

Tennessee Blueprint TCAP Coach, Gold Edition,
Reading & Language Arts, Grade 8

PRACTICE TEST A



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Tennessee Blueprint TCAP Coach, Gold Edition, Reading & Language Arts, Grade 8,
Practice Test A

108TNPTF

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Directions Read the passage. Then answer Sample A.

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Sample Passage

The day of the music recital had finally arrived. Phil had been practicing the piano for weeks. All of Mrs. Overton's students were going to perform at the recital. Phil's piece was a movement from a sonata by Haydn. It was by far the most challenging piece Phil had ever played. But Mrs. Overton had convinced Phil that he could do it. He just hoped she was right.

Sample A This passage is mostly about

- A** a composer named Haydn
- B** Phil getting ready for a recital
- C** Mrs. Overton's piano lessons
- D** different kinds of music

Directions

Here is a passage a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting.

1 The librarian at my school told me “about a dog from her neighborhood that had been picked up and taken to the pound.”
2 When I went home and told my dad, he decided we should go to the pound to rescue the dog. 3 She was a blue-eyed husky. 4 At the pound, us saw another dog that was very friendly. 5 He was black and white and looked like a lab. 6 The man at the pound said that a lot of people were interested in the husky. 7 We decided to take home the friendly dog instead. 8 We named him Henry.

Sample B

Choose the best way to write Sentence 1.

- F** The librarian at my school told me about a dog from her neighborhood that had been picked up and taken to the pound.
- G** “The librarian at my school told me about a dog from her neighborhood that had been picked up and taken to the pound.”
- H** The “librarian at my school” told me about a dog “from her neighborhood” that had been picked up and taken to the pound.
- J** Best as it is

Sample C

Choose the best way to write Sentence 4.

- A** At the pound, they saw another dog that was very friendly.
- B** At the pound, me saw another dog that was very friendly.
- C** At the pound, we saw another dog that was very friendly.
- D** Best as it is

Part 1

Directions

Read the story. Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

Jason and the Golden Fleece

adapted by Tillie Moser

Medea was a dark-haired princess, the daughter of a king. She was known throughout the land for her shining eyes and quick mind. Medea's father had many treasures, but his favorite was the gold-tinged wool of a sacred ram. The Golden Fleece hung from a tree in a dark forest and was guarded by a dragon who never slept. It was rumored that the king loved the fleece even more than his daughter, for as long as it hung in the forest, his rule went unchallenged.

One day a young man named Jason came to the kingdom. He was on a mission to retrieve the Golden Fleece; if he succeeded, he would be crowned king of his own homeland. Medea's father decided to have some fun with the visitor. "Help yourself," he said, "but first you must harness my fire-breathing bulls and use them to plow a field. Then you must plant the field with these dragons' teeth." He reached into his pocket and extended a handful of crusty yellow fangs.

Luckily for Jason, the princess had fallen in love with him. When no one was looking, she gave him a magic ointment that would protect him from fire. Using it, Jason managed to wrestle the bulls into a harness and plow the field as the king had asked. But when Jason scattered the dragons' teeth on the field, a crop of fierce warriors sprang up and began to advance on him. As a last-ditch defense, he threw a stone at one of them, which miraculously caused them to start fighting among themselves. By nightfall, they were all dead.

The pride-filled king was not prepared for Jason's triumphant return. He was prepared still less to hear of Medea's amorous feelings toward the young stranger. "You shall have neither my daughter nor my Golden Fleece!" he roared at Jason.

Medea feared for Jason's life and urged him to sail away. "Only if you will come with me and be my queen," Jason said to her, looking deep into her dark brown eyes.

"In that case, we must do our best to get the Golden Fleece," she replied matter-of-factly.

Medea led Jason through the forest. The dragon guarding the Golden Fleece belched smoke and breathed fire, and its scales made ominous rattling sounds. Through the horrible smoke, Medea looked solemnly at Jason, then let go of his hand and stepped forward. She searched her memory for the appropriate spell. In a flash, the forest was filled with the peaceful snores of the dragon, and Jason had snatched the Golden Fleece from the tree where it hung. The two dashed off to his ship, the *Argos*, and sailed away amid a chorus of cheers from Jason's men.

1 What trait best describes Jason?

- A short
- B wealthy
- C modest
- D brave

2 The Golden Fleece is a symbol of

- F unfailing protection
- G an almost impossible goal
- H goodness and fairness
- J riches beyond imagination

3 Why didn't the king want Jason to have the Golden Fleece?

- A He didn't want Jason to be king.
- B He didn't want to lose his daughter.
- C The Fleece was protected by a fire-breathing dragon.
- D He didn't think Jason was worthy of his daughter.

4 How does the author solve the problem Jason faces in the warriors?

- F Jason's skill as a fighter
- G Medea's spells and ointments
- H the fire-breathing dragon
- J the warriors attacking each other

5 Read this sentence from the passage.

He was prepared still less to hear of Medea's amorous feelings toward the young stranger.

The word **amorous** could best be replaced by

- A** loving
- B** magical
- C** normal
- D** beautiful

6 Which of the following is not a complication in the plot?

- F** The king gives Jason seemingly impossible trials.
- G** The king roars, "You shall have neither my daughter nor my Golden Fleece!"
- H** Medea fears for Jason's life and urges him to sail away.
- J** Medea and Jason sail away on Jason's ship, cheered on by his men.

7 Read the following sentence.

In that case, we must do our best to get the Golden Fleece," she replied matter-of-factly.

From this sentence, we learn that Medea is

- A** always right
- B** always telling jokes
- C** timid and fearful
- D** fairly sensible

8 The main conflict in this passage is between

- F Jason and the dragon
- G the king and himself
- H Jason and the king
- J the king and Medea

9 Which of these is not an example of a cultural difference between the world of “Jason and the Golden Fleece” and present-day American culture?

- A People travel primarily by sailing on wooden ships.
- B Fathers and daughters sometimes have arguments.
- C The ruler of the country is a king.
- D Some people can use magic to protect them from fire.

10 The passage is written from which point of view?

- F first person
- G second person
- H third-person omniscient
- J third-person limited

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 11 through 15.

1 At the end of the 1800s, big land companies began buying the mineral rights to huge portions of land. 2 The company agents offered 25 to 30 cents per acre to the residents who owned the land, and the landowners sold their land, and the companies were able to buy up rights to blocks of land as large as whole counties. 3 It gave the mineral rights' owners—in this case, the land companies—the right to mine without any responsibility for the harm done to the land as a result of the mining. 4 At that time, the bulldozing machinery that makes strip mining possible didn't exist. 5 Decades later, destructive strip-mining technology was well developed, and the mining companies came to claim their legal rights to the minerals. 6 The land was ravaged.

11 Which would be the best place for the following sentence?

The selling residents were asked to sign a document called a broad-form deed.

- A after Sentence 1
- B after Sentence 2
- C after Sentence 3
- D after Sentence 5

12 What is the best way to write Sentence 2?

- F** The company agents offered the landowners 25 to 30 cents per acre. Many landowners agreed to this small sum, and the company gained the rights to blocks of land that were as large as whole counties.
- G** The company agents offered 25 to 30 cents per acre to the residents who owned the land and they bought the rights to blocks of land as large as whole counties.
- H** The company agents bought land. They offered the residents 25 to 30 cents per acre. The residents sold. The companies bought. Blocks of land as large as whole counties.
- J** The company agents offered 25 to 30 cents per acre, to the residents who owned the land, and the companies were able to buy up rights, to blocks of land as large as whole counties.

13 Read the sentence.

At that time, the bulldozing machinery that makes strip mining possible didn't exist.

Which word is spelled incorrectly?

- A** bulldozing
- B** machinery
- C** mining
- D** possible

14 Choose the best way to write Sentence 5.

- F** Decades later destructive strip-mining technology was well developed, and the mining companies came, to claim their legal rights to the minerals.
- G** Decades later: destructive strip-mining technology was well developed, and the mining companies came to claim their legal rights to the minerals.
- H** Decades later destructive strip-mining technology was well developed and the mining companies came to claim their legal rights to the minerals.
- J** Best as it is

15 Which sentence best completes the paragraph?

- A** Many people lay down in front of the bulldozers to protect their land and protest these practices.
- B** After taking all the coal, the mining companies did not do a good job of cleaning up the mine sites.
- C** The original landowners, long buried now, could have had no idea what the results of their broad-form deed deals would be.
- D** The mining companies weren't the only people to buy up land; just look at the Indian reservations in this country.

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 16 through 20.

1 My family drives to my grandparents' house every Thanksgiving, and the same things happen every year. 2 According to the drive, my dad complains to my mom about leaving the dogs at home alone all day. 3 When we are ten minutes away from my grandparents' house, we almost run out of gas; we have to stop to buy some. 4 We eat a huge lunch of sandwiches and cookies, and talk about how we'll have no room for turkey at dinnertime. 5 Then some people go for a walk in the park next door, others sit and talk at the table and others fall asleep in front of the TV. 6 After the walk, the eating starts once more. 7 By the time the pumpkin and apple pies are served for dessert, we feel like we don't never need to eat again.

16 Choose the best way to write Sentence 1.

- F** My family drives to my grandparents' house every Thanksgiving, and, the same things happen every year.
- G** My family drives to my grandparents' house every Thanksgiving, and the same things happen, every year.
- H** My family drives to my grandparents' house every Thanksgiving and, the same things happen every year.
- J** Best as it is

17 Which sentence uses a prepositional phrase correctly?

- A** According to the drive, my dad complains to my mom about leaving the dogs at home alone all day.
- B** During the drive, my dad complains to my mom about leaving the dogs at home alone all day.
- C** Along with the drive, my dad complains to my mom about leaving the dogs at home alone all day.
- D** Of the drive, my dad complains to my mom about leaving the dogs at home alone all day.

18 Which sentence is written correctly?

- F** We eat a huge lunch of sandwiches and cookies and will be talking about how we'll have no room for turkey at dinnertime.
- G** We eat a huge lunch of sandwiches and cookies, and have talked about how we'll have no room for turkey at dinnertime.
- H** We eat a huge lunch of sandwiches and cookies and talk about how we'll have no room for turkey at dinnertime.
- J** We eat a huge lunch of sandwiches and cookies, and are talking about how we'll have no room for turkey at dinnertime.

19 Choose the best way to write Sentence 5.

- A** Then some people go for a walk in the park next door, others sit and talk at the table, and others fall asleep in front of the TV.
- B** Then some people go for a walk in the park next door others sit and talk at the table and others fall asleep in front of the TV.
- C** Then some people go for a walk in the park next door; others sit and talk at the table; and others fall asleep in front of the TV.
- D** Best as it is

20 Choose the best way to write Sentence 7.

- F** By the time the pumpkin and apple pies are served for dessert, we feel like we can't never need to eat again.
- G** By the time the pumpkin and apple pies are served for dessert, we feel like we will never need to eat again.
- H** By the time the pumpkin and apple pies are served for dessert, we feel like we won't never need to eat again.
- J** Best as it is

Directions

Read the article. Then answer Numbers 21 through 30.

The Lost Sea

by Ivy Barger

Young Ben Sands held the lantern at the end of his outstretched arm, staring at the mystery it revealed. How was it possible that he had never seen this hole, in all the times he had played in the cave? It even looked big enough to fit through. Ben wriggled down into the hole, grasping the lantern tightly, until he emerged into a cavern. He walked a few feet forward, hit water, and stopped. Ben was not a cautious boy, but he wasn't stupid, either, and had no intention of drowning before he could tell everyone what he had found. His lantern lit the surface of the water and gradually faded in the distance, water still rippling at the edge of the light. Ben scooped up a handful of mud and launched it like a baseball into the darkness. After a couple of seconds of silence, Ben couldn't help but laugh when he heard the mudball land with a splash.

Ben Sands was only thirteen years old in 1905 when he found the underground lake in Tennessee's Craighead Caverns, and for the rest of his life he never tired of telling the story of his discovery. At first, no one believed his account of finding the lake. When a team of spelunkers finally investigated a few weeks later, the water level had dropped dramatically. Even so, the explorers could see that Sands had been telling the truth, and scientists could begin to study the area. They soon noticed that the water level would rise and fall along with rainy and dry seasons.

For many years, the Lost Sea was thought to be the largest underground lake in the world. The visible part of the lake is about 800 feet long and 220 feet wide. Underneath the surface, divers have found an even larger system of rooms completely filled with water. Divers have mapped out several of these submerged caverns, but no one yet knows how many there are in total.

Unlike other underground lakes in Tennessee and elsewhere, the fish in the Lost Sea are not blind or colorless. The reason for this is simple: the fish are not native to the lake, because there is no place in the lake for fish to lay their eggs. Instead, the Lost Sea is stocked with rainbow trout every five years. Aside from these fish and some plants that grow by the artificial lights, most cave wildlife lives near the entrance. Deeper in the cave, rock formations and mineral deposits can look like alien creatures.

Visitors still gasp in awe at the Lost Sea and the cave system that contains it. Groups walk through the well-lit cavern, take boat tours if the water is high enough, and sometimes even stay overnight in the caves. As groups gaze out at the vast underground lake, each visitor relives a young boy's discovery of a natural wonder more than a century ago.

21 Which statement from the passage is an opinion?

- A** When a team of spelunkers finally investigated a few weeks later, the water level had dropped dramatically.
- B** They soon noticed that the water level would rise and fall along with rainy and dry seasons.
- C** Deeper in the cave, rock formations and mineral deposits can look like alien creatures.
- D** Groups walk through the cavern, take boat tours if the water is high enough, and sometimes even stay overnight in the caves.

22 The author's purpose for writing this passage was most likely to

- F** convince readers that underground lakes are more interesting than above-ground lakes
- G** encourage readers to learn how to safely hike and explore inside a cave system
- H** persuade readers to explore and play alone in dark caves near their homes
- J** inform readers about the history of one of Tennessee's most famous underground lakes

23 Why are the fish in the Lost Sea not blind and colorless, like other cave fish?

- A** The artificial lights have caused the fish to change.
- B** The fish are not native to the Lost Sea.
- C** The fish swim into the Lost Sea from outside the caves.
- D** The Lost Sea is not actually inside of a cave.

24 By describing a past event as though it were happening now, the author

- F** creates a sense of wonder at the lake's discovery
- G** emphasizes the age of the cave and lake
- H** allows the reader to witness the lake's formation
- J** shows the reader what it was like to be a kid in 1905

25 Which activity available to visitors of the Lost Sea is not mentioned in the passage?

- A** spelunking groups
- B** overnight visits
- C** walking tours
- D** boat tours

26 Which of these would be the best title for the passage?

- F** Mischievous Ben Sands
- G** Improving on Nature
- H** Lakes and Streams
- J** Underground Discovery

27 Which conclusion can be drawn from ideas stated in the passage?

- A** A larger underground lake has recently been discovered.
- B** The Lost Sea is the only underground lake in the world.
- C** No other lakes have the kind of fish found in the Lost Sea.
- D** The Lost Sea only exists in Ben Sands' imagination.

28 Which of the following is a detail about cave life mentioned in the passage?

- F** Rock and mineral formations can look like aliens.
- G** Bears and other mammals live deep in the caves.
- H** Insects live on the surface of the water.
- J** Lizards and snakes live in the cracks of the caves.

29 In the second paragraph of the passage, the word *spelunkers* means

- A** cave explorers
- B** people living underground
- C** scientists
- D** entertainers

30 What effect did throwing mudballs have on Ben Sands' discovery?

- F** Because he got in trouble for being dirty, he showed his discovery to others.
- G** Because of the splash of the mudball, others heard and came to see.
- H** Because of the mud, he knew that there was water in the cavern.
- J** Because of the splash of the mudball, he knew that the water went out very far.

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 31 through 35.

1 I am high up above the parking lot. 2 My harness is uncomfortable and I'm staring down at a safety net that, from up here, seems far too far below myself to provide any safety.

3 The trapeze is sweaty; no wait, they are my hands around the trapeze that are sweaty. 4 I'm sweating like crazy. 5 My palms feel sore, and the calluses on them rise because I'm holding the bar so tightly. 6 "Come on, you can do it," a voice says "get over here!" it says. 7 I rip my gaze from the ground to the acrobat on the other platform. 8 He seems miles away. 9 "Easy for him to say," I think; he is a trained circus performer, and I'm just his trainee for the day, here just to write an article about acrobat school for my own school newspaper. 10 Ms. McKinley sent me. 11 I kiss the tops of my hands, took a deep breath, eyes closed, and jump.

31 Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 9
- C Sentence 10
- D Sentence 11

32 Choose the best way to write Sentence 2.

- F** My harness is uncomfortable; and I'm staring down at a safety net; from up here it seems far too far below myself to provide any safety.
- G** My harness is uncomfortable and I'm staring down at a safety net that from up here seems far too far below to provide any safety.
- H** My harness is uncomfortable, and I'm staring down at a safety net that, from up here, seems far too far below me to provide any safety.
- J** Best as it is

33 Which sentence is written correctly?

- A** The trapeze is sweaty; no, wait, it is my hands around the trapeze that are sweaty.
- B** The trapeze is sweaty; no, wait, it are my hands around the trapeze that are sweaty.
- C** The trapeze is sweaty; no, wait, it is my hands around the trapeze that is sweaty.
- D** The trapeze is sweaty; no, wait, it are my hands around the trapeze that is sweaty.

34 Choose the best way to write Sentence 6.

- F** "Come on, you can do it," a voice says "get over here!" it says.
- G** "Come on, you can do it," a voice says. "Get over here!"
- H** "Come on, you can do it," a voice says! "get over here!" it says.
- J** Best as it is

35 Which sentence is written correctly?

- A** I kiss the tops of my hands, took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and jumped.
- B** I kiss the tops of my hands, take a deep breath, close my eyes, and jump.
- C** I kissed the tops of my hands, take a deep breath, closed my eyes, and jumped.
- D** I kiss the tops of my hands, took a deep breath, close my eyes, and jump.

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 36 through 39.

1 If you're interested in anime, then you probably know the award-winning director Hayao Miyazaki. 2 Some of his films are Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, and Howl's Moving Castle. 3 Famous in Japan, and his films are internationally praised. 4 Miyazaki doesn't like computer-generated imagery. 5 In 2001, one of his films won an Academy Award for Best Animated Picture. 6 Its story has three of Miyazaki's main themes, magic, heroic young girls, and a dangerous environment.

36 Which sentence is written correctly?

- F** Some of his films are **Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, and Howl's Moving Castle.**
- G** Some of his films are Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, and Howl's Moving Castle.
- H** Some of his films are "Princess Mononoke," "Spirited Away," and "Howl's Moving Castle."
- J** Some of his films are Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, and Howl's Moving Castle.

37 Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 2
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

38 Which sentence uses an appositive correctly?

- F Famous in Japan, and Miyazaki's films are internationally praised.
- G Miyazaki, a famous director in Japan, is internationally praised for his films.
- H Miyazaki is famous in Japan; and his films are internationally praised.
- J Famous in Japan, and his films are internationally praised.

39 Which sentence is written correctly?

- A Its story has three of Miyazaki's main themes: magic, heroic young girls, and a dangerous environment.
- B Its story has three of Miyazaki's main themes: magic heroic young girls, and a dangerous environment.
- C Its story has three of Miyazaki's main themes: magic, heroic young girls and a dangerous environment.
- D Its story has three of Miyazaki's main themes: magic; heroic young girls; and a dangerous environment.

Part 2

Directions

Read the passage. Then answer Numbers 40 through 48.

Pompeii

by Anne Elliot

Pompeii was an ancient Roman city on the coast of Italy. In A.D. 79, it was completely buried by ash from a volcanic blast. The blast took many lives, but interestingly, it didn't destroy the city. In a way, it did the opposite: It made the city timeless.

For centuries, Pompeii was buried, undisturbed, under dozens of feet of hardened ash. It lived on only in the stories told by peasants who lived near the area. One man had seen the eruption and watched the clouds of ash descend on the thriving city. He saw the city disappear. His stories and those of the peasants were all anyone knew of the vanished city for hundreds of years.

Then, in the 1500s, a team of engineers was digging a tunnel near where Pompeii once stood. They uncovered some of an old amphitheater and a temple. But at that time, no one was very interested in doing the long, arduous work of excavating an ancient city. And Pompeii remained a secret until the 1700s.



The forum at Pompeii, shown here, was the center of public life.

In the 18th century, people took a new interest in the buried city. Explorations began that uncovered much more of Pompeii. They discovered a day in the life of this ancient city. Because on that day, more than a thousand years earlier, life had stopped suddenly and without warning. The food that people were eating and the pans they cooked in, the location of the watchdog and the treasure chest, the books being read and written—all of this and more was preserved by the ash. Bodies, too, were frozen in their last moments, kept as they were by the shells of ash that had formed around them.

Unfortunately, most of these early digs were done by people hoping to find treasure, not history. As a result, the people were not very careful or complete in their excavations. In the 1800s, however, attitudes changed. Intensive explorations began. Scientists began carefully uncovering the city in an attempt to keep its remains whole and undamaged. Today, Pompeii is an important archaeological site. Its value lies in what it can tell us, in great detail, about the ancient past.

40 Read this sentence from the passage.

Intensive explorations began.

Which of these is the best meaning for *intensive*?

- F** thorough
- G** cruel
- H** careless
- J** boring

41 In the third paragraph of the article, the word *arduous* means

- A** leisurely
- B** digging
- C** exciting
- D** difficult

42 Which of the following words from the passage contains a prefix meaning “not”?

- F** timeless
- G** disappear
- H** excavating
- J** intensive

43 Which conclusion can be drawn from ideas stated in the passage?

- A Archaeologists and other scientists discovered Pompeii.
- B Pompeii's residents did not know the volcano would erupt.
- C Treasure-hunters are thorough and thoughtful.
- D There are still people living who remember the city as it was.

44 Which sentence from the passage is an opinion?

- F Pompeii was an ancient Roman city on the coast of Italy.
- G For centuries, Pompeii was buried, undisturbed, under dozens of feet of hardened ash.
- H Explorations began that uncovered much more of Pompeii.
- J Its value lies in what it can tell us, in great detail, about the ancient past.

45 The passage is an example of which type of writing?

- A narrative
- B persuasive
- C descriptive
- D technical

46 What would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- F** Mount Vesuvius
- G** Excavations
- H** Lost City Found
- J** The People of Pompeii

47 What organizational structure is used in the article?

- A** order of importance
- B** cause and effect
- C** problem and solution
- D** chronological order

48 The author's purpose for writing this passage was probably to

- F** inform readers about an important, historical finding
- G** persuade readers to support archeological projects
- H** entertain readers with an exciting story about a natural disaster
- J** tell readers how to get to the ancient city of Pompeii

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 49 through 53.

1 Pompeii was an ancient Roman city on the Italian coast.
2 Pompeii was built very close to Mount Vesuvius. 3 Mount Vesuvius was an active volcano. 4 The volcano erupted in A.D. 79; and the city disappeared under tons of volcanic ash. 5 The ash swamped Pompeii so quickly. 6 At least 2,000 people were trapped instantly. 7 They were frozen in time by the ash as it fell. 8 Unlike other cities that were erased forever by volcanos, Pompeii managed to survive in a unique way. 9 Being destroyed by Mount Vesuvius actually preserved Pompeii.

49 What is the best way to combine Sentences 1, 2, and 3?

- A Pompeii, an ancient Roman city on the Italian coast, was built very close to Mount Vesuvius, an active volcano.
- B Pompeii was an ancient Roman city on the Italian coast, Pompeii was built very close to Mount Vesuvius, that was an active volcano.
- C Pompeii was an ancient Roman city on the Italian coast; Pompeii was built very close to Mount Vesuvius; Mount Vesuvius was an active volcano.
- D Pompeii was an ancient Roman city on the Italian coast which was built very close to Mount Vesuvius which was an active volcano.

50 Which sentence is written correctly?

- F** The volcano erupted in A.D. 79; and the city disappeared under tons of volcanic ash.
- G** The volcano erupted in A.D. 79, and the city disappeared under tons of volcanic ash.
- H** The volcano erupted, it was A.D. 79; the city disappeared, under volcanic ash.
- J** The volcano erupted in A.D. 79 and, the city disappeared under tons of volcanic ash.

51 What is the best way to combine Sentences 5, 6, and 7?

- A** The ash swamped Pompeii so quickly; at least 2,000 people were trapped, instantly, frozen in time by the ash as it fell.
- B** The ash swamped Pompeii so quickly at least 2,000 people were trapped instantly; frozen in time by the ash as it fell.
- C** The ash swamped Pompeii so quickly that at least 2,000 people were trapped instantly, frozen in time by the ash as it fell.
- D** The ash swamped Pompeii, so quickly that at least 2,000 people were trapped instantly frozen in time, by the ash as it fell.

52 Read the sentence.

Unlike other citys that were erased forever by volcanos, Pompeii managed to survive in a unique way.

Which word is spelled incorrectly?

- F** citys
- G** erased
- H** volcanos
- J** unique

53 Choose the best way to write Sentence 9.

- A** Being destroyed by Mount Vesuvius actually, preserved Pompeii because of the way in which the volcano destroyed Pompeii.
- B** Pompeii was destroyed by Mount Vesuvius; and the way in which Mount Vesuvius destroyed Pompeii managed to preserve Pompeii.
- C** Because Mount Vesuvius destroyed Pompeii Pompeii was actually preserved.
- D** Best as it is

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 54 through 58.

1 The principle walked into the lunchroom, his eyes flashing fiercely.
2 “May I have everyone’s attention, please?” 3 He sounded as if he might screams. 4 “Earlier this morning, a group of students decided to play a little joke, and I would very much like to know which students were involved.” 5 He turned to leave the lunchroom. 6 We learned the joke that had been played on him. 7 The back of his pants was covered with wet paint. 8 I wasn’t worried I had hidden the paintbrush well.

54 Read the sentence.

The principle walked into the lunchroom, his eyes flashing fiercely.

Which word is spelled incorrectly?

- F** principle
- G** lunchroom
- H** flashing
- J** fiercely

55 Which sentence is written correctly?

- A** He sounded as if he might screams.
- B** He sounded as if he might screaming.
- C** He sounded as if he might scream.
- D** He sounded as if he might screamed.

56 Choose the best way to write Sentence 4.

- F** “Earlier this morning, a group of students decided to play a little joke, and I would very much like to know which students is involved.”
- G** “Earlier this morning, a group of students decided to play a little joke, and I would very much like to know which students am involved.”
- H** “Earlier this morning, a group of students decided to play a little joke, and I would very much like to know which students was involved.”
- J** Best as it is

57 What is the best way to combine Sentences 5, 6, and 7?

- A** He turned to leave the lunchroom, we learned the joke that had been played on him, and the back of his pants was covered with wet paint.
- B** He turned to leave the lunchroom when we learned the joke that had been played on him the back of his pants was covered with wet paint.
- C** When he turned to leave the lunchroom, we learned the joke that had been played on him: the back of his pants was covered with wet paint.
- D** When he turned to leave the lunchroom and we learned the joke that had been played on him, the back of his pants was covered with wet paint.

58 Choose the best way to write Sentence 8.

- F** I wasn't worried, or I had hidden the paintbrush well.
- G** I wasn't worried, and I had hidden the paintbrush well.
- H** I wasn't worried; I had hidden the paintbrush well.
- J** Best as it is

Directions

Read the passage. Then answer Numbers 59 through 67.

adapted from

THE TIME MACHINE

by H. G. Wells

It was at ten o'clock today that the first of all Time Machines began its career. I gave it a last tap, tried all the screws again, put one more drop of oil on the quartz rod, and sat myself in the saddle. I took the starting lever in one hand, the stopping lever in the other. I pressed the first lever, then the second. I seemed to reel. I felt a nightmare sensation of falling, but when I looked around, I saw the laboratory exactly as it had been before. Had anything happened? For a moment I suspected that my mind had tricked me. Then I noticed the clock. A moment before, it had stood at a minute or so past ten. Now it was nearly half past three!

I drew a breath, set my teeth, gripped the starting lever with both hands, and went off with a thud. The laboratory got hazy and went dark. Mrs. Watchett, my housekeeper, came in and walked towards the garden door. She apparently could not see me. I suppose it took her a minute or so to cross the room, but to me she seemed to shoot across it like a rocket. I pressed the lever to its extreme position. The night came like the turning out of a lamp, and in another moment it was tomorrow. The laboratory grew faint and hazy. Tomorrow night came black, then day again, night again, day again, faster and faster still. A whirlpool of sound filled my ears, and a strange confusion clouded my mind.

I am afraid I cannot describe the strange sensations of time travelling. They are extremely unpleasant. There is a feeling exactly like that of being on a roller coaster—a helpless, headlong motion! I also had that horrible feeling that I was about to crash. As I increased the speed of my time travelling, night followed day like the flapping of a black wing. The dim light of the laboratory would fall away from me. The sun hopped swiftly across the sky, leaping it every minute. Every minute marked a day. As I moved into the future, I understood that at some point my laboratory had been destroyed, and I had come into the open air. I had a dim impression of scaffolding, but I was already going too fast to be conscious of any moving things. The slowest snail that ever crawled dashed by too fast for me.

The landscape was misty and vague. I was still on the hillside upon which this house now stands, and the shoulder of the hill rose above me grey and dim. I saw trees growing and changing like puffs of vapor, now brown, now green; the trees grew, spread, shivered, and passed away. I saw huge buildings rise up and pass like dreams. I saw great and splendid architecture take form about me, more massive than any buildings of our own time. And yet it seemed they were built of glimmer and mist. I saw a rich green flow up the hillside and remain there without any winter cover of snow. Even through the veil of my confusion, the earth seemed very fair. And so my mind came round to the business of stopping.

The peculiar risk lay in the possibility of landing the machine and myself in some solid substance. So long as I travelled at a high speed through time, this hardly mattered. I was slipping like vapor through the changing substances. But to come to a stop involved the jamming of myself, molecule by molecule, into whatever lay in my way. This meant bringing my atoms into such close contact with those of the obstacle that a serious chemical reaction—possibly a far-reaching explosion—would result, and blow myself and the machine out of all possible dimensions into the Unknown.

This possibility had occurred to me again and again while I was making the machine. But then I had cheerfully accepted it as an unavoidable risk. Now that the risk was unavoidable, I no longer saw it in the same cheerful light. The fact is that the strangeness of everything, the jarring and swaying of the machine, and above all the feeling of falling, had made me lose my nerve. I told myself I could never stop. Then, as if blown by a gust, I resolved to stop instantly. Like an impatient fool, I pulled the lever. The machine went reeling over, and I was flung headlong through the air.

59 Which of these is the main idea of this passage?

- A** The laboratory is destroyed and disappears during the narrator's travel.
- B** The narrator leaves his laboratory at ten o'clock and cannot return to it.
- C** The narrator experiences the thrill and danger of traveling through time.
- D** Mrs. Watchett does not notice the narrator flying past in his time machine.

60 Based on the passage, how will the narrator's conflict most likely be resolved?

- F** The narrator and the time machine will explode into the Unknown.
- G** The narrator will destroy the machine and never time travel again.
- H** Mrs. Watchett will travel through time herself to rescue the narrator.
- J** The narrator will have to repair his time machine so he can get home.

61 Why would a reader most likely read this passage?

- A** to learn a new skill
- B** to be entertained
- C** to understand time travel better
- D** to experience great poetry

62 The main problem the narrator of the passage faces is that he

- F** doesn't know how to operate the time machine
- G** can't tell when it's safe to stop the time machine
- H** destroyed his laboratory with the time machine
- J** can only make the time machine go forward in time

63 Why couldn't Mrs. Watchett see the narrator?

- A** The narrator's time machine was hidden in another room.
- B** Mrs. Watchett was working too hard to notice the narrator.
- C** Mrs. Watchett couldn't see the narrator through the hazy light.
- D** The narrator was moving too fast for Mrs. Watchett to see him.

64 Based on information presented in the passage, the reader can infer that the sensation of time travel is

- F** sickening and scary
- G** exciting but familiar
- H** boring and exhausting
- J** delightful but frustrating

65 Read this sentence from the passage.

Now that the risk was unavoidable, I no longer saw it in the same cheerful light.

The word *unavoidable* means

- A eagerly hoped for
- B not likely to happen
- C impossible to ignore
- D hard to imagine

66 The story is written from which point of view?

- F first person
- G second person
- H third-person limited
- J third-person omniscient

67 Which word best describes the narrator?

- A mysterious
- B hurtful
- C lazy
- D adventurous

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 68 through 72.

1 This summer, I ran in my first 5K road race with my mother.
2 She jogs all the time. I, on the other hand, have little experience
running distances. 3 There was a mob that was waiting for the race
to begin. 4 After registering, we went to the middle of the mob.
5 We all wore numbers pinned to our shirts. 6 It was so crowded
that nobody moves for a whole minute after the starting gun.
7 During the race, the crowd thinned out. 8 I kept up an easy pace
and was actually surprised half an hour later to find myself in the final
stretch. 9 Mom was there cheering for me when I crossed the finish
line. 10 I can't wait to run again, next time I will run faster. 11 Who
knows maybe this time I'll win!

68 What is the best way to combine Sentences 3 and 4?

- F** After registering, we went to the middle of the mob, it was waiting for the race to begin.
- G** The middle of the mob waiting for the race to begin was where we went after registering.
- H** After registering, we went to the middle of the mob that was waiting for the race to begin.
- J** There was a mob waiting for the race to begin, and after registering we went to the middle of the mob.

69 Choose the best way to write Sentence 6.

- A** It was so crowded that nobody moved for a whole minute after the starting gun.
- B** Being so crowded that nobody moving for a whole minute after the starting gun.
- C** It was so crowded that nobody will move for a whole minute after the starting gun.
- D** Best as it is

70 Which sentence uses a prepositional phrase correctly?

- F** Around the race, the crowd thinned out.
- G** During the race, the crowd thinned out.
- H** Underneath the race, the crowd thinned out.
- J** For the race, the crowd thinned out.

71 Choose the best way to write Sentence 10.

- A** I can't wait to run again. Next time, I will run faster.
- B** I can't wait to run again, next time I will running faster.
- C** I can't wait to run again, and run faster I will next time.
- D** Best as it is

72 Which sentence uses an interjection correctly?

- F** Who knows maybe this time I'll win!
- G** Who knows/maybe this time I'll win!
- H** Who knows: maybe this time I'll win!
- J** Who knows, maybe this time I'll win!

Directions

Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes that need correcting. Read the paragraph. Then answer Numbers 73 through 77.

1 In July 1775, one year before the American colonies declare independence, the British army attacked a colonial stronghold outside of Boston. 2 As the British advanced, the colonists discovered they didn't have no more gunpowder. 3 The colonist's surrender seemed likely. 4 At least one man, however, had a bullet remaining in his rifle. 5 John Pitcairn stepped forward to claim victory. 6 John Pitcairn was the British major. 7 Peter Salem aimed at him and fired. 8 Peter Salem was an ex-slave. 9 Pitcairn was fatally wounded. 10 Suprised to see their leader fall, the British soldiers fled, and the Americans retreated without being captured. 11 The battle was fought on Breed's Hill, but it would be known as the Battle of Bunker Hill.

73 Choose the best way to write Sentence 1.

- A In July 1775, one year before the American colonies will declare independence, the British army attacked a colonial stronghold outside of Boston.
- B In July 1775, one year before the American colonies declared independence, the British army attacked a colonial stronghold outside of Boston.
- C In July 1775, one year before the American colonies have declared independence, the British army attacked a colonial stronghold outside of Boston.
- D Best as it is

74 Choose the best way to write Sentence 2.

- F** As the British advanced, the colonists discovered they didn't have any more gunpowder.
- G** As the British advanced, the colonists discovered they don't have no gunpowder.
- H** As the British advanced, the colonists discovered they don't have none more gunpowder.
- J** Best as it is

75 Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?

- A** The colonist's surrender seemed likely.
- B** The colonists's surrender seemed likely.
- C** The colonists surrender seemed likely.
- D** The colonists' surrender seemed likely.

76 What is the best way to combine Sentences 5, 6, and 7?

- F** John Pitcairn stepped forward to claim victory, who was the British major, and Peter Salem aimed at him and fired, who was an ex-slave.
- G** When John Pitcairn, the British major, stepped forward to claim victory, an ex-slave named Peter Salem aimed at him and fired.
- H** When John Pitcairn stepped forward to claim victory, John Pitcairn was the British major; Peter Salem aimed at him and fired, an ex-slave.
- J** British major John Pitcairn stepped forward to claim victory, and Peter Salem aimed at him and fired; Peter Salem was an ex-slave.

77 Read the sentence.

Suprised to see their leader fall, the British soldiers fled, and the Americans retreated without being captured.

Which word is spelled incorrectly?

- A** suprised
- B** soldiers
- C** retreated
- D** captured

Directions

Read the article. Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

What Makes a Generation?

In 1965, the rock band The Who had its first hit song, “(Talking ’Bout) My Generation.” It became an anthem for the Baby Boom Generation. These are people who were in their teens and twenties during the tumultuous 1960s and ’70s. Like the era, the song was angry, noisy, and confused. It reflected the concerns of both the musicians and the young people who identified with its message. Since then, new generations have come along. Each has its own problems and concerns.

What makes a generation? A dictionary might define generation as “a group of people born or living during the same period of time.” Many personality types make up a generation. By observing trends and social movements, you can get an idea of that group’s general character. For example, the baby boom generation came of age during a time of economic prosperity, but also during the controversial Vietnam War. Young people from most social classes were going to college in large numbers. As a result, the generation is a highly educated one. The war, though, caused stress and discord. It led to protests in the streets and to music and movies that reflected the times. The boomers eventually grew up and became parents. They then helped raise a new generation.

A Century’s Worth of Generations

The Generational Inquiry Group is a private organization of writers and analysts. It lists many generations for the last century. It named the newest generation the Millennial Generation (born 1982–2002). This name comes from the fact that the generation’s members have come of age in the years near the start of the millennium. For this generation, concerns are global terrorism, new family structures, the growing gap between rich and poor, and the influence of the media on the young.

The previous generation has been named Generation X (born 1961–1981). Gen-Xers are certainly different from previous generations. They have had to deal with a rising divorce rate, working parents, AIDS, and a technological revolution. All this seems to have made a generation defined by mocking humor, questioning authority, fascination with new technology, and a love for popular culture.

There is also the already-mentioned Baby Boom Generation (born 1943–1960). After the huge effort of World War II, most Americans were ready to settle down and start families. They all did it at about the same time. This caused a huge increase or “boom” in the number of babies being born. In fact, the boomers were the largest generation in U.S. history up to that time. They grew up in a very prosperous period. Parents wanted to give their children

better lives than their parents had. Historians believe that the boomers were the first young people with a lot of free time and spending money. Those two factors made them the driving force of the culture. America's music and films have been largely focused on youth ever since. The boomers were also given more material goods than members of previous generations. However, this did not mean they easily accepted the society that made such wealth. For example, the Vietnam War forced many boomers to make a choice. They could either fight in an unpopular war or protest and become divided from their elders.

The times do define a generation. Before the boomers, the Silent Generation (born 1925–1942) had to suffer through hard times and World War II. They watched both traumas take great tolls on their parents. When the difficult times had passed, this generation faced its responsibilities. It helped make the prosperous times that defined the 1950s and '60s. For the most part, the Silent Generation did not protest the Vietnam War. It learned to be thoughtful and cautious.

The first generation to be born in the 20th century is known as the GI Generation (born 1901–1924). News broadcaster Tom Brokaw wrote his bestselling book *The Greatest Generation* about this group. This generation enjoyed a prosperous decade known as the “Roaring Twenties.” That time was followed by widespread poverty and world war. They survived the poor times and fought in World War II. Then they returned home to make the United States the world's leading military and economic power. Whether they were the greatest is open to debate. Brokaw honors them for having seen their duty and performed with courage.

The Lost Generation is made up of those born just before the beginning of the 20th century (born 1883–1900). These Americans came of age in the 1920s. It was the period just after World War I, when young people were disheartened by the ravages of war. Jazz music, the banning of alcohol in the United States, and a booming economy defined the times.

Looking to the Future

Again we come to the question of what makes a generation. The people of the United States pride themselves on being a nation of individuals. They resist the notion that the generation into which they are born defines their lives and dreams. But the times in which we live do shape individuals. Communities offer both opportunities and obstacles. By exploring possibilities and striving to overcome their limitations, the individual members of a generation seek their own unique destinies. In turn, the individuals define the character of their generation.

The newest generation faces an uncertain future. But is it any more uncertain than the one the GI Generation met and lived through? Probably not. Time will reveal the character of this generation. Perhaps a hundred years from now people may call the millennials “the greatest generation.” Whatever this generation becomes, others will follow. Each will have the opportunity to define its age while also being shaped by it.

78 Read this sentence from the passage.

Those two factors made them the driving force of the culture.

Which literary technique does this sentence contain?

- F** pun
- G** metaphor
- H** simile
- J** accent

79 Based on information presented in the article, the reader can infer that most of the Silent Generation did not fight in World War II because

- A** they were too old
- B** they were not old enough
- C** they were protesting the war
- D** they had not been born yet

80 The author's purpose for writing this passage was probably to

- F** argue that the GI Generation is the greatest of the 20th century
- G** persuade members of the Millennial Generation to be more like the baby boomers
- H** explain how historical events and factors influence and describe generations
- J** show that everyone's lives are controlled by the generation they are in

81 Which of the following is one of the concerns of the Millennial Generation?

- A Influence of the media
- B Protests against the Vietnam War
- C Dramatic increase in birthrates
- D Financial hard times

82 Based on information about the Baby Boom Generation presented in the article, the reader can conclude that a major reason for the increased birthrate was

- F the beginning of the Vietnam War
- G the end of World War II
- H the popularity of television
- J widespread poverty

83 What is the author's main support for the idea that many in the Baby Boom Generation felt angry and confused?

- A New generations have come along since the Baby Boomers.
- B Baby Boomers went to college in large numbers.
- C The Baby Boomers protested against the Vietnam War.
- D The boomers eventually grew up and became parents.

Answer Key

**Tennessee Blueprint TCAP Coach,
Gold Edition, Reading & Language
Arts, Grade 8, Practice Test A**



Answer Key

Item	Answer	Reporting Category	SPI
1	D	1	0801.8.6
2	G	2	0801.8.7
3	A	2	0801.5.9
4	J	1	0801.8.1
5	A	3	0801.1.17
6	J	1	0801.8.1
7	D	1	0801.8.6
8	H	1	0801.8.10
9	B	2	0801.8.13
10	H	1	0801.8.2
11	B	6	0801.3.6
12	F	6	0801.1.8
13	B	7	0801.1.12
14	J	6	0801.1.6
15	C	6	0801.3.6
16	J	6	0801.1.6
17	B	6	0801.1.5
18	H	6	0801.1.2
19	A	6	0801.1.6
20	G	6	0801.1.4
21	C	2	0801.5.2
22	J	1	0801.8.14
23	B	1	0801.6.2
24	F	2	0801.8.7
25	A	1	0801.6.2
26	J	2	0801.3.10
27	A	2	0801.5.9
28	F	1	0801.6.2
29	A	1	0801.1.19
30	J	2	0801.5.3

Item	Answer	Reporting Category	SPI
31	C	5	0801.3.7
32	H	6	0801.1.6
33	A	6	0801.1.2
34	G	6	0801.1.8
35	B	6	0801.1.2
36	G	6	0801.1.15
37	C	5	0801.3.7
38	G	6	0801.1.10
39	A	6	0801.1.6
40	F	1	0801.1.16
41	D	1	0801.1.16
42	G	1	0801.1.6
43	B	2	0801.5.9
44	J	2	0801.5.2
45	C	1	0801.3.11
46	H	2	0801.3.10
47	D	4	0801.6.6
48	F	1	0801.8.14
49	A	5	0801.1.7
50	G	6	0801.1.6
51	C	5	0801.1.7
52	F	7	0801.1.12
53	D	6	0801.1.14
54	F	6	0801.1.14
55	C	6	0801.1.2
56	J	6	0801.1.2
57	C	5	0801.1.7
58	H	6	0801.1.8
59	C	1	0801.6.2.
60	J	2	0801.5.1
61	B	5	0801.3.2

Item	Answer	Reporting Category	SPI
62	G	1	0801.8.10
63	D	2	0801.5.9
64	F	2	0801.5.9
65	C	1	0801.16
66	F	1	0801.8.2
67	D	1	0801.8.6
68	H	5	0801.1.7
69	A	6	0801.1.2
70	G	6	0801.1.5
71	A	6	0801.1.8
72	J	6	0801.1.4
73	B	6	0801.1.2
74	F	6	0801.1.14
75	D	6	0801.1.13
76	B	5	0801.1.7
77	A	7	0801.1.12
78	G	7	0801.8.10
79	B	2	0801.5.9
80	H	1	0801.8.14
81	A	1	0801.6.2
82	G	2	0801.5.9
83	C	1	0801.6.2

Answer Sheet

Practice Test A

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (F) (G) (H) (J)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (F) (G) (H) (J)
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79. (A) (B) (C) (D)
80. (F) (G) (H) (J)
81. (A) (B) (C) (D)
82. (F) (G) (H) (J)
83. (A) (B) (C) (D)



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Tennessee Blueprint TCAP Coach, Gold Edition, Reading & Language Arts, Grade 8, Practice Test A Answer Key
108TNAF

Cover Image: Guitar picks. Tennessee has played a major role in the history of American music.

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