



Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Practice Test Scoring Guide Grade 3

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The Ten-Thousand Stroke Chinese Character

by Diana C. Conway

Little Liang lived in China a long time ago. When he turned seven, his father said, "Tomorrow you will start school and learn to write."

"No, thank you," said Little Liang. "I like playing outside better."

"School tomorrow, my boy. Not another word from you."

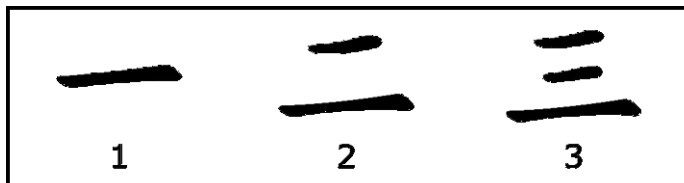
So the next morning Little Liang went off to school, writing brush in hand. His teacher showed him how to make one stroke to write the number one.

"This is easy," said Little Liang.

The next day he learned to make two strokes to write the number two.

"Well," he said, "who needs to go to school? I'll bet I can write the number three all by myself."

Sure enough, on the third day of school, the teacher wrote "three" on the paper just the way he expected.



"That's all the learning I need!" said Little Liang. He sneaked out of school and went looking for birds in the woods.

The next day he left home with his schoolbag. But he didn't go to school. "I know all there is to know," he said. "I'll just go fishing." Off he walked to the river.

On the way he met Old Mr. Wan.

"Why aren't you in school today, Little Liang?"

"I know all there is to know, Mr. Wan."

"That's wonderful," said the old man. "I myself never learned many characters. Will you help me write a letter to my son?"

Little Liang went to Mr. Wan's house. He took his brush and ink from his schoolbag.

"I'll write the address first. What's your son's name?"

"Wan Bai Qian."

In Chinese, "wan" means ten thousand, "bai" means one hundred, and "qian" means one thousand.

Little Liang began to make brush strokes. One, two, three, four, five . . . ten . . . fifteen . . . twenty . . . thirty.

Soon his hand hurt from so much writing.

"Look how many strokes I've made! Why is your son's name Mr. Ten Thousand instead of Mr. One?"

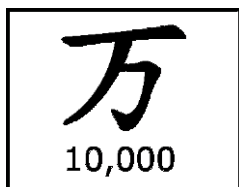
"I'm so sorry, Little Liang. Why don't you use my hair comb? You can dip it in the ink and make many lines at once."

Just then the schoolteacher walked past the door. He heard the name "Little Liang." He looked inside and saw a boy writing with a comb.

"What have we here?" he asked.

"I'm writing Mr. Wan's name."

The teacher picked up the brush and made three strokes.



"This is the way to write the number ten thousand," he said.

"Only three strokes?" Little Liang's face got as red as a cherry.

"Only three strokes," said the teacher.

"The 10,000 Stroke Chinese Character" reprinted by permission of Spider, May 1995, text © by Diane C. Conway.

1011

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What is the lesson of the passage?

- A) People should help friends when needed.
- B) Tasks usually take longer than expected.
- C) Hard work usually leads to great success.
- D) There is always more for a person to learn.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A) So the next morning Little Liang went off to school, writing brush in hand.
- B) The next day he left home with his schoolbag.
- C) On the way he met Old Mr. Wan.
- D) The teacher picked up the brush and made three strokes.

The item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option D in part A and option D in part B.

1012

Read the sentences from the passage and the question that follows.

"Only three strokes?" Little Liang's face got as red as a cherry.

What does the phrase face got as red as a cherry suggest about Liang?

- Ⓐ He is upset by his writing mistake.
- Ⓑ He worries about returning to school.
- Ⓒ He is happy about what he has learned.
- Ⓓ He hopes that his teacher will show him another trick.

The correct response, option A, receives a score of 1 point.

1013

Which sentence supports the idea that Little Liang will likely return to school at the end of the passage?

- Ⓐ "That's wonderful," said the old man.
- Ⓑ "You can dip it in the ink and make many lines at once."
- Ⓒ "I'm writing Mr. Wan's name."
- Ⓓ "Only three strokes," said the teacher.

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

1014

Arrange the events from the passage in the order in which they happen.

Click on the sentences to drag them into the correct locations.

Little Liang tries to write the name of Mr. Wan's son, but it takes a long time.
After going to school for three days, Little Liang says that he knows everything.
The next morning, Little Liang does not go to school.
Little Liang meets Mr. Wan, who wants Little Liang to help him write a letter to his son.
Little Liang realizes that he does not know everything.
When Little Liang turns seven, his father tells him that it is time to go to school.

This item requires the sentences to be ordered correctly. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must put the sentences in the following correct order:

When Little Liang turns seven, his father tells him that it is time to go to school.

After going to school for three days, Little Liang says that he knows everything.

The next morning, Little Liang does not go to school.

Little Liang meets Mr. Wan, who wants Little Liang to help him write a letter to his son.

Little Liang tries to write the name of Mr. Wan's son, but it takes a long time.

Little Liang realizes that he does not know everything.

The Dragon Hunter

by Keith Wilson

I am a dragon hunter. Dragonflies, that is! My name is Keith Wilson. I'm an odonatologist. That's a scientist who studies dragonflies. I hunt to discover. So far, I have helped to find many new species, or kinds, of dragonflies.

Flying Colors

About 5,500 dragonfly species buzz around the world. Hunting them is not easy. Many of them live deep in rain forests. To find them, I have to walk through thick bushes. I have to put up with leeches. I even have to watch out for hungry crocodiles.

So why do I look for dragonflies? The answer is simple. I love them! They can speed by. They can make sharp turns and sudden stops. They can hover. They can even fly backward.

Best of all, dragonflies are beautiful. They come in many colors and patterns. Who doesn't like looking at these amazing insects? Take the tropical rockmaster, for example. It is one of my favorites. It has a blue coloring on its body. Other kinds are even more colorful. Some have green, red, or yellow bodies. One even has orange wings.

Super Sizes

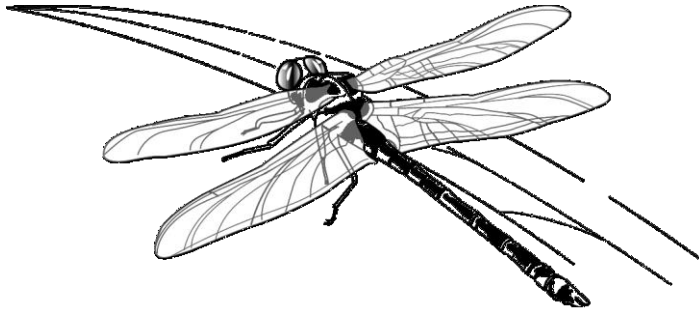
Dragonflies come in many sizes. The smallest one is the size of your thumbnail. The largest one would cover your face.

I recently looked for one of the heaviest dragonflies in the world—the giant petaltail. It lives in Australia.

You might think such a large bug would be hard to miss. The petaltail, however, is very rare. Few people have ever seen it. After looking for a week, I spotted several of them zooming around.

Built to Hunt

The hungry petaltails were hunting. Dragonflies are built to hunt. They have two compound eyes. Each eye is made of up to 30,000 smaller eyes.



All those eyes help a dragonfly see everything. Some dragonflies can spot a tasty meal from up to 18 feet away.

Dragonflies have six legs. The insect cannot walk on its legs, however. It uses its four wings to get around. It can soar through the sky at 30 miles an hour, looking for prey.

From Water to Air

A dragonfly begins its life underwater. It hatches from an egg and becomes a larva. A larva is a young dragonfly. It can swim, but it cannot fly.

A larva lives in a lake or stream. It can grow for several years. Then it crawls out of the water. It sheds its hard skin and becomes an adult.

An adult dragonfly doesn't have much flying time. Some adults live for only a few weeks. Others are around for several months. During that time, a dragonfly is very busy. It flies. It hunts. It eats. If the dragonfly is female, it also lays eggs. Soon there will be more young dragonflies.

Dragonflies in Danger

I worry about dragonflies. People are cutting down forests where the bugs live. That could cause some species to die out. I want to protect these tiny dragons for others to see and enjoy.

"Dragonfly Hunter" from National Geographic Explorer, copyright © 2005 Keith Wilson/National Geographic Image Collection.

268



The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which word **best** describes Keith Wilson?

- A) bossy
- B) greedy
- C) skillful
- D) thankful

Part B

Which sentence from the passage supports your answer in part A?

- A) I am a dragon hunter.
- B) So far, I have helped to find many new species, or kinds, of dragonflies.
- C) I worry about dragonflies.
- D) I want to protect these tiny dragons for others to see and enjoy.

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option C in part A and option B in part B.

269



Read the sentences from the passage.

The petaltail, however, is very rare. Few people have ever seen it.

What does the word rare mean as used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ different kinds of
- Ⓑ not many of
- Ⓒ interesting
- Ⓓ beautiful

The correct response, option B, receives a score of 1 point.

270



Explain how Wilson supports his statement that dragonflies can come in different sizes. Use details from the passage to support your explanation.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes a correct explanation of how Wilson supports his statement and a correct supporting detail. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Wilson supports the idea that dragonflies come in many sizes by describing some types of dragonflies. He says the smallest one is about the size of a thumbnail. He says the largest one is the size of a face. He also says that there is a very heavy one that lives in Australia.

A one-point response includes a correct explanation of how Wilson supports his statement or a correct supporting detail.

Sample one-point response:

Wilson says that dragonflies are the same size as a person's thumbnail.

A response that provides neither a correct explanation of how Wilson supports his statement nor a correct supporting detail receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

Wilson says that dragonflies can come in different sizes.

271



Read the statement from the passage and the directions that follow.

Dragonflies are built to hunt.

Select **two** sentences from the passage that **best** support this statement.

- A) They can hover.
- B) They can even fly backward.
- C) Dragonflies come in many sizes.
- D) All those eyes help a dragonfly see everything.
- E) It can soar through the sky at 30 miles an hour, looking for prey.

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly select both options. The correct responses are options D and E.

272



Read the sentence from the passage and the question that follows.

You might think such a large bug would be hard to miss.

What does the phrase hard to miss mean as it is used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ fun to watch
- Ⓑ difficult to catch
- Ⓒ noticed once in a while
- Ⓓ clearly able to be seen

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

273



Explain why the author is interested in dragonflies. Use details from the passage to support your explanation. Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes a correct explanation of why Wilson is interested in dragonflies and a correct supporting detail. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

The author is interested in dragonflies because he thinks they are amazing. Dragonflies can hover in the air. They can also fly backward. They come in many colors. Some are red, green, blue, or yellow.

A one-point response includes a correct explanation of why Wilson is interested in dragonflies or a correct supporting detail.

Sample one-point response:

People are cutting down trees where dragonflies live. Some species may disappear.

A response that provides neither a correct explanation of why Wilson is interested in dragonflies nor a correct supporting detail receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

The author is interested in dragonflies.

928



Explain why the author uses sections in the passage. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes a correct explanation of why the author uses sections in the passage and a correct supporting detail from the passage. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

The author uses sections to organize the information about dragonflies. The sections help the reader understand what information will be where. For example, the section Built to Hunt will tell the reader where to look for information about how a dragonfly gets food.

A one-point response includes a correct explanation of why the author uses sections in the passage or a correct supporting detail from the passage.

Sample one-point response:

The section headers summarize the information about dragonflies.

A response that provides no explanation for why the author uses sections in the passage receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

The author uses different sections in the passage.

954

Which sentence summarizes the main idea of the section "Flying Colors"?

- A) Dragonflies live deep in the rainforest.
- B) Dragonflies fly in every part of the world.
- C) Dragonflies are difficult to find but beautiful.
- D) Dragonflies come in many patterns and colors.
- E) Dragonflies have orange wings and yellow bodies.

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

1021

A student has written an informational report about teeth for class. Read this paragraph from the report. Then, answer the question that follows.

Incisors are your front teeth. They are good for cutting and chopping food. Canines are the pointy teeth next to the incisors. They are good for tearing food. Premolars and molars are your back teeth. They are good for grinding up food.

The student needs to fix the paragraph by adding an opening sentence that gives the main idea of the paragraph. Which sentence would **best** begin this paragraph?

- Ⓐ There are four types of teeth in your mouth.
- Ⓑ It is a good idea to visit the dentist regularly.
- Ⓒ Eating healthy foods helps build strong teeth.
- Ⓓ It is important to brush your teeth at least twice a day.

The correct response, option A, receives a score of 1 point.

1027

The following is the beginning of an opinion article that a student is writing for the school newspaper. The article needs more support for the reasons why students should be given more choices in the cafeteria. Read the beginning of the article and the directions that follow.

Students should be given more choices in the cafeteria. Giving students different food choices can help them in their everyday lives. Also, giving students more choices will keep students from being wasteful. There are many things on the menu that students do not like. Making this change will definitely make students happier.

Choose **two** sentences that support the reasons given in the paragraph.

- A) Students want to have foods that they can eat quickly.
- B) There are many students who take their lunches to school.
- C) If students are given more choices of what to eat at school, less food will be thrown away every day.
- D) Letting students choose from many foods will help them learn how to make good food choices when they are not in school.

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly select both options. The correct responses are options C and D.

1023

Jenny is writing a story for class. Read the sentences from her story and the question that follows.

Brenda and Pam started a flower club. They will plant red roses first.

"I wishes we could grow blue roses," said Brenda.

Pam said, "Let's see if we can grow red ones first."

Which change should be made to one of the underlined words to correct a grammar usage mistake in the sentences?

- Ⓐ Change "plant" to "plants."
- Ⓑ Change "wishes" to "wish."
- Ⓒ Change "plant" to "planted."
- Ⓓ Change "wishes" to "wished."

The correct response, option B, receives a score of 1 point.

1022

A student is writing an informational report about animals for science class. The student needs to remove information that does not support the topic sentence. Read the paragraph from the report and the question that follows.

(1) Some animals use colors to be seen more easily. (2) A coral snake uses bright colors to scare away other animals. (3) The black and yellow stripes of a bee or wasp warn other animals that they can get stung. (4) A polar bear is white to blend in with the snow. (5) The male guppy uses its bright orange color to attract a mate.

Which sentence does **not** support the topic sentence and should be removed?

- A) sentence 1
- B) sentence 2
- C) sentence 3
- D) sentence 4
- E) sentence 5

The correct response, option D, receives a score of 1 point.

1024



A student is writing about plants. Read the sentences and the directions that follow.

Most plants need sunlight to grow. They use their stems and leaves to get light from the sun in different ways. Some plants have tall stems that help them reach up toward the sun, _____ other plants have wide leaves that help them take in the sunlight.

The student needs to use a word to complete the last sentence. Which word **best** fits in the blank?

- Ⓐ or
- Ⓑ so
- Ⓒ but
- Ⓓ also

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.

1025



A student is writing an informational paragraph about growing sunflowers for a class report. The paragraph needs an introduction to the topic. Read the paragraph and directions that follow.

How to Grow a Sunflower

First, put some small stones in the bottom of a large flowerpot. This will help to drain water out of the flowerpot. Next, pour some soil into the flowerpot up to about one inch from the top. Then, place six sunflower seeds in the flowerpot about an inch apart. Gently cover them with soil. Water the seeds every day. Keep the soil moist, or a little wet, until the seeds sprout. Place the flowerpot in a sunny spot in your house. Soon, you will have a sunflower!

Write **at least one** sentence that could be added to the beginning of the paragraph to introduce the topic.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least one sentence that introduces the topic in a specific way. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Growing a sunflower is easy if you have a flowerpot, sunflower seeds, soil, and water.

A one-point response includes at least one sentence that introduces the topic in a general way.

Sample one-point response:

You can grow a sunflower in your house.

A response that does not provide a relevant introduction for the topic or does not address the task receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

The sunflower is a pretty flower.

Our World: Sleeping On-Board the International Space Station

Listen to the presentation. Then, answer the questions.

Note: Interactive slideshow available online.

1017

Explain how life on the International Space Station is different from life on Earth. Use details from the presentation to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes a correct explanation of how life on the ISS is different from life on Earth and supporting details from the presentation. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Living on the ISS is different from life on Earth. The astronauts sleep fewer hours than we do. Also, the astronauts do not sleep in beds like we do. The astronauts sleep in sleeping bags that are attached to the ceiling, wall, or floor. This keeps them from floating around. Also, they sleep in sleeping bags that have slits for their arms. These are different from the sleeping bags we use on Earth.

A one-point response includes a correct explanation of how life on the ISS is different from life on Earth without supporting details or details from the presentation without a correct explanation.

Sample one-point response:

Life on the ISS is different from life on Earth. The astronauts sleep differently.

A response that provides neither a correct explanation of how life on the ISS is different from life on Earth nor a correct supporting detail receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

I think going to the International Space Station would be a great experience because everything would be different there.

1019

Describe **two** ways that sleeping on the International Space Station can be difficult for astronauts. Use details from the presentation to support your answer.

Type your answer in the space provided.

A two-point response includes at least two details from the presentation that show that sleeping can be difficult for astronauts. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

Sleeping can be difficult for astronauts on the space station. They have to attach themselves to something when they sleep so they do not bump into things and each other when sleeping. Astronauts have to try to sleep with noise and lights that disturb them. They have to untie themselves from their sleeping bags each time they want to get up during the night to get a drink of water.

A one-point response includes only one detail from the presentation that shows that sleeping can be difficult for astronauts.

Sample one-point response:

Sleeping can be difficult for astronauts on the space station since astronauts have lights and noise that disturb their sleep each night.

A response that provides no details from the presentation that show that sleeping can be difficult for astronauts receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

I think it looks like fun to visit the space station. I would like to sleep in a special sleeping bag.

1020

Select **two** questions that the listener can answer after listening to the presentation.

- A) How was the International Space Station built?
- B) How far is the International Space Station from Earth?
- C) How long do astronauts stay in the International Space Station?
- D) What jobs do astronauts do on board the International Space Station?
- E) What time do astronauts go to sleep on the International Space Station?
- F) How do astronauts talk to family and friends back on Earth while on the International Space Station?

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly select both options. The correct responses are options E and F.

1018

Based on the presentation, select **two** things that can interrupt an astronaut's sleep on the International Space Station.

- A) heat
- B) hunger
- C) lights
- D) noises
- E) work

To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly select both options. The correct responses are options C and D.

Allie's Sparrow

Listen to the presentation. Then answer the questions.



"Allie's Sparrow" Copyright © 2010 Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

Audio presentation available online.

1536

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

Part A

Which word **best** describes Allie?

- A) angry
- B) caring
- C) clever
- D) lonely

Part B

Which sentence from the presentation supports your answer in part A?

- A) Allie raced to the door, opening it.
- B) Finally, she and Mom arrived at the checkout.
- C) Allie ran to the window.
- D) She watched the sparrow join its friends who were lined up on the fence, waiting.

This item includes two parts, part A and part B. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must correctly answer both parts. The correct responses are option B in part A and option A in part B.

1539

Arrange the events from the presentation in the order in which they happened. Click on the sentences to drag them into the correct order.

Allie sees a bird in the grocery store when she is shopping with her mother.

Mr. Andrews then tries to get the bird to fly away.

Allie opens the door of the store and tries to get the bird to fly out.

A worker in the store tries to get the bird to leave.

Allie and her mom continue their shopping.

Mrs. Sanchez is in the store's doorway.

The bird flies out of the store.

Allie asks Mrs. Sanchez to stay still.

Allie watches the bird as it joins its friends.

This item requires the sentences to be ordered correctly. To receive the full-credit score of 1 point, the student must put the sentences in the following correct order:

Allie sees a bird in the grocery store when she is shopping with her mother.

Allie opens the door of the store and tries to get the bird to fly out.

Mr. Andrews then tries to get the bird to fly away.

A worker in the store tries to get the bird to leave.

Allie and her mom continue their shopping.

Mrs. Sanchez is in the store's doorway.

Allie asks Mrs. Sanchez to stay still.

The bird flies out of the store.

Allie watches the bird as it joins its friends.

1541

What is the **most** important lesson Allie learns?

- Ⓐ It is a good idea to keep doors closed.
- Ⓑ People can learn from their mistakes.
- Ⓒ Problems are best solved when people work together.
- Ⓓ Best friends can be found in the most unlikely places.

The correct response, option C, receives a score of 1 point.

1543

Why does Allie's chest tighten every time she hears the sparrow cheep?

- Ⓐ Allie is angry at the bird.
- Ⓑ Allie is worried about the bird.
- Ⓒ Allie is curious about where the bird is.
- Ⓓ Allie feels happy the bird is still in the store.

The correct response, option B, receives a score of 1 point.

1028

For social studies class, a student will write a report about the kinds of fun that early pioneers used to have. Read the paragraph from a social studies book. Then, read the directions that follow.

Early pioneers' lives were filled with hard work. A farmer had to clear the land, build a cabin, and plant crops. He and his family had lots of chores that needed to be done each day. Women helped in the fields. They also made soap and sewed the family's clothes. Children began working as early as four or five years old. They helped get water from the stream. They could also milk cows and churn cream into butter. The pioneers worked most of the time. Sometimes they would gather together to help each other with a big job, like building a barn. When the barn was finished, they played fiddles and danced.

Select a sentence from the paragraph that has information the student should use in a report about early pioneers' fun.

The correct response, "When the barn was finished, they played fiddles and danced," receives a score of 1 point.

1029



A student is writing a research paper for science class about how female lions care for their cubs. Read the paragraphs from two different sources and the directions that follow.

Lion Cubs

Like human babies, lion cubs are born helpless. They are blind their first week of life. During the first few months, lion cubs feed mostly on milk made by their mother. For the first year or more of life, mother lions give their cubs food and teach them how to hunt.

Lion Dens

When a female lion is ready to have a cub, she looks for a den. It might be a cave or under bushes. The den provides cover for the cubs while they are small and helpless. If a mother lion thinks her cubs are in danger, she will move them to a new den. She does this by carrying them, one by one. She carries them between her teeth. This does not hurt the cub, as she holds the loose skin at the back of the neck.

Give **one** detail from **each** source that the student could use to show how female lions care for their cubs.

A two-point response includes at least two supporting details that show how female lions care for their cubs. The response must contain at least one detail from each source. Responses are not scored for grammar usage, conventions, spelling, or punctuation.

Sample two-point response:

For the first year or more of life, mother lions give their cubs food and teach them how to hunt. When a mother lion thinks there is danger nearby, she will carry her cubs to a new den. This does not hurt the cubs.

A one-point response includes one detail from only one source.

Sample one-point response:

The female lions have their cubs in a den. This helps to protect the cubs from other animals. The dens could be under some bushes or in a cave.

A response that provides no supporting details receives no credit.

Sample zero-point response:

I like lions. I learned in science class that lions live in Africa. I would like to see lions someday.