefore, support learning.

- How does this paragraph support the author's argument?

- (B) It introduces new evidence to further support the advantages of in-class instruction.
- (C) It restates two reasons in favor of in-class instruction to reinforce the author's position.
- (D) It warns the reader that online learning could prove to be a disaster for children's education.

- ☐ (A) paragraph 1
☐ (B) paragraph 3
☐ (C) paragraph 5
☐ (D) paragraph 6

- [illegible]

GO ON

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

DIRECTIONS: A student is writing an essay. The essay includes several errors. Read the essay and think about possible revisions. Then answer the questions that follow.

What Is Birding?

- 1 My favorite hobby is birding but some people call it bird-watching. Birding is the act of watching birds. But it involves watching them outside, where they live. Birders often try to identify the birds they see. They even count how many different types of birds they observe during a year. Are you wondering where to begin to start birding? Don't worry! Getting started is quite simple.
- 2 Although a person can start birding simply by going outside and looking for birds, being an active birder takes a bit more work. A person also needs some tools or equipment. Certain tools can be used to find birds, see birds, and even document the birds that were seen. One key piece of equipment is a pair of binoculars. Binoculars help birders see birds from far away. With binoculars, seeing birds that are nesting high in trees becomes an easy task.
- 3 Cameras with powerful lenses can be better than binoculars. You can use the camera to zoom in on birds that are far away. In fact, some birders carry a camera instead of binoculars. A camera also allows birders to take pictures. Birders can review the pictures later to confirm which types of birds they have seen. They can share the pictures with other birders to celebrate a special bird they found. They can also share the pictures to have other birders help them identify an unknown type of bird.
- 4 Another useful tool is a birding app. Birding apps are used as a way for birders to identify birds. To use an app to identify a bird, birders can simply enter characteristics of a bird they see. The app will then provide likely options for the type of bird.
- 5 Birding is a way to enjoy nature at its finest. Many people enjoy birding because it gets them outside. Also, a person does not need much knowledge equipment or experience to get started. All that a person needs are motivation and maybe a pair of binoculars. So, get yourself those binoculars, go outside, and start birding today!



DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “What Is Birding?” Choose the correct answer.

- 21** Birders often try to identify the birds they see.
Which part of the sentence is an infinitive used as a noun?
- (A) often try
 - (B) to identify
 - (C) they see

- 22** Birding is a way to enjoy nature at its finest.
Which part of the sentence is an infinitive used as an adjective?
- (A) Birding
 - (B) a way
 - (C) to enjoy

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “What Is Birding?” Is the underlined gerund a subject or an object? Write S for *subject* or O for *object*.

- 23** _____ Many people enjoy birding because it gets them outside.
- 24** _____ With binoculars, seeing birds that are nesting high in trees becomes an easy task.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “What Is Birding?” Choose the correct answer.

- 25** Birders often try to identify the birds they see.
What is the mood and purpose of the underlined verb?
- (A) It is indicative mood. It states a fact.
 - (B) It is interrogative mood. It asks a question.
 - (C) It is imperative mood. It gives a command.

- 26** So, get yourself those binoculars, go outside, and start birding today!
What is the mood and purpose of the underlined verbs?
- (A) It is indicative mood. It states a fact.
 - (B) It is interrogative mood. It asks a question.
 - (C) It is imperative mood. It gives a command.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “What Is Birding?” Rewrite the underlined part of the sentence. Use correct punctuation.

- 27** My favorite hobby is birding but some people call it bird-watching.

My favorite hobby is _____

call it bird-watching.
- 28** Also, a person does not need much knowledge equipment or experience to get started.

Also, a person does not need much _____
_____ to get started.



DIRECTIONS: Read the sentences. Complete the new sentence using the underlined verb in the passive voice.

- 29** Birding can be an interesting hobby no matter where you live. People find fascinating birds even in big cities.

Fascinating birds _____
even in big cities.

- 30** Everyone loved the new birding app. Everyone forgot about the old birding app almost immediately.

The old birding app _____
about almost immediately.

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer.

- 31** Read the sentence.

Although 24 people have traveled to the moon, only 12 have walked on the lunar surface.

Using context clues, what is the meaning of the underlined word?

- (A) strange or weird
- (B) related to the stars
- (C) in a regular pattern
- (D) related to the moon

- 32** Read the sentence.

Astronauts who visited the moon left behind memorabilia, such as national flags, family photos, plaques, and even two golf balls!

Using context clues, what is the meaning of the underlined word?

- (A) scientific equipment
- (B) special items
- (C) useless objects
- (D) personal property

- 33** The prefix *trans-* means “change.” Based on your knowledge of the word *form*, what is the meaning of *transform*?

- (A) to change in appearance
- (B) to change plans
- (C) to change the order of
- (D) to change in location

- 34** The suffix *-or* means “one who.” Based on your knowledge of the word *protect*, what is the meaning of *protector*?

- (A) one who hides
- (B) one who keeps
- (C) one who guards
- (D) one who doesn’t change

35 Read the sentence.

The children hurried to the store like moths attracted to a light bulb.

Which **best** explains the meaning of the underlined simile?

- (A) The children went to the store unwillingly.
- (B) The children were strongly interested in the store.
- (C) The children were loud when they arrived at the store.
- (D) The children were hungry when they arrived at the store.

36 Read the sentence.

Sophia felt guilt, a heavy stone tied to her ankle, and decided to apologize.

Which **best** explains the meaning of the underlined metaphor?

- (A) Sophia's guilt was easy to manage.
- (B) Sophia's guilt happened suddenly.
- (C) Sophia's guilt was hard to live with.
- (D) Sophia's guilt comforted her.

37 Read the sentence.

Hassan has a deep dislike for spy movies, unlike his adoration for action movies.

What relationship between the words *dislike* and *adoration* does the transition word *unlike* show?

- (A) that *dislike* and *adoration* are antonyms
- (B) that *dislike* and *adoration* are synonyms
- (C) that *adoration* is part of *dislike*
- (D) that *adoration* is a category of *dislike*

38 Read the sentence.

Each school day includes a lunch period.

What relationship between the words *school day* and *lunch period* does the word *includes* show?

- (A) that *school day* and *lunch period* are antonyms
- (B) that *school day* and *lunch period* are synonyms
- (C) that *lunch period* is part of *school day*
- (D) that *lunch period* is a category of *school day*

39 Read the sentence.

The construction workers made such a racket that it was hard for me to focus on my homework.

Which connotation does the word *racket* have in the sentence?

- (A) positive
- (B) neutral
- (C) negative

40 Read the sentence.

I spent half an hour watering the young plants in the garden.

Which connotation does the word *young* have in the sentence?

- (A) positive
- (B) neutral
- (C) negative



WRITING

- 41** What is a problem in your community that you think should be addressed? Write a problem-solution essay about an issue that your community faces. Examples might include pollution, a lack of housing, or bullying. You may choose one of these topics or one of your own.

Your problem-solution essay should include:

- an introductory paragraph with a topic sentence that introduces the problem
- at least three paragraphs that present facts, examples, or quotations that support ideas about the problem and possible solutions
- a final paragraph that restates the problem and offers a conclusion about the solutions you suggest.

Write your essay in the space below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.