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N E W Y O R K S T A T E

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Test Sampler
9-12

MARCH 2004

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9-12 SPEAKING

Question 1:



Look at the picture of a computer room located in a New York high school. Many schools in the United States have computers that are connected to the Internet.

- What are the advantages of using computers in school?
- Does your school have many computers?
- Do computers make learning more fun?

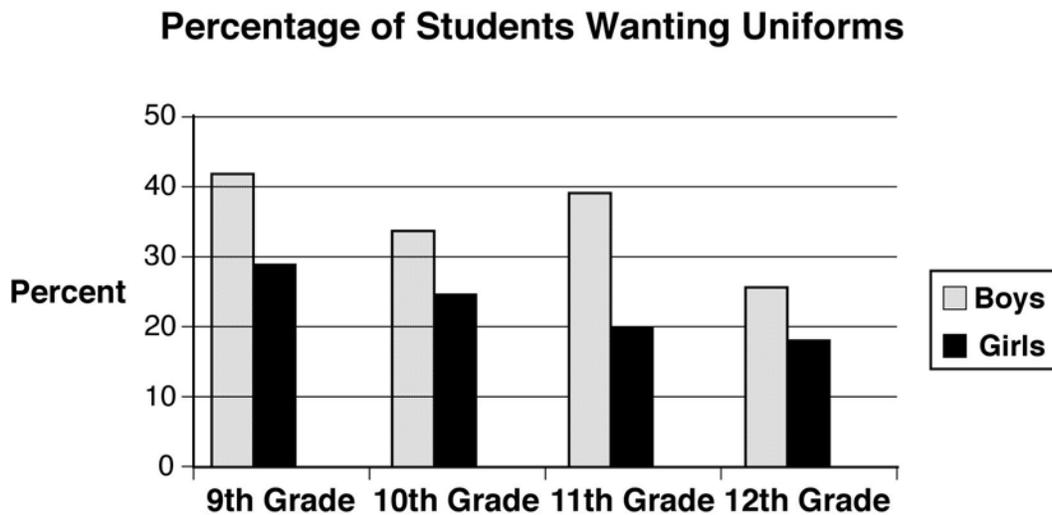
Question 2:

A famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, stated, “A friend is a gift you give yourself.”

- What does this quote mean to you?
- Do you agree or disagree with this quote?
- Explain why you agree or disagree.

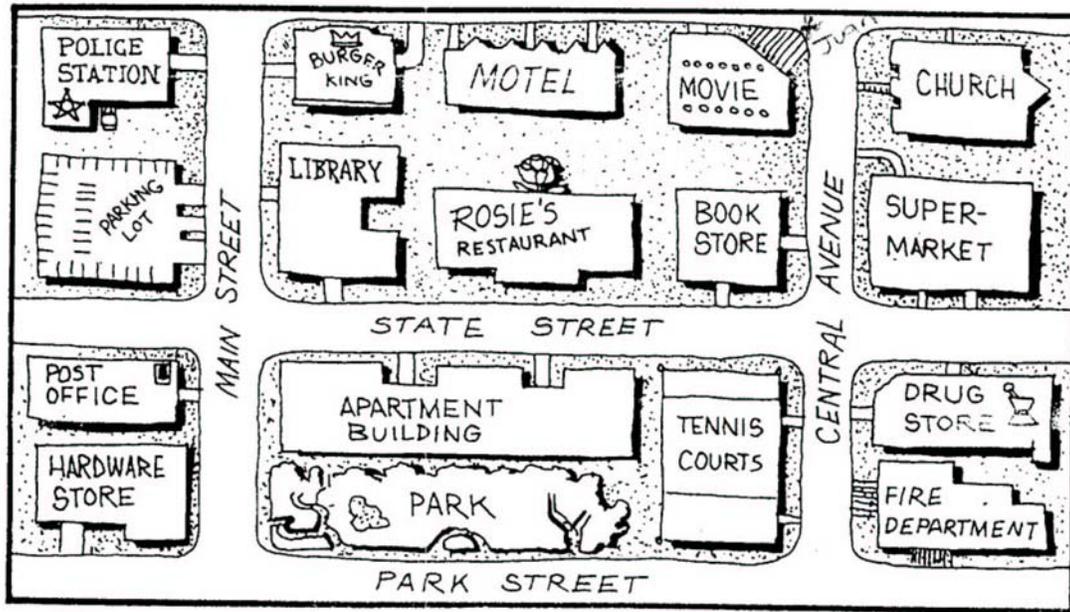
Question 3:

The teachers at Delano High School want the students to wear uniforms. The Principal asked for the students’ opinions about uniforms and put their responses on a graph. Look at the graph below.



- Do you like the idea of wearing uniforms in school?
- Why or why not?
- What is a reason that some students don’t like uniforms?
- Why do you think some students like to wear uniforms?

Question 4:



Juan just finished watching a movie at the theater. He wants to go to the post office to mail the letter he wrote to his mother. He is on Central Avenue, in front of the movie theater. Tell Juan how to get to the post office from the movie theater.

- Tell him which streets he will take.
- Tell him which buildings he will walk past.
- Tell him which turns he will make.

Question 5:

Your English teacher says, “We must all read well if we want to do well in life.”
You are a good student and you like to read. Can you persuade your friends to read more?
How would you persuade your friends to read more?

- Why do you like to read?
- What good jobs will require you to read?
- What things do you read everyday?
- How did learning to read improve your life?

9-12 LISTENING



The small boy, dressed in pajamas, is reaching for a bowl of cookies.

1. Will he be able to reach it?
 - A. yes, he will be able to reach them
 - B. he can't see the cookies
 - C. no, he can't reach them
 - D. he is afraid

2. How can he get the cookies?
 - A. find a chair to stand on so he can reach them
 - B. he does not know how to get them
 - C. see if his sister is home
 - D. wait for them to move closer

3. If he gets the cookies, what would he probably do next?
 - A. go to bed after he has cookies and milk
 - B. break the cookie bowl
 - C. eat a cookie and give one to his brother
 - D. play with the cat

Listen to the automated telephone message and answer the questions.

Thank you for calling Tempo Airlines – the airline that puts passengers first! This call may be monitored to ensure quality service. Please listen carefully to the following menu:

- If you are calling for information about today's flight, press 1.
- If you are calling to make a reservation for a flight in the United States or Canada, press 2.
- If you are calling to make a reservation for an international flight, press 3.
- If you are making a reservation for Tempo Airlines Vacation Package, press 4.
- If you are calling to enroll in Tempo Airlines Frequent Flyers Program, which gives you awards for all the travel on Tempo Airlines, press 5.
- If you want to hear a list of rules for checking in at the airport, press 6.
- If you want to speak to a customer service representative, press 7.
- To hear this menu again, press 8.
- If you are not calling from a touch tone phone, please stay on the line and a Tempo Airlines representative will be with you shortly.
- To access our web site and find lower fares, go to Tempo.com
- Thank you for choosing Tempo Airlines

4. The airline gives top priority to
 - A. pilots
 - B. air travelers
 - C. executives
 - D. mechanics

5. The caller should press 1 to
 - A. plan a vacation
 - B. repeat the menu
 - C. fly overseas
 - D. find out about today's flight

6. The call may be monitored to make sure that
 - A. the caller does not ask unnecessary questions
 - B. the police know who is calling
 - C. the caller gets good service.
 - D. the airline knows who is calling.

7. A way to find a cheaper price for a ticket would be to
- A. use the airline's web site
 - B. pay for the ticket in cash
 - C. ask a friend
 - D. buy the ticket at the airport
8. If the caller is not using a touch-tone phone, the caller should
- A. hang up
 - B. call back the next day
 - C. wait for a representative
 - D. dial 0

9-12 READING

Read this story about a man and a dog and answer the questions.

Where The Red Fern Grows Wilson Rawls

When I left my office that beautiful spring day, I had no idea what was in store for me. To begin with, everything was too perfect for anything unusual to happen. It was one of those days when a man feels good, feels like speaking to his neighbor, is glad to live in a country like ours, and proud of his government. You know what I mean, one of those rare days when everything is right and nothing is wrong.

I was walking along whistling when I heard the dogfight. At first I paid no attention to it. After all it wasn't anything to get excited about, just another dogfight in a residential section. As the sound of the fight grew nearer, I could tell there were quite a few dogs mixed up in it.

They boiled out of an alley, turned, and headed straight toward me. Not wanting to get bitten or run over, I moved over to the edge of the sidewalk. I could see that all the dogs were fighting one. About twenty-five feet from me they caught him and down he went. I felt sorry for the unfortunate one. I knew if something wasn't done quickly the sanitation department would have to pick up a dead dog.

I was trying to make up my mind to help when I got a surprise. Up out of that snarling, growling mass reared an old redbone hound. I caught my breath. I couldn't believe what I had seen. He fought his way through the pack and backed up under the low branches of a hedge. Growling and snarling, the other dogs formed a half-moon circle around him. A big bird dog, bolder than the others, darted in and the hedge shook as he tangled with the hound. He came out so fast he fell over backwards. It was too much for him and he took off down the street, squalling like a scaled cat. A big ugly cur tried his luck. He didn't get off so easy. He sat down on his rear and let the world know that he had been hurt. By this time, my fighting blood was boiling. It's hard for a man to stand and watch an old hound fight against such odds, especially if that man has memories in his heart like I had in mine. I had seen the time when an old hound like that had given his life so that I might live.

Taking off my coat, I waded in. My yelling and scolding didn't have much effect, but the swinging coat did. The dogs scattered and left. Down on my knees, I peered back under the hedge. The hound was still mad. He growled at me and showed his teeth. I knew it wasn't his nature to fight a man.

In a soft voice, I started talking to him. "Come on, boy," I said. "It's all right. I'm your friend. Come on now." The fighting fire slowly left his eyes. He bowed his head and his long, red tail started thumping the ground. I kept coaxing. On his stomach, an inch at a time, he came to me and laid his head in my hand.

- I. The author described the dog being chased by the pack as
 - A. an ugly cur
 - B. a bird dog
 - C. an old redbone hound
 - D. just a dog

2. What helped the dog succeed against all odds?
 - A. luck
 - B. fear
 - C. will power
 - D. shame

3. According to the words “The fighting fire left his eyes. He bowed his head...” in the last paragraph, what word describes the author’s understanding about the true nature of the dog?
 - A. vulnerable
 - B. wild
 - C. sick
 - D. unhappy

4. According to this story the author’s recollection stirred an emotion of
 - A. pity
 - B. empathy
 - C. coaxing
 - D. exhaustion

5. The story makes us think that the old redbone hound might
 - A. lose his life
 - B. survive
 - C. fight until he wins
 - D. crawl away on his stomach

Read the following selections about Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass and then answer the questions.

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky in 1809. When he was eight, the family moved to Spencer County, Indiana, where he grew up. His mother died when he was ten years old. Since his family was very poor, Lincoln began working at an early age. Although there were some schools in the Indiana territory, he had little formal schooling and was largely self-taught. He worked on a farm until he was twenty-two years old, and then in 1831 moved to Menard County, Illinois, where he worked as a clerk in a store. From 1834 to 1840, Lincoln served in the Illinois legislature, studied to become a lawyer, and moved to Springfield, Illinois, to practice law. He served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1847 to 1849 then returned to his law practice.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. He immediately was faced with the secession of southern states from the Union and the beginning of the Civil War. Although he disapproved of slavery, Lincoln was not an abolitionist (one who believed that slavery should be done away with). He recognized that slave owners had paid for their slaves. Since slaves were considered to be property, it was believed to be unlawful to take someone's property away. Once the southern states had become enemies of the Union, President Lincoln used his war powers as Commander-in-Chief of the Army to abolish slavery in the southern states. In September 1862, Lincoln proclaimed that unless the southern states rejoined the Union by January 1, 1863, their slave property would be considered legally confiscated. Thus, Lincoln acquired the legal right to free the slaves.

Abraham Lincoln was re-elected President in 1864 but was assassinated in 1865.

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was born a slave in Tuckahoe, Maryland. Since slaves were seldom told their ages, Douglass estimated that he was born about 1818. His mother, Harriet Bailey, was hired out to a distant farmer shortly after his birth and died when Douglass was about eight years old. Like many slaves, Douglass never knew who his father was.

Frederick Douglass was taught the alphabet by Mrs. Thomas Auld until his master, Mr. Auld, discovered that she was teaching Frederick to read. It was unlawful to teach a slave to read. Frederick realized that reading was an important distinction between slaves and free men. Frederick taught himself to write by copying words in the spaces of his young master's writing book.

In 1838, Douglass bluffed his way onto a train to Delaware, a slave state, then went by boat to Philadelphia and freedom. He moved to Massachusetts and selected the name Douglass to replace his slave name.

Douglass bought his freedom from his old master. In 1847, he started a newspaper in Rochester, New York, advocating the abolition of slavery and supporting women's voting rights.

Douglass encouraged Lincoln to include black troops in the Union Army and used the power of his newspaper to encourage blacks to enlist. The first black regiment was formed in 1863, with Douglass' own sons among the first to enlist. In 1864, Douglass met with Lincoln to secure the same wages, protection, and awards for black soldiers as for white soldiers.

In 1866, Douglass was the only black delegate elected to attend the post-war convention on reconstruction. In 1877, President Hayes appointed Douglass marshal of the District of Columbia. He later served as the U. S. representative to Haiti.

Frederick Douglass died in 1895 of a heart attack.

6. According to the selection both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were
 - A. born free citizens
 - B. assassinated
 - C. poor
 - D. from Kentucky

7. According to the selection Abraham Lincoln acquired the legal right to free the slaves because he
 - A. was a trial lawyer.
 - B. considered it illegal to have slaves.
 - C. served in the United States House of Representatives.
 - D. was the President of the United States.

8. You can infer from the selection that Frederick Douglass:
 - A. used his newspaper to inspire others to respect the rights of blacks
 - B. taught other slaves how to read and write so that they could become free
 - C. fought in the Union Army as one of the first black soldiers in order to end slavery
 - D. used his status as a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln to end slavery

9. According to the selection one main difference between Lincoln and Douglass was
 - A. Lincoln was self-educated and Douglass wasn't
 - B. one used language to persuade others and the other one didn't
 - C. Douglass lived in the 19th century and Lincoln lived in the 18th century
 - D. one was an abolitionist and the other one wasn't

10. Based on the selection you can reach the following conclusion about both men. They both
 - A. showed determination to better themselves and better the lives of others.
 - B. fought to end the War and the secession of the southern states from the Union.
 - C. escaped the state where they were born to become free men.
 - D. studied journalism and politics in college.

Read the selection below from *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote, then answer the questions that follow.

Imagine a morning in late November. A coming of winter morning more than twenty years ago. Consider the kitchen of a spreading old house in a country town. A great black stove is its main feature but there is also a big round table and a fireplace with two rocking chairs placed in front of it. Just today the fireplace commenced its seasonal roar.

A woman with shorn white hair is standing at the kitchen window. She is wearing tennis shoes and a shapeless gray sweater over a summery calico dress. She is small and sprightly, like a bantam hen; but, due to a long youthful illness, her shoulders are pitifully hunched. Her face is remarkable-not unlike Lincoln's, craggy like that, and tinted by the sun and wind; but it is delicate too, finely boned, and her eyes are sherry-colored and timid. "Oh my," she exclaims, her breath smoking the windowpane, "it's fruitcake weather!"

11. In what season of the year does the story start?
 - A. spring
 - B. summer
 - C. fall
 - D. winter

12. According to the story, what dominates the kitchen?
 - A. a rocking chair
 - B. the fireplace
 - C. the round table
 - D. a great black stove

13. The author thinks the woman's face resembles Lincoln's because
 - A. her eyes are timid
 - B. it is craggy and tinted by the sun
 - C. her hair is black
 - D. she was ill when she was young

14. When the author compares the woman to "a bantam hen" he means that
 - A. she is wearing bright clothes
 - B. her shoulders are hunched
 - C. she is very tall
 - D. she is lively and full of spirit

15. In the story, when the woman says, “it’s fruitcake weather” she means
- A. she can only make fruitcake when it is cold outside
 - B. the holidays are approaching and it is time to make fruitcakes
 - C. she likes fruitcake better than any other food
 - D. she has to eat fruitcake because she was ill

9-12 WRITING

Question 1:

Your school gets new students throughout the year. You are a member of the Student Council at school. The Student Council wants to give suggestions to the administration on how to help the new students feel safe and welcomed. You will be writing to the school principal to give suggestions. Complete the chart below to help you think about what you will write.

List three suggestions that the Student Council feels can help new students feel safe and welcomed.	Explain how each suggestion will help new students.

Now organize your three suggestions in the order you want to write about them in your essay on the next part of the test.

Suggestion #1:

Suggestion #2:

Suggestion #3:

Question 3:

Think of a sport that you play or would like to play. Sports are fun. Playing sports comes with responsibilities and many benefits. You are going to write an article for your school newspaper about playing a sport. Fill in the boxes below to help plan your writing.

What kind of a sport will you write about?	Why do you like this sport?
Describe how you play the sport.	
Why would other people enjoy playing this sport?	What are some of the benefits of playing a sport?

Question 5:

Think of the way the New Year is celebrated in the United States and how it is celebrated in your country. You are going to write a description of how the holiday is celebrated for your social studies class. Fill in the chart below to help plan your writing.

	<i>YOUR COUNTRY</i>	<i>UNITED STATES</i>
Is the calendar of your country different or the same as the U.S.?		
When is the New Year celebrated?		
How do people celebrate?		
How do they dress?		
What do they usually eat?		

Question 7:

Juan wrote a story about moving from California. He made some spelling and grammar mistakes. You are going to fix each mistake by writing the correction in the box above the mistake.

I moved here with my family from California when I were six years old. I am currently twelve. During the past six years, my parents had for more children. Now there are seven people in my family: two adults and five kids. We need a biggest house, so my parents are looking for other home. I dont really want to move. I like my school and my nayborhood. I don't want to left my friends. Maybe I'll be lucky and my parents would find some thing good near hear so I won't have to change schools. I hope so! However, I had learned that this isn't so eazy.

Question 8:

Your friend wrote an essay for class but made some mistakes. You are going to correct the mistakes before he gives the essay to his teacher.

The United states has always attract immigrants from around the world. Today, thousand of immigrants flood into large urban areas each year. Many are teenagers who have not yet completed there schooling. Unfamiliar with the language and the culture; they face the enormos task of learning to adapt to their knew realities. Due to the diverse backgrounds and needs of these immigrants, school teachers and administrators also faces very complex tasks. Within the New York City public school system, a number of programs has been established to address this situation. One such innovative program is International High School in Queens. It's mission is to help new immigrant students to develop not only academic skills, but also the cultural skills that are necessary for suces in high school, college and beyond. Only students who have been in the U.S.A. less then four years are eligible for admission.

