

Subject-Specific Literacy Test Short Answer Examples

Table of Contents

- Who Ate Pasta First?.....slides 3 - 7
- How an Eco-Friendly Fish Farm Operates.....slides 8 - 10
- Simon Jackson: Saving the Spirit Bear.....slides 11 - 14
- New Discoveries: Dinosaur Capital of the World ...slides 15 - 19
- I'll Be Your Server Tonight.....slides 20 - 27
- Writing, Grammar and Sentence Structure..... slides 28 - 33

Who Ate Pasta First?

1 The October 2005 issue of *Nature* magazine reported that archaeologists found a 4000-year-old bowl of noodles at a site in western China. This discovery may be proof that China invented pasta.

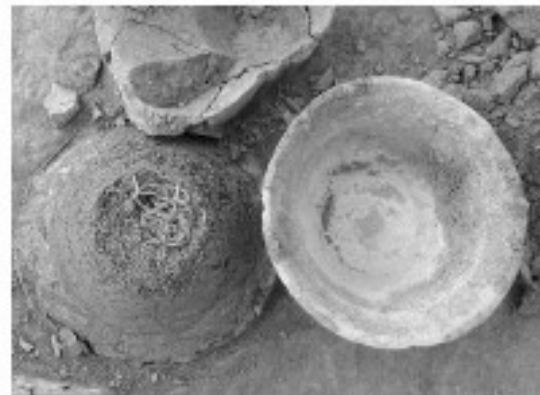
2 “These are definitely the earliest noodles ever found,” said Houyuan Lu, a researcher in Beijing who studied the ingredients of the perfectly preserved pasta.

3 The fist-sized clump of noodles was found inside an overturned bowl, which had protected the noodles from three metres of sediment. The delicate yellow noodle dough had been made from a local variety of millet instead of the usual wheat or rice grains. The dough had been pulled into 50-centimetre-long strands before being boiled. Archaeologists think that the noodles were buried during a flood that wiped out the Qijia culture in the late neolithic era.

4 Are noodles another Chinese invention along with paper and gunpowder? This has been a hotly debated question. Some historians say the 13th century Italian explorer Marco Polo brought noodles from China back to his homeland.

Another historical interpretation is that Italians had noodles before that time. Prior to the recent archaeological discovery, researchers only had information from written documents, personal accounts and menus: they had not been able to find any actual food to prove either hypothesis. This discovery may support the theory that noodles were first eaten in China.

5 The people who live where the ancient noodles were found still eat millet noodles today.



Who Ate Pasta First?

1 A “hotly debated question” (paragraph 4) is a question that is

- a easy to answer.
- b rarely considered.
- c boring to think about.
- d passionately argued about.

2 Why is Marco Polo mentioned in this news report?

- a He is credited with inventing pasta.
- b He visited China in the 13th century.
- c He claimed the Italians invented pasta.
- d He brought noodles from Italy to China.

3 The information in paragraph 4 is organized to

- a compare and contrast ideas.
- b describe the steps in a process.
- c present events in chronological order.
- d provide details in order of importance.

4 What evidence do researchers consider most convincing in answering the question of the origin of noodles?

- a ancient menus
- b preserved food
- c personal accounts
- d written documents

5 The archeologists described in this selection

- a wrote a news report.
- b dug up an ancient object.
- c restored a prehistoric site.
- d discovered ways to preserve food.

Who Ate Pasta First?

Booklet 1

Section I

1. ☐ a ☒ b ☐ c ☐

2. ☐ a ☐ ☐ c ☐ d

3. ☐ ☐ b ☐ c ☐ d

4. ☐ a ☐ ☐ c ☐ d

5. ☐ a ☐ ☐ c ☐ d

6. Respond in booklet.

Who Ate Pasta First?

Written Answer

- 6** Explain whether this archaeological find settles the historical question about who invented pasta. Use specific details from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

Who Ate Pasta First?

- 6 Explain whether this archaeological find settles the historical question about who invented pasta. Use specific details from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

I don't think this archaeological find settles the historical question because I think ~~that~~ that pasta was discovered in Italy.

10 points

- 6 Explain whether this archaeological find settles the historical question about who invented pasta. Use specific details from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

It is hard to determine the answer of this argument. The discovery of ancient noodles in ~~China~~ China helps to support them. But if the citation records can be proven there and legitamen the Italians have ~~the~~ the victory if not then the Chinese.

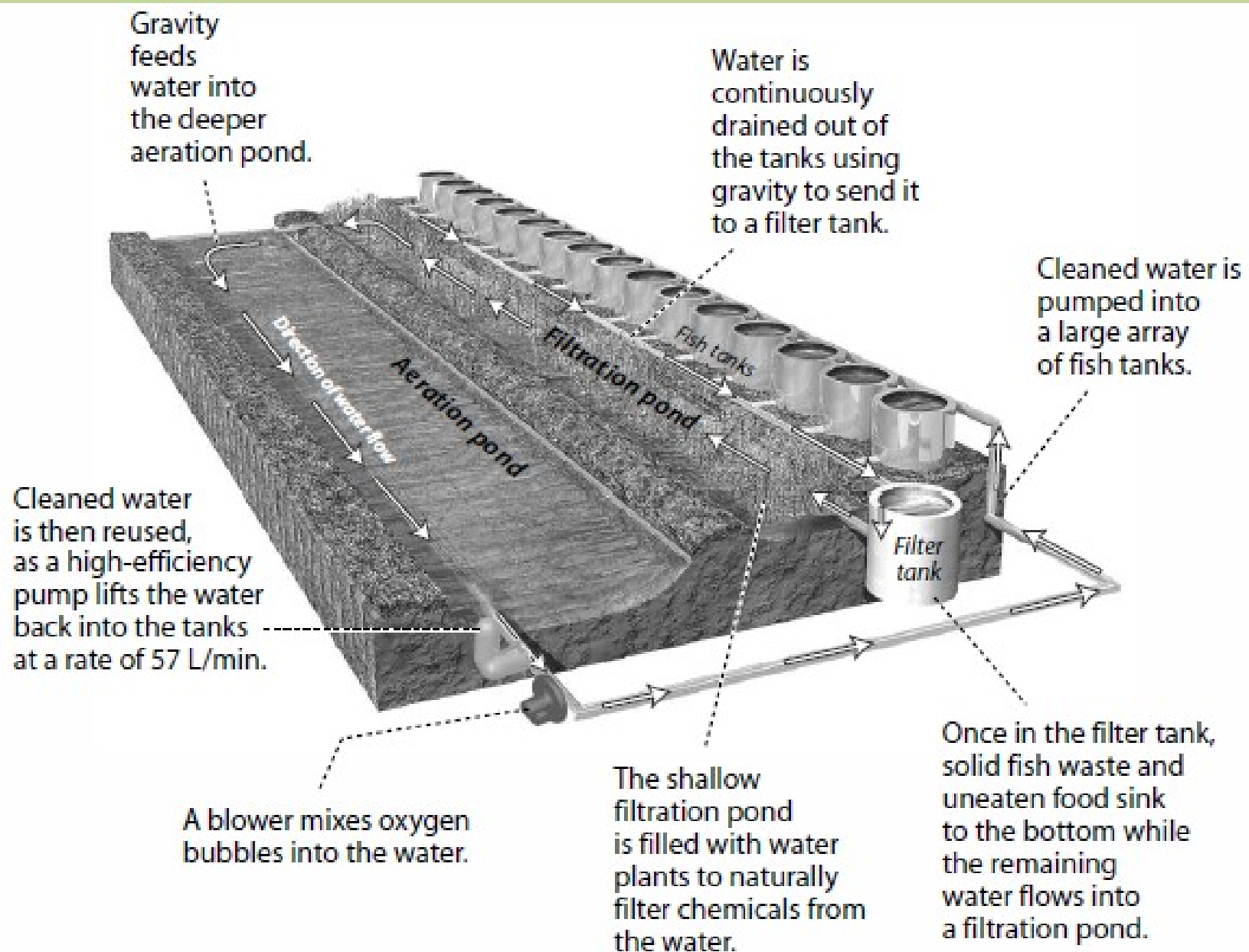
20 points

- 6 Explain whether this ~~archaeological find settles the historical question about who invented pasta.~~ Use ~~specific details~~ from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

This archaeological find ~~does~~ settles the historical question about who invented pasta. Before archaeologists found the ^{4000 year old} noodles, the only evidence was from ancient menus, personal accounts, and written documents. The fact that the noodles were 4000 years old, and Marco Polo didn't bring noodles to Italy until the 13th ~~12th~~ century proves that noodles were ~~first~~ invented by the Chinese.

30 points

How an Eco-Friendly Fish Farm Operates



How an Eco-Friendly Fish Farm Operates

- 1** The arrows in this selection show that the water flows
- a through the ponds and out into the river.
 - b in a complete, closed loop throughout the farm.
 - c from the fish tanks directly into the aeration pond.
 - d from the filter tank directly back into the fish tanks.
- 2** Two separate ponds are needed on this fish farm, so that
- a fish have two areas in which to swim.
 - b there are two sources of fresh intake water.
 - c each pond can perform a different function.
 - d there are different habitats in which plants can grow.
- 3** The purpose of the “shallow filtration pond” is to
- a grow water plants.
 - b mix oxygen into the water.
 - c drain solid waste from the water.
 - d remove chemicals from the water.

- 4** A pump is necessary in the fish farm to make the
- a clean water flow faster.
 - b fish move from tank to tank.
 - c oxygen bubbles move around.
 - d water move up into the fish tanks.
- 5** The effective operation of all components of the fish farm ensures that
- a solid waste is used to feed plants.
 - b water in the filtration pond has sufficient oxygen.
 - c new water is added to the system at several points.
 - d the fish have a continuous supply of aerated water.
- 6** The fish farm in this selection is “eco-friendly” because
- a the farm reuses cleaned water.
 - b the farm uses organic fish food.
 - c gravity is the only source of power.
 - d a blower mixes oxygen into the water.

How an Eco-Friendly Fish Farm Operates

Section XI

- | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | (a) | ● | (c) | (d) |
| 2. | (a) | (b) | ● | (d) |
| 3. | (a) | (b) | (c) | ● |
| 4. | (a) | (b) | (c) | ● |
| 5. | (a) | (b) | (c) | ● |
| 6. | ● | (b) | (c) | (d) |

Simon Jackson: Saving the Spirit Bear



Simon Jackson is one of the few people to have seen the white Kermode or spirit bear. There are fewer than 400 spirit bears in existence. All of them live in a coastal area of British Columbia. Most of these live in a temperate rainforest area about 500 kilometres north of Vancouver. Their habitat is being reduced by human activity. In 2000, when Simon was 17 years old, he was honoured in *Time* magazine as one of 60 “Heroes of the Planet” for his efforts to save this endangered bear.

1

When he was seven, the Vancouver student’s parents took him to Yellowstone National Park. Soon after, he set up a lemonade stand and raised \$60 to protect grizzly bears. A few years later, Simon learned of the plight of the spirit bear in British Columbia. He contacted everyone he could think of who might have an insight into this issue. The more he learned, the more determined he was to save the wilderness that the spirit bear needs in order to survive.

2

During his Grade 9 year, he encouraged students and teachers to participate in a letter-writing campaign. As a result, the government of British Columbia received more than 700 letters on this issue.

3

As a university student, Jackson divided his time between school and his campaign—between going to class and meeting with government officials, community leaders and others involved in making decisions about the forests of British Columbia.

4

Continued...

Simon Jackson: Saving the Spirit Bear

Continued....

Later, Simon made it his mission to engage as many young people as possible. He started the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition, which is now the largest youth-led environmental network in the world. It has more than five million members in more than fifty countries. The coalition is dedicated to promoting awareness of the spirit bear and the issues threatening its survival.

5

Although about half of the spirit bear's habitat has been protected thanks to the work of the coalition, more needs to be done. However, the coalition also recognizes that it is important to take into account the needs of forestry workers and the rights of the area's First Nations.

6

Many people have asked Simon why he chose to campaign for the future of the spirit bear rather than another endangered animal, such as the panda or the elephant. Simon has explained that, as he sees it, the spirit bear is as important to the world as the panda bear. Because the spirit bear is unique to his home province, he feels that he has a personal obligation to do whatever he can to improve the bear's chances of survival.

7

Simon believes that his work is important, not just for the future of the spirit bear, but also because it reminds the youth of the world that they have an important voice that must be listened to, and that they are the future caretakers of this planet. As Simon sees it, "By becoming active citizens in our world, we will open doors, broaden horizons and, indirectly, change lives. Youth can provide hope for our world in all of the challenges that lie ahead."

8

Simon Jackson: Saving the Spirit Bear

1 The first endangered animal that Simon worked to protect was the

- a panda.
- b elephant.
- c grizzly bear.
- d Kermode bear.

2 The list of 60 “Heroes of the Planet” (paragraph 1) was most likely designed to honour outstanding

- a achievement of personal goals.
- b efforts in promoting youth issues.
- c success in educating youth about animal life.
- d contributions to environmental protection.

3 “The more he learned . . .” (paragraph 2) refers to what Simon Jackson discovered about

- a the way to protect grizzly bears.
- b the preservation of national parks.
- c the destruction of wilderness habitat.
- d the need for an insight into this issue.

4 Simon’s first response to hearing about the spirit bear suggests he thought that

- a there was little time to waste on talking.
- b the best course of action was to raise funds.
- c he should first gather information from a variety of sources.
- d he should go to observe the Kermode bears in their coastal habitat.

5 The effect of repeating the word “between” in paragraph 4 is to

- a emphasize Simon’s decision.
- b highlight the demands of Simon’s busy life.
- c show that Simon was uncertain about what he should do.
- d indicate that the work of saving the bear was sometimes repetitive.

6 What evidence shows that the work of the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition was effective?

- a Simon joined the coalition while in high school.
- b Almost half the habitat of the bears was protected.
- c Decision-makers invited Simon to their meetings about forests.
- d Over 700 letters of support were sent to the British Columbia government.

7 What word would best replace the word “caretakers” as used in paragraph 8?

- a parents
- b citizens
- c cleaners
- d guardians

8 Simon chose to campaign for the spirit bear rather than another endangered animal because of

- a the way it looks.
- b where it is found.
- c the support he received from the Youth Coalition.
- d its importance as a symbol of youth around the world.

9 What is the purpose of the quotation at the end of this selection?

- a to add more description to the paragraph
- b to emphasize Simon Jackson’s viewpoint
- c to provide an example of Simon Jackson’s work
- d to show the importance of saving the spirit bear

Simon Jackson: Saving the Spirit Bear

Answers

1. ☐ a ☐ b ☒ c ☐ d
2. ☐ a ☐ b ☐ c ☒ d
3. ☐ a ☐ b ☒ c ☐ d
4. ☐ a ☐ b ☒ c ☐ d
5. ☐ a ☒ b ☐ c ☐ d
6. ☐ a ☒ b ☐ c ☐ d
7. ☐ a ☐ b ☐ c ☒ d
8. ☐ a ☒ b ☐ c ☐ d
9. ☐ a ☒ b ☐ c ☐ d

New Discoveries at the Dinosaur Capital of the World

Recent discoveries have strengthened Alberta's reputation as the "Dinosaur Capital of the World." Scientists at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta, are examining the first duck-billed dinosaur skeleton to be recovered in northern Alberta. The skeleton could represent a new species of dinosaur.

The hadrosaur, or duck-billed dinosaur, lived about 73 million years ago, when much of Alberta was covered by a vast inland sea. Herds of duck-billed creatures moved across the lushly vegetated lowlands, followed in time by predators such as *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

1

2

Since the retreat of the ice more than 10 000 years ago, erosion has carved out the hillsides, uncovering the bones of the once abundant dinosaurs and shaping the dramatic and mysterious Badlands. Interested teens and adults can attend Day Digs sponsored by the Royal Tyrrell Museum. Thousands of important specimens have been uncovered by participants, including a 1.3-metre-long leg bone from a duck-billed dinosaur, fragments of turtle shell, fossilized crocodile and fish teeth, remains of horned dinosaurs and nearly 100 tyrannosaur teeth!

3



New Discoveries at the Dinosaur Capital of the World

1 The headline of this news report does not

- a describe the museum.
- b summarize the story details.
- c suggest the kind of discovery.
- d identify the location of the story.

2 Scientists in Alberta are studying the duck-billed dinosaur skeleton to

- a perhaps discover a new species.
- b determine the degree of hillside erosion.
- c learn about the ancient climate of Drumheller.
- d possibly uncover the mystery of the Badlands.

3 Hadrosaurs were most likely threatened by

- a the retreat of ice.
- b the erosion of land.
- c predatory dinosaurs.
- d newly discovered species.

4 In paragraph 3, the words “dramatic and mysterious” are used to

- a explain erosion.
- b describe dinosaurs.
- c explain the day digs.
- d describe the landscape.

5 Paragraph 2 relates to paragraph 1 because paragraph 2

- a outlines the contents of the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta.
- b explains the term “Dinosaur Capital of the World” as used in paragraph 1.
- c describes a sequence of steps in the discovery process identified in paragraph 1.
- d provides additional information about the skeleton recovered in northern Alberta.

New Discoveries at the Dinosaur Capital of the World

- | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | ● | (b) | (c) | (d) |
| 2. | ● | (b) | (c) | (d) |
| 3. | (a) | (b) | ● | (d) |
| 4. | (a) | (b) | (c) | ● |
| 5. | (a) | (b) | (c) | ● |

New Discoveries at the Dinosaur Capital of the World

- 6** How might the information in this news report encourage people to visit Alberta? Use specific details and examples from the selection to support your answer.

New Discoveries at the Dinosaur Capital of the World

Sample Student Response

It might encourage people to visit Alberta because there is history there and culture there is something for everyone to do there.

10 points

Sample Student Response

This news report will encourage people to visit Alberta because there is a new species of dinosaurs and anyone can come dig and find a dinosaur themselves.

20 points

Sample Student Response

→ indent The information in this news report might encourage people to visit Alberta because readers may now be curious to see a possible new species. The selection talks about Day Digs for people to attend in Alberta that are sponsored by the Royal Tyrrell ~~and~~ Museum. People who read this news report may now want to participate in the Day Digs to discover new specimens.

30 points

I'll Be Your Server Tonight



“Good evening! My name is Ben. I’ll be your server tonight,” the waiter said brightly.

“Hi, Ben. We’ll be your customers this evening.” Ali imitated the waiter’s cheery tone.

“Would you like to hear about our specials?” Without waiting for an answer, Ben began to recite the list he had repeated so many times already that evening. “We have a vegetarian frittata made of farm-fresh eggs, grilled mushrooms and roasted peppers”

“That’s enough, Ben,” interrupted Dana. “We know what we want. We had twenty minutes to look at the menu while we waited for a table. First, can you please bring us both a ginger ale? No ice.”

Continued...

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

Ali shook his head. "I'd rather have a coffee. There were so many customers waiting in your front entrance that we had to wait outside <i>in the cold</i> . Why so busy, Ben?" Ali asked.	5
"Well, it's 7:00 on a Saturday night. We're usually full by 6:00. I'm sorry you had to wait but I'll do what I can to bring your food quickly. Shall I finish taking your order now? So far, we have one ginger ale, no ice, and one coffee."	6
"Actually, Ben, I'll change that ginger ale to a hot chocolate."	7
"Coming up! And to eat?"	8
"We'll be sharing an order of fries."	9
"That's it? You waited twenty minutes in the cold to order <i>one</i> plate of fries?" There was a brief pause. Then Ben returned to his waiter's voice. "Very good. I'll place your order right away."	10
Dana and Ali smiled as Ben left their table.	11
The restaurant owner gestured to Ben, calling him over. "What's going on with those two? They insisted on waiting for a table in your section," she told him.	12
"They're my younger brother and sister," Ben explained, rolling his eyes in exasperation.	13

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

1 Which statement was most likely spoken before the events in this selection took place?

- a "I keep forgetting to tell people about our specials," said Ben.
- b "This restaurant is too busy. Let's go somewhere else," said Ali.
- c "No, thanks. We'd rather wait for a table in that section," said Dana.
- d "We're not usually this crowded on Saturday," said the restaurant owner.

2 When Ben recites the list in paragraph 3, he shows that he

- a has memorized the information.
- b is confused by so many choices.
- c does not care what his customers want.
- d must speak loudly in the busy restaurant.

3 What is the main purpose of the italics in paragraphs 5 and 10?

- a identify direct speech
- b indicate who is talking
- c highlight unusual words
- d emphasize tone of voice

4 Who is speaking in paragraph 7?

- a Ali
- b Ben
- c Dana
- d the restaurant owner

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | <input type="radio"/> a | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> c | <input type="radio"/> d |
| 2. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> b | <input type="radio"/> c | <input type="radio"/> d |
| 3. | <input type="radio"/> a | <input type="radio"/> b | <input type="radio"/> c | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. | <input type="radio"/> a | <input type="radio"/> b | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> d |

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

- 5** Explain why the final sentence is an effective conclusion to the selection. Use relevant and specific information from the selection to support your answer.

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

Because it explains why he was kind of rude to them, but it's also not a good enough excuse to be rude to them.

Code 10

The final sentence is an effective conclusion to the selection because it explains why the "couple" were so eager to wait in the cold for hours just to get a table in Ben's section.

Code 20

The final sentence in this selection is effective because it clears up all of the confusion. There are parts in the story where people talk to each other in a rude manner, like when Ben says "That's it? You waited twenty minutes in the cold to order one plate of fries?". Normally, a waiter know he would get in trouble for this, but because they are all related, it makes the situation more ethical.

Code 30

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

- 6** Explain whether or not Ben is a good waiter. Use specific details and examples from the selection to support your explanation.

I'll Be Your Server Tonight

~~The~~ Ben is a good waiter because he was polite, patient, organized, and working hard.

Code 10

I personally think he was a good waiter, he was very nice and did his job perfectly. Other than the remark about the french fries but is understandable under the circumstances that they are his younger siblings.

Code 20

Ben is a good waiter because when the author reveals that they are all siblings, Ben knew before, and he still used a polite waiter manner when they complained about the service. In paragraph 6, Ben apologizes that they had to wait, when siblings usually just go on without saying sorry.

Code 30

Writing, Grammar and Sentence Structure

1 Which of the following is written correctly?

- a Is the amusement park in Ontario!
- b Hooray! I won a free trip to the amusement park!
- c Last March we planned a trip to the amusement park!!!
- d Can you believe! that I won a free trip to the amusement park?

2 In which sentence of the following paragraph does the verb need to change to make the sentence correct?

(1) Darren went to the store and bought a loaf of bread. (2) On his way home, he runs into his best friend. (3) He forgot he had to take the bread home. (4) Instead, he played games with his friend until dinnertime. (5) When he finally got home, his mother was very annoyed with him.

- a sentence 1
- b sentence 2
- c sentence 3
- d sentence 5

3 Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The high school team won the championship _____ the captain's injury.

- a despite
- b besides
- c because
- d although

4 Choose the best opening sentence for the following paragraph.

_____ In 1999, at least six billion people lived on earth, and predictions indicate that another billion will be born by 2020. Scientists estimate that the world's population will increase to nine billion by 2054 and ten billion by the end of the 21st century. Humans need to find a way to sustain a booming population and continue to provide everyone with the necessary resources.

- a Population growth is an increasing concern.
- b People predict the world's population growth.
- c There are enough resources on earth for everyone.
- d Scientists believe that too many people live on earth.

Grammar Answers

Section II

1. ☐ a ☒ ☐ c ☐ d
2. ☐ a ☒ ☐ c ☐ d
3. ☒ ☐ b ☐ c ☐ d
4. ☒ ☐ b ☐ c ☐ d

Writing, Grammar and Sentence Structure

- 1** Choose the option that best combines all the information in the following sentences.

I love basketball.

The Bears are my favourite team.

I hope they win the championship this year.

- a I love basketball, and I hope the Bears win the championship this year.
- b I love basketball and the Bears because I hope they win the championship this year.
- c I love basketball and hope the Bears, my favourite team, win the championship this year.
- d I love basketball, I love the Bears, my favourite team, I hope they win the championship this year.

- 2** Which option tells how to make the following sentence correct?

John Reid, the mayor of Kapuskasing wondered how his city would survive the economic downturn.

- a Capitalize the word "mayor."
- b Add a comma after "Kapuskasing."
- c Replace the period with a question mark.
- d Use quotation marks around "how his city would survive the economic downturn."

- 3** Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- a The students is going on the bus.
- b Each of the students is going on the bus.
- c Two students and their teacher is going on the bus.
- d All of the students except for Jim is going on the bus.

- 4** Choose the sentence that does **not** belong in the following paragraph.

(1) Eating a variety of nutritious foods is important for good health. (2) Fruits and vegetables provide daily vitamins. (3) Exercise is an important part of healthy living. (4) Protein from meat, dairy foods or legumes is needed for muscle growth. (5) Fat intake should be limited. (6) A proper diet is important.

- a sentence 2
- b sentence 3
- c sentence 4
- d sentence 5

Grammar Answers

Section II

1. ☐ a ☒ b ☐ c ☐ d
2. ☐ a ☐ b ☒ c ☐ d
3. ☐ a ☐ b ☒ c ☐ d
4. ☐ a ☐ b ☒ c ☐ d

Writing, Grammar and Sentence Structure

Section III: Writing

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Short Writing Task (Answer in full and correctly written sentences.)

1 What is the best advice you have ever given to someone? Use specific details to explain your answer.

Writing, Grammar and Sentence Structure Answers

2 What is the best advice you have ever given to someone? Use specific details to explain your answer.

The best advice I have ever given someone was to tell the truth in bad situations.

10 points

2 What is the best advice you have ever given to someone? Use specific details to explain your answer.

The best advice that I have ever given to someone is to never give up on your dreams. Chasing your dreams allows you to feel satisfied with your accomplishments, and happy with where you are in life. ~~Following~~ Acknowledging that your dreams are important brings great success.

20 points

2 What is the best advice you have ever given to someone? Use specific details to explain your answer.

The best advice I have ever given to someone was telling my sister to apply for a job that she didn't think she would be good at. She is still working at this job three years later, and is constantly telling me how much she loves it. She tells me of the many friends she has made and the pleasure of going in to work.

30 points