

Lift

LEVEL 3 Midterm Assessment

READING

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Making a Difference

- 1 Min-jun stood on the bridge over the creek, watching for interesting wildlife: a turtle here, a fish there, perhaps a crane. When he noticed a strange shape in the water, he carefully went down to investigate.
- 2 “Ugh! It’s a plastic bag!” Min-jun exclaimed before quickly grabbing a stick and retrieving the bag.
- 3 Sighing with frustration, Min-jun walked to the nearest trash bin. As he threw the bag away, his friend Do-yun rode up on his bike. Min-jun noticed something caught on the back of the bike. “Is that . . . a plastic bag?” he asked with a disgusted frown.
- 4 “I guess it is,” Do-yun responded, reaching down to pluck the garbage off his bike frame. “It feels like plastic bags are floating around everywhere these days.”
- 5 “I wish there were something we could do,” said Min-jun thoughtfully. “But what can 13-year-olds accomplish?”
- 6 “I know just who to ask!” exclaimed Do-yun. “Ha-joon!”
- 7 Do-yun and Min-jun found their classmate Ha-joon just where they anticipated—in the library, diligently scribbling in his journal. Known for his innovative ideas, Ha-joon was the perfect person to help. Min-jun showed Ha-joon the bag that had been caught on Do-yun’s bike and explained the problem.
- 8 “Yes! I’m glad that someone else has recognized this issue!” cheered Ha-joon. “We should go straight to the source of the problem: the stores!”
- 9 In a few minutes, the trio devised a plan to approach several stores. The store owners they visited, however, were unwilling to listen to “kids who don’t know anything about running a business.” The stores did not want to stop using plastic bags.
- 10 Min-jun, Do-yun, and Ha-joon considered their next step.
- 11 “If we can’t change the stores,” Min-jun suggested, “maybe we can change what customers do with the bags.”

A black arrow pointing to the right with the words "GO ON" in white capital letters inside it.

- 12 “We should discuss this issue with the community and make sure that the people are behind us,” said Ha-joon, “or else we’ll be like an ant trying to push a rock up a hill all alone.”
- 13 Over the next two weeks, the trio surveyed their friends and neighbors about environmental concerns. It was overwhelming to see how many people cared.
- 14 “Now that we know that people want to help, we need to show them how to help,” said Min-jun.
- 15 “The town of Iksan has bins for recycling plastic bags,” said Ha-joon. “Starting a similar program could be our answer, but we should do a little more research online before we decide.”
- 16 After investigating additional solutions, the friends agreed that recycling bins were indeed the best answer. With help from their parents, the boys created several receptacles specifically for plastic bags and placed them around the neighborhood.
- 17 Slowly but surely, the shiny plastic bags began disappearing from the landscape as people began putting them in the recycling bins.
- 18 Min-jun was relieved as he walked along the creek a few months later and saw the clear water, the jumping frogs, and the occasional turtle basking in the sun. “I guess it’s true,” beamed Min-jun, talking to a turtle. “Even 13-year-olds can make a difference!”



- 1** Which choice **most clearly** supports the inference that the store owners do not take teenagers seriously?
- (A) "I wish there were something we could do," said Min-jun thoughtfully.
 - (B) "Yes! I'm glad that someone else has recognized this issue!" cheered Ha-joon. "We should go straight to the source of the problem: the stores!"
 - (C) In a few minutes, the trio devised a plan to approach several stores.
 - (D) The store owners they visited, however, were unwilling to listen to "kids who don't know anything about running a business."

- 2** Which statement expresses the theme in this story?
- (A) Patience is an important part of getting things done.
 - (B) Help can sometimes come from unexpected places.
 - (C) Young people can accomplish important things.
 - (D) Things are not always as they seem to be at first.

- 3** Read paragraph 6 of "Making a Difference." Do-yun's words reveal that he
- (A) respects Ha-joon's intelligence.
 - (B) wants Ha-joon to think well of him.
 - (C) is worried that Ha-joon won't help them.
 - (D) is jealous of Ha-joon's ideas and achievements.

- 4** Read paragraph 12 of "Making a Difference." What does this analogy show about Ha-joon and his message?

- (A) He is worried that Do-yun and Min-jun have lost interest.
- (B) He is upset because the store owners are not listening.
- (C) He understands the importance of cooperation.
- (D) He hopes to get others to do the work for him.

- 5** The story begins when Min-jun sees a plastic bag in the water. In 3–5 sentences, analyze how this event affects the story's plot.

DIRECTIONS: Read the poems and answer the questions.

Forgotten

Harold Vinal

How can I remember
Autumn and pain,
When trees hold dreams
In their arms again?

5 How can my heart break
Till it cries?
The joy of summer
Has made me wise.

I can't remember
10 What hurt me so—
Autumn and winter
Were so long ago.

A Green Stream

Wang Wei

I have come on the River of Yellow Flowers,
Borne by the current of a green stream
Rounding ten thousand turns through the mountains
To journey less than a hundred li.

5 Rapids hum on scattered stones,
Light is dim in the close pines,
The surface of an inlet sways with nut-horns,
Weeds are lush along the banks.
Down in my heart I have always been clear
10 As this clarity of waters.
Oh, to remain on a broad flat rock
And cast my fishing-line forever!



6 Which pair of lines from “A Green Stream” is the **best** evidence for the inference that the speaker must leave the river for outside responsibilities?

- (A) I have come on the River of Yellow Flowers,
Borne by the current of a green stream
- (B) Rounding ten thousand turns through
the mountains
To journey less than a hundred li.
- (C) Rapids hum on scattered stones,
Light is dim in the close pines,
- (D) Oh, to remain on a broad flat rock
And cast my fishing-line forever!

7 Which choice **best** expresses the theme of “Forgotten”?

- (A) Nature brings joy in all seasons.
- (B) Pain fades with time and change.
- (C) It is best to face your problems.
- (D) Letting go of pain can be difficult.

8 Which statement describes the use of rhyme in “Forgotten” and in “A Green Stream”?

- (A) Only “A Green Stream” uses a regular pattern of rhyme.
- (B) Only “Forgotten” uses a regular pattern of rhyme.
- (C) Neither poem uses a regular pattern of rhyme.
- (D) Both poems use a regular pattern of rhyme.

9 Read lines 9–10 from “A Green Stream.” What does the analogy in these lines **most likely** mean?

- (A) The speaker wishes that he or she could become one with nature.
- (B) The speaker cares more about his or her feelings than about facts.
- (C) The speaker can think clearly only when he or she is at this fishing spot.
- (D) The speaker knows who he or she is.

10 In 3–5 sentences, compare the text structures of “Forgotten” and “A Green Stream.” In particular, describe how the number and length of stanzas and the use of rhythm help show the meanings of the two poems.

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Squad Goals: The Advantages of Team Sports

- 1 Sports are immensely popular around the world and for good reason. Sports help us exercise, set goals, and—most importantly—have fun! Just about every sport has dedicated fans who benefit from supporting their team. When it comes to the benefits for players, however, not all sports are equal. Ultimately, team sports, like basketball and volleyball, offer more advantages for players than individual sports, such as tennis and golf, do.
- 2 Why are team sports better? Unlike individual sports, team sports encourage collaboration. The collaborative nature of team sports teaches important lessons about working together for the good of the group. Even teams with star players won't be successful if they can't learn to work together so that all players do their best. For example, a soccer team with an excellent striker still relies on a good defense. Any goals the striker scores won't ensure the team wins if the other team can score goals, too.
- 3 That collaborative attitude has applications in the world outside of sports. At a panel discussion at Harvard Business School on how sports can apply to the business world, businesswoman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jessica Gelman talked about her time on a basketball team. "I was a point guard, so my role was to understand people's strengths and weaknesses," she said. "It's about setting people up to be successful, and you use that as a CEO. You have to recognize where people are at this moment in time: if they're not taking on a task, you need to see where they're trying and failing, and where they might need a push." The lessons that Gelman learned from her time playing team sports have directly impacted how she manages her business. She probably had more fun on a team than she would have playing an individual sport, too!
- 4 Teams also provide a built-in support system. When you win a game as part of a team, you have people with whom to celebrate. And when you lose, you have a group to support you and help you stay focused. On the other hand, people who play individual sports lack the same group support. They have fewer people to share their successes and failures with. That can be a difficult and isolating experience.
- 5 Being part of a team and working toward a common goal also helps individuals become better athletes. Dr. Susan McDaniel, a psychologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, notes, "We all have blind spots about our behaviors and strengths that we may be unaware of, and feedback from a team member can expose them." In other words, playing on a team can give you insight you can't get on your own.
- 6 There's no question that playing any sport offers benefits, even if it's just having a good time doing something fun. However, if you're trying to learn how to cooperate and communicate, nothing is better than being on a team.

GO ON 

- 13** Read paragraph 3 of “Squad Goals: The Advantages of Team Sports.”
- The author uses Jessica Gelman’s experience to
- (A) identify the sports skills that people think of as the best for business.
 - (B) contrast the experience of playing individual sports with team sports.
 - (C) connect effective skills in sports with effective skills in business.
 - (D) introduce a new argument about the importance of setting goals.

- 15** In 3–5 sentences, explain whether you think the author’s overall claim is successfully supported. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

[illegible]

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Research at the Bottom of the Earth

- 1 Suppose that you want to research the atmosphere, study the deepest ice on earth, and find the smallest particles of matter that exist in the universe. Where might you be able to do all this incredible research? You could work with scientists at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station! Getting there isn't easy, though. You would have to brave incredibly cold temperatures (which can plummet to minus 57°C (–70°F) in the winter) for the journey across an icy desert. But the hazardous trip is worth the effort, for it opens the door to new discoveries to improve life on our planet.
- 2 Work on the first permanent research facility at the South Pole began in November 1956 and was completed in February 1957. The station was named in honor of the explorers Roald Amundsen and Robert F. Scott. Amundsen reached the South Pole in 1911; Scott arrived in 1912. A larger dome was the next addition to the research station, completed in 1975. The dome covers small buildings, fuel tanks, and scientific equipment. Other buildings at the research station contain more equipment and emergency supplies. The research station even has a gym and an art studio! New buildings were added in the 1990s, and the station was upgraded between 1997 and 2008. Now, 150 people can comfortably work there in the summer. The number of winter residents drops to around 50.
- 3 What are some of the advantages of conducting experiments at the South Pole? The station's high elevation and the area's low humidity help scientists who study stars and planets to get a clear view. It's quiet at the South Pole, making it easy to detect earthquakes and other rumblings within the earth. Scientists at the South Pole can also learn about glaciers and ocean climate systems by studying them up close.
- 4 Research at the South Pole has yielded some amazing discoveries. Scientists have found the fossils of many plants and animals, including previously unknown species of dinosaurs. One mammal fossil suggests that Antarctica and South America were connected about 40 million years ago. Researchers have linked the depletion of the ozone layer to a decrease in marine life near Antarctica. That research could help scientists predict the effect of ozone loss in other places in the world. A team of cosmologists—scientists who study the universe—have used the station's sophisticated equipment to provide images that indicate how the universe might have appeared in its early stages. Additionally, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) wanted to test structures that could enable people to live safely on the moon. The harsh climate of Antarctica was the perfect place to try them.
- 5 With the knowledge that researchers have already gained, the future looks bright for more amazing discoveries at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station!

GO ON 

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

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

Making Friends at a New School

- 1 Have you ever had to change schools? My family moves often due to my dad's job, so I've changed schools many times. Arriving at a new school is never easy, especially in the middle of the year. Routines have been established, and friend groups are in place. Fitting in sometimes seems impossible. However, you can accomplish it if you try. Here are some tips I've discovered about overcoming the awkwardness of being the new kid.
- 2 The first tip is something that you probably have heard before be yourself. This is the only way to attract friends who will appreciate you for who you really are. If you try to imitate other people, you are not behaving as you normally would. Pretending all the time is exhausting, so it's better to be yourself from the beginning.
- 3 Secondly, reach out. This may sound obvious, but it's truly the only way you will start to make new friends. If you sit back and don't talk to anyone, it will take ten times longer to make a friend. Did you know that reaching out can be easy? It can be something as simple as asking someone a question sharing an idea or giving a compliment.
- 4 Finally, be friendly and open. This should be an obvious tip. It has been said that you get back what you give out. Kindness is the perfect way to approach making new friends in a new environment. Just try it to see what happens. Trust me—it works!



DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “Making Friends at a New School.” Choose the correct answer.

- 21** This is the only way to attract friends who will appreciate you for who you really are.
Which part of the sentence is an infinitive used as an adjective?

(A) is
(B) to attract
(C) will appreciate

- 22** Pretending all the time is exhausting, so it’s better to be yourself from the beginning.
Which part of the sentence is an infinitive used as a noun?

(A) Pretending
(B) is exhausting
(C) to be

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “Making Friends at a New School.” Is the underlined gerund a subject or an object? Write S for *subject* or O for *object*.

- 23** _____ Arriving at a new school is never easy, especially in the middle of the year.
- 24** _____ Kindness is the perfect way to approach making new friends in a new environment.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “Making Friends at a New School.” Choose the correct answer.

- 25** Secondly, reach out.
What is the mood and purpose of the underlined verb?

(A) It is imperative mood. It gives a command.
(B) It is interrogative mood. It asks a question.
(C) It is indicative mood. It states a fact.

- 26** Did you know that reaching out can be easy?
What is the mood and purpose of the underlined verb?

(A) It is imperative mood. It gives a command.
(B) It is interrogative mood. It asks a question.
(C) It is indicative mood. It states a fact.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence from “Making Friends at a New School.” Rewrite the underlined part of the sentence. Use correct punctuation.

- 27** It can be something as simple as asking someone a question sharing an idea or giving a compliment.

It can be something as simple as

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer.

- 28** Read the sentence from “Making Friends at a New School.”

The first tip is something that you probably have heard before be yourself.

Which sentence correctly introduces a dash to create a break for emphasis?

- (A) The first tip—is something that you probably have heard before be yourself.
- (B) The first tip is something—that you probably have heard before be yourself.
- (C) The first tip is something that you probably—have heard before be yourself.
- (D) The first tip is something that you probably have heard before—be yourself.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence(s) from “Making Friends at a New School.” Complete the new sentence using the underlined verb in the passive voice.

- 29** My family moves often due to my dad’s job, so I’ve changed schools many times.

My school _____
many times due to my dad’s job.

- 30** Fitting in sometimes seems impossible. However, you can accomplish it if you try.

Fitting in can _____
if you try.

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer.

- 31** Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

Arjun follows his older brother Anush everywhere. Arjun idolizes Anush and wants to do everything Anush does.

Which is the **best** meaning of *idolizes* as it is used in the sentences?

- (A) fears
- (B) admires
- (C) entertains
- (D) understands

- 32** Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

Naijat’s handwriting is illegible. I can’t understand any of the notes she has written!

Which is the **best** meaning of *illegible* as it is used in the sentences?

- (A) small
- (B) unclear
- (C) special
- (D) exact

- 33** Using your knowledge of the prefix *un-*, what is the meaning of the word *untucked*?

- (A) not tucked
- (B) tucked again
- (C) tucked before
- (D) beyond tucked

- 34** Using your knowledge of the suffix *-age*, what is the meaning of the word *wreckage*?

- (A) to become wrecked
- (B) someone who wrecks
- (C) having the qualities of a wreck
- (D) the condition of being wrecked

GO ON 

35 Read the sentences.

Mia recently moved to the city from a small town. She is a fish out of water for now, but she will soon be happy there.

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

- (A) Mia feels amused by the unusual habits of her new neighbors.
- (B) Mia feels angry because she did not want to move to a new place.
- (C) Mia feels uncomfortable because she is away from her usual surroundings.
- (D) Mia feels unhappy because she would rather live at the seashore than in a city.

36 Read the sentences.

Jeremy did not do anything about his assignments until the last minute. Now, he feels as if he is buried under a mountain of homework.

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

- (A) Jeremy feels regretful about delaying work on the assignments.
- (B) Jeremy feels overwhelmed by the amount of assignments.
- (C) Jeremy feels ready to start completing the assignments.
- (D) Jeremy refuses to think about the assignments.

37 Read the sentences. Consider how the underlined transition phrase helps identify word relationships.

Not all birds migrate in the winter. For example, although they might travel farther than usual to find food, ravens stay in the same home range all winter long.

What relationship does *birds* have to *ravens*?

- (A) synonyms
- (B) antonyms
- (C) part/whole
- (D) category/item

38 Read the sentence. Consider how the underlined transition word helps identify word relationships.

Unlike the energetic puppy, the old dog was sedate.

What relationship does *energetic* have to *sedate*?

- (A) synonyms
- (B) antonyms
- (C) part/whole
- (D) category/item

39 Read the sentence. Think about the connotation, or feeling, connected with the underlined word.

She tends to save her money for things that really matter to her, and others consider her to be thrifty.

What connotation does the word *thrifty* have in the sentence?

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

40 Read the sentence.

Saeed _____ after he kicked the winning goal in the championship game.

Which word gives the reader a positive connotation about Saeed?

- (A) bragged
- (B) celebrated
- (C) shouted
- (D) fell



WRITING

- 41** Imagine a group of students who are working on a project together for the first time and are having a hard time getting things done. Write a problem-solution essay in which you identify the problem in your own words and then explain one or more solutions for it.

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 or other markings on the paper.