

New York State Testing Program

Grades 6 and 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Tests

**Teacher's Directions
Spring 2024**

**Grades 6 and 7
2024**



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Regents of The University

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It is important to read all of Steps One–Five and the pertinent grade-level information in Step Six prior to administering the test.

Test booklets and scoring materials must be kept secure. You are not to discuss the test, show it to anyone, or photocopy the materials, as the security of the test could be breached. However, school personnel may make photocopies of this *Teacher’s Directions* if additional copies are needed.

Introduction

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has a partnership with NWEA for the development of the 2024 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Tests. Teachers from across the State work with NYSED in a variety of activities to ensure the validity and reliability of the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP).

The 2024 Grades 6 and 7 English Language Arts Tests are administered in two sessions on two consecutive school days. Students are asked to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the areas of reading and writing. Students will have as much time as they need each day to answer the questions in the test sessions within the confines of the regular school day.

For Grades 6 and 7, the tests consist of multiple-choice (1-credit) and constructed-response (2- and 4-credit) questions. Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices, one of which is the correct answer. Students record their multiple-choice responses on a separate answer sheet. For Session 1, students will write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their separate answer booklets. For Session 2, students will write their responses to these questions directly in their test booklets.

By following the guidelines in this document, you help ensure that the test is valid, reliable, and equitable for all students. A series of instructions helps you organize the materials and the testing schedule.

IMPORTANT DATES

Paper-Based Testing Dates	April 10–12, 2024*
Paper-Based Testing Make-up Dates	April 15–17, 2024**

*Each district, charter, religious, or independent school will choose two consecutive school days for the primary test administration for each grade of the test within this testing window.

**Make-ups may begin on the school day immediately following the last day of the primary test administration. If the first and second days of the testing window are chosen as the primary testing days for a certain grade, make-ups may begin on the third day.

No one, under any circumstances, including the student, may alter the student's responses on the test once the student has handed in their test materials. Teachers and administrators who engage in inappropriate conduct with respect to administering and scoring State assessments may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with Sections 3020 and 3020-a of Education Law or to action against their certification pursuant to Part 83 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

STEP ONE

Check Your Paper-Based Testing Materials

To administer these tests, you will need the materials listed below. If any materials are missing, notify your school principal.

For the teacher

- *Paper-Based Tests Teacher's Directions*
- Classroom roster
- Session 1 test booklet
- Session 2 test booklet
- Multiple-choice Session 1 answer sheet and Multiple-choice Session 2 answer sheet
- Session 1 Answer Booklet for constructed-response questions
- Student identification labels for Session 1 Answer Booklets and Session 2 test booklets (received from a Regional Information Center or Large-City Scanning Center)
- Identification labels and instructions for completing biographical data for new students
- "Do Not Disturb" sign (not provided)
- Extra No. 2 pencils with erasers (not provided)

For each student

- Precoded Session 1 and Session 2 answer sheets or generic Session 1 and Session 2 answer sheets requiring the completion of the demographic section
- Session 1 Answer Booklet for constructed-response questions
- Session 1 test booklet
- Session 2 test booklet
- No. 2 pencil with eraser (not provided)

Security

The 2024 Grades 6 and 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Tests include secure materials. School personnel responsible for testing must ensure that all test materials are secured at all times. The test booklets may **not** be photocopied or duplicated. No section of any test may be discussed with the students before it has been administered to all students. You may, however, describe the format of the tests and the testing schedule to the students.

- On each day of the administration, you should receive the test booklets that correspond to the session being administered that day.
- Contact your principal or the principal's designee if you do not have a sufficient number of test booklets, answer sheets, or answer booklets.
- When not in use, the test booklets must be kept in a safe or vault in the school building or at an approved, alternate storage site to prevent unauthorized access. Storing the test booklets in this manner ensures that the security of the test is not breached.
- See your principal or school administrator for instructions regarding the processing of all used and unused test materials.

- At no time may the contents of the test booklets be reviewed, discussed, or shared through any electronic means.

Unauthorized Materials

Students should be under close supervision at all times during the administration of the tests and may not use any unauthorized notes, printed materials, scratch paper, tools, or electronic devices that might give them an unfair advantage on the tests. When students enter the testing room, proctors must ensure that students do not bring any unauthorized materials.

All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other personal electronic devices into a classroom or other location where a State test is being administered. Test proctors and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited personal electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration.

Any student observed with any prohibited device while taking a State test must be directed to turn it over to the proctor or monitor immediately. To allow for all possible outcomes of procedural due process, the student should be allowed to complete the test. The incident must be reported promptly to the school principal. If the student had a prohibited device in their possession during the test administration, the student's test must be invalidated. No score may be calculated for that student.

The incident must be reported by the principal, in writing, to the Office of State Assessment (OSA) by fax at 518-474-1989 or by [e-mail](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) (emscassessinfo@nysed.gov), as is the case for all student-related testing irregularities, misadministrations, or other violations of State testing policy and procedures.

Note: Some students with disabilities may use certain recording/playback devices **only** if this accommodation is specifically required as a provision of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan). In addition, a student may be allowed to retain an otherwise prohibited device in their possession if there is documentation on file at the school from a medical practitioner that the student requires such a device during testing. Without this documentation, the general policy on communications devices as provided above is in effect, and the school may not allow the student to retain any such equipment while testing.

Aid to Students

No one, under any circumstances, may interpret or explain test questions to students, nor may anyone review or comment to the student about the correctness or sufficiency of the student's response while the test is in progress. In response to inquiries by students concerning the meaning or interpretation of test questions, proctors should advise students to use their own best judgment. Proctors may give students assistance only in the mechanics of taking the test, such as understanding that their multiple-choice responses and their constructed-responses must be recorded in the appropriate answer sheet, answer booklet (Session 1 only), or test booklet (Session 2 only).

Temporary Absence from Testing Room

No student may be permitted to leave and then return to the testing room during any session of the test unless the student is accompanied by a proctor for the duration of their absence from the testing room.

Emergency Evacuation of a School Building

Evacuation of a school building during a test may be required because of an emergency such as a fire alarm or bomb threat. In any situation in which the safety of the students is endangered, the principal has full authority to interrupt the test immediately. If it is possible, the students should be kept under supervision during the emergency. Then, when work can be resumed safely, allow the students the necessary time to complete the test. Following the test, a written report of the circumstances should be sent by mail or fax to OSA. (See the section “Reporting Irregularities and/or Misadministrations” in the *School Administrator’s Manual* [<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>].)

Student Cheating

Do not permit students to obtain information from or give information to other students in any way during the test. If you suspect that such an attempt has occurred, warn the students that any further attempts will result in the termination of their test. If necessary, move the students to another location. If these steps fail to end attempts to obtain or give information, notify the principal immediately and terminate the students’ tests. At the conclusion of the test session, all suspected cheating must be reported to the principal.

Illness

If a student becomes ill during a session of the test, the student should be excused until the student is well enough to continue. When the student is well enough to complete the test (as long as the testing or make-up period has not ended), the student may be given the remaining part of the test. Other unadministered sessions of the test should also be administered according to these directions as long as the testing or make-up period has not ended. When a student is taking a partially completed session of the test, that student must be closely supervised so that they do not go back to previously completed questions.

Proctoring

Proctors must circulate periodically around the room during the administration of each session of the test to ensure that students are recording their responses to test questions in the proper manner and on the appropriate answer document. Students are not to record their multiple-choice responses in their test booklets except for students whose IEPs or 504 Plans allow scribes to transfer answers from the test booklet to an answer sheet. Proctors should also point out to students if they have left one or more answers blank or have darkened more than one circle for the same multiple-choice question. However, proctors may not comment to any student on the correctness or sufficiency of any answer. Proctors should not use their own personal communication devices during the test, unless an emergency situation arises.

Misadministration

Notify your principal immediately if any session of the test is administered improperly. Examples of misadministration include the following: permitting students to have unauthorized testing accommodations or tools (for example, a dictionary) and engaging in other types of nonstandard test administration (for example, cheating). (See the section “Reporting Irregularities and/or Misadministrations” in the *School Administrator’s Manual*. [<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>].)

STEP TWO

Plan Your Paper-Based Testing Schedule

- The test sessions must be administered in order, on consecutive days. See page 1 for testing and make-up dates.
- Schedule testing to allow sufficient time for instructions and preparations. Plan to read instructions to students at a moderate, steady pace.
- **Read the *2024 Grades 6 and 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Tests Teacher's Directions* in its entirety prior to administering the test.**
- Review Step Six, "Administer the Test," before administering each session of the test. Refer to the "Table of Contents" to locate the appropriate test directions for your grade and test session.
- Both Session 1 and Session 2 require answer sheets. Each student must have either an answer sheet precoded with student information or a generic answer sheet, which will require the applicable circles to be darkened in the demographic section. If a precoded answer sheet is missing for any student, allow sufficient time before test administration to darken the applicable circles in the demographic section on a generic answer sheet.
- Avoid testing just after students have had strenuous physical activity.

Test Format and Schedule

The 2024 Grades 6 and 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Tests each consist of two sessions, Session 1 and Session 2, that will be administered on two consecutive school days. Both sessions contain multiple-choice questions and constructed-response questions.

In Spring 2012, in order to have the data obtained from field test questions better reflect students' level of effort, New York State began embedding multiple-choice questions for field testing within the operational tests. For 2024, the embedded questions will occur in Session 1 for all grades. This means that field test questions will be interspersed with operational test questions in this session. The field test questions will not count toward the student's final score, but will be used to collect valuable information on how well the questions perform and for possible inclusion on future operational tests. Students will not know whether a question is a field test question that does not count toward their score or an operational test question that does count toward their score.

Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices, one of which is the correct answer. Students will answer the multiple-choice questions by darkening circles on their answer sheets. In the test booklets, preceding each constructed-response question is a statement that indicates the number of credits a correct response receives. For example, for a 2-credit constructed-response question it will state, "This question is worth 2 credits." For Session 1, students will write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their Session 1 Answer Booklet. For Session 2, students will write their responses to the constructed-response questions directly in their test booklets.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

For the Spring 2024 tests, there are no time limits. On average, students in Grades 6 and 7 will likely need an estimated time of 80–90 minutes to complete Session 1 and 90–100 minutes to complete Session 2. Some students will take more or less time. Please plan accordingly to allow students to complete the test at their own pace. All students who are productively working should be allowed to complete the test, within the confines of the regular school day, regardless of the time approximations listed above. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student’s best interest to release them. These time estimates are for planning purposes only.

The following charts provide information about the format of the tests and where and how students record their answers.

2024 Grade 6 English Language Arts Paper-Based Test

Day 1, Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reading: 26 multiple-choice questions (Students record their answer choices by darkening the circles on their Session 1 answer sheet.) ■ Writing: 2 two-credit constructed-response questions (Students write their answers in their Session 1 Answer Booklet.)
Day 2, Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reading: 7 multiple-choice questions (Students record their answer choices by darkening the circles on their Session 2 answer sheet.) ■ Writing: 3 two-credit constructed-response questions and 1 four-credit constructed-response question (Students write their answers directly in their Session 2 test booklet.)

2024 Grade 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Test

Day 1, Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reading: 26 multiple-choice questions (Students record their answer choices by darkening the circles on their Session 1 answer sheet.) ■ Writing: 2 two-credit constructed-response questions (Students write their answers in their Session 1 Answer Booklet.)
Day 2, Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reading: 14 multiple-choice questions (Students record their answer choices by darkening the circles on their Session 2 answer sheet.) ■ Writing: 3 two-credit constructed-response questions and 1 four-credit constructed-response question (Students write their answers directly in their Session 2 test booklet.)

Testing Accommodations for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans

In general, students with disabilities must be provided with the testing accommodations specified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Section 504 Accommodation Plans (504 Plans) when taking these tests. In administering the 2024 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Paper-Based Tests to students with disabilities schools should follow the guidelines on testing accommodations provided in the *School Administrator’s Manual* (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

More detailed information on testing accommodations for students with disabilities can be found in the Office of Special Education’s *Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Guidance Document* (<https://www.nysed.gov/special-education/testing-accommodations-students-disabilities-policy-and-tools-guide>).

Testing Accommodations for English Language Learners

Information on accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) and former ELLs can be found in the *School Administrator’s Manual* (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

STEP THREE Prepare Your Paper-Based Testing Room

- Plan for the distribution and collection of materials.
- Provide a well-lit, well-ventilated, and quiet testing room.
- Plan seating arrangements. Allow enough space between students to prevent sharing of answers. To help prevent communication between students during testing, make sure that each student is clearly visible to the proctor at all times. Students must not be permitted to speak to one another while the test is being administered.
- Completely cover—or remove from the walls—all charts and blank or completed graphic organizers and all board work pertinent to English Language Arts.
- Eliminate distractions such as bells or telephones.
- Place a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door of the testing room.
- Make sure students’ desks and the shelves under desks are cleared of all extraneous materials.

STEP FOUR Prepare Your Students

- Help students approach the testing in a relaxed, positive way.
- Explain that the purpose of taking these tests is to find out which concepts have been mastered and which need further development.
- Point out that some questions may be more difficult than others and that, for constructed-response questions, partial credit may be given. Encourage and motivate your students to put forth their best effort.
- Be sure students understand the directions, where to mark answers on their multiple-choice answer sheets, and where to record their constructed-response answers.
- Assist them with test-taking procedures, but be careful not to inadvertently give hints or clues that indicate an answer or help eliminate answer choices. Do not assist students with any test questions.
- Encourage students to attempt all questions. Tell them to read each question carefully and make their best attempt at answering each one.

Use Standardized Testing Procedures

This test must be administered under standard conditions. Follow the directions carefully. The same test administration procedures must be used with all students so that valid conclusions can be drawn from the test results. Ensure that students follow directions for where to mark their answers (e.g., for Session 1, answers for multiple-choice questions must be marked by darkening circles on the answer sheet, **not** in the test booklet).

STEP FIVE Prepare Paper-Based Testing Materials

Answer Booklets and Answer Sheets, Biographical Data, and Labels

- For each student in your class, verify that you have the correct precoded answer sheets for Session 1 and Session 2. You will have one answer sheet and answer booklet for each student to be used with Session 1, and one answer sheet to be used with Session 2.
- If there is no precoded answer sheet for any student, darken in the applicable circles in the demographic section on the generic answer sheet for that student.
- Verify that you have the correct precoded label for Session 1 for each student in your class. Prior to testing, affix the precoded label to the back cover of each student's Session 1 Answer Booklet on the day the session is administered.
- Verify that you have the correct precoded labels for Session 2 for each student in your class. Prior to testing, affix the precoded labels to the back cover of each student's Session 2 test booklet on the day the session is administered. The affixing of the labels to the booklets may occur no earlier than the day Session 2 will be administered.

STEP SIX

Administer the 2024 Grade 6 English Language Arts Paper-Based Test

*Please read these directions carefully before administering the test. When you administer the test, the directions you are to read aloud are preceded by **SAY**. Read all directions to students at a moderate, steady pace. The italicized instructions to teachers should **not** be read aloud.*

Grade 6 — Day 1, Session 1

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 1 test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 1 on their Session 1 answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their Session 1 Answer Booklet. **Only** the responses to constructed-response questions written in the Session 1 Answer Booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

SAY If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now.

You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY You will be taking the 2024 Grade 6 English Language Arts Test. There are two sessions for this test. Today, you will answer the questions in Session 1. Tomorrow, you will answer the questions in Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in English Language Arts this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

Today, you will read some passages and answer questions about what you have read. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your Session 1 answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions in your Session 1 Answer Booklet. Only responses written in your answer booklet will be scored. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Distribute a Session 1 answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use to mark your answers to the multiple-choice questions during today's test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 1.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the answer sheet, distribute a Session 1 Answer Booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the back covers of the student Session 1 Answer Booklet earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct answer booklet.

SAY This is the answer booklet in which you will write your responses to the written-response questions during today’s session.

Are there any questions about writing your responses in the answer booklet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the Session 1 Answer Booklet for constructed-response questions, distribute a Session 1 test booklet to each student.

SAY This is your Session 1 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2024 English Language Arts Test Session 1” and “Grade 6.” If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY All of your answers must be marked on your answer sheet and in your answer booklet. You may, however, make notes, highlight, or underline in your test booklet as you read.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the directions,

SAY Now, open your test booklet and look at the page opposite page 1.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page.

SAY Look at the shaded box. Please follow along while I read what is in the box.

Your answer sheet has a section labeled “SESSION 1 Form” located above the area in which you will place your responses to the test questions. Find this area on your answer sheet now.

Pause as students find the area on their answer sheet. When you are certain that all students have located the correct area,

SAY Darken the circles to indicate the letter of the form you are using. Your test booklet will show you which form to fill in on your answer sheet. Please darken the circles on your answer sheet as shown below.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions, then circulate around the room and verify that each student has filled in the correct form.

SAY Now, look at page 1 in your test booklet. Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see the sentence, “This question is worth 2 credits.”

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question’s credit value,

SAY When you see the words **GO ON** at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word **STOP**, you have reached the end of Session 1. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet and answer booklet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Make sure that students are on the correct page and are darkening the circles on the answer sheet appropriately by making their marks heavy and dark with a No. 2 pencil.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student’s answer sheet and answer booklet have been inserted into their test booklet.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork are permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2024 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Grade 6 — Day 2, Session 2

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 2 test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to write their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 2 on their Session 2 answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their test booklet. **Only** the responses to constructed-response questions written in the test booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY Today, you will be taking the 2024 Grade 6 English Language Arts Test, Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in English Language Arts this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

You will read the passages carefully and answer questions about what you have read. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your Session 2 answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions directly in your test booklet. Only responses written in your test booklet will be scored. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to answer the questions, distribute a Session 2 answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use during today’s test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 2.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the instructions, distribute a Session 2 test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the back covers of the student test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your Session 2 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2024 English Language Arts Test Session 2” and “Grade 6.” If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY Now, open your test booklet and look at page 1. You will see Tips for Taking the Test.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page.

SAY Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

For the last question in this test book, you may plan your writing on the Planning Page provided. However, do NOT write your final answer on the Planning Page. Write your final answer on the lined pages.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see how many credits the question is worth. For example, "This question is worth 2 credits."

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question's credit value,

SAY Read the passages and answer the questions. All of your answers to the multiple-choice questions must be marked on your answer sheet. All of your written answers must be written in your Session 2 test booklet.

If you need more space to continue or complete an answer, you may use any available blank space in the Session 2 test booklet. Please make sure to clearly note and label the continuation of your answer. Also make sure that you are not using space that has been provided for another question. Remember to write complete and thorough answers and include details and examples from each passage.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of this test. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student's answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklet.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork are permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2024 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

STEP SIX

Administer the 2024 Grade 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Test

*Please read these directions carefully before administering the test. When you administer the test, the directions you are to read aloud are preceded by **SAY**. Read all directions to students at a moderate, steady pace. The italicized instructions to teachers should **not** be read aloud.*

Grade 7 — Day 1, Session 1

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 1 test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 1 on their Session 1 answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their Session 1 Answer Booklet. **Only** responses to constructed-response questions written in the Session 1 Answer Booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

SAY If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now.

You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY You will be taking the 2024 Grade 7 English Language Arts Test. There are two sessions for this test. Today, you will answer the questions in Session 1. Tomorrow, you will answer the questions in Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in English Language Arts this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

Today, you will read some passages and answer questions about what you have read. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your Session 1 answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions in your Session 1 Answer Booklet. Only responses written in your answer booklet will be scored. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Distribute a Session 1 answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use to mark your answers to the multiple-choice questions during today's test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 1.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the answer sheet, distribute a Session 1 Answer Booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the back covers of the student answer booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct answer booklet.

SAY This is the answer booklet in which you will write your responses to the constructed-response questions during today’s session.

Are there any questions about writing your responses in the answer booklet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the Session 1 Answer Booklet for constructed-response questions, distribute a Session 1 test booklet to each student.

SAY This is your Session 1 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2024 English Language Arts Test Session 1” and “Grade 7.” If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY All of your answers must be marked on your answer sheet and in your answer booklet. You may, however, make notes, highlight, or underline in your test booklet as you read.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the directions,

SAY Now, open your test booklet and look at the page opposite page 1.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page.

SAY Look at the shaded box. Please follow along while I read what is in the box.

Your answer sheet has a section labeled “SESSION 1 Form” located above the area in which you will place your responses to the test questions. Find this area on your answer sheet now.

Pause as students find the area on their answer sheet. When you are certain that all students have located the correct area,

SAY Darken the circles to indicate the letter of the form you are using. Your test booklet will show you which form to fill in on your answer sheet. Please darken the circles on your answer sheet as shown below.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions, then circulate around the room and verify that each student has filled in the correct form.

SAY Now, look at page 1 in your test booklet. Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see the sentence, “This question is worth 2 credits.”

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question’s credit value,

SAY When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of Session 1. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet and answer booklet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Make sure that students are on the correct page and are darkening the circles on the answer sheet appropriately by making their marks heavy and dark with a No. 2 pencil.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student’s answer sheet and answer booklet have been inserted into their test booklet.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork are permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2024 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Grade 7 — Day 2, Session 2

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 2 test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to write their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 2 on their Session 2 answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their test booklet. **Only** responses to constructed-response questions written in the test booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY Today, you will be taking the 2024 Grade 7 English Language Arts Test, Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in English Language Arts this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

You will read the passages carefully and answer questions about what you have read. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your Session 2 answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions directly in your test booklet. Only responses written in your test booklet will be scored. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to answer the questions, distribute a Session 2 answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use during today’s test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 2.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the instructions, distribute a Session 2 test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the back covers of the student test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your Session 2 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2024 English Language Arts Test Session 2” and “Grade 7.” If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY Now, open your test booklet and look at page 1. You will see Tips for Taking the Test.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page.

SAY Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

For the last question in this test book, you may plan your writing on the Planning Page provided. However, do NOT write your final answer on the Planning Page. Write your final answer on the lined pages.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see how many credits the question is worth. For example, "This question is worth 2 credits."

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question's credit value,

SAY Read the passages and answer the questions. All of your answers to the multiple-choice questions must be marked on your answer sheet. All of your written answers must be written in your Session 2 test booklet.

If you need more space to continue or complete an answer, you may use any available blank space in the Session 2 test booklet. Please make sure to clearly note and label the continuation of your answer. Also make sure that you are not using space that has been provided for another question. Remember to write complete and thorough answers and include details and examples from each passage.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of this test. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student's answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklet.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork are permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2024 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Test booklets and scoring materials must be kept secure. You are not to discuss the test, show it to anyone, or photocopy the materials, as the security of the test could be breached. However, school personnel may make photocopies of this *Teacher's Directions* if additional copies are needed.



**2024 Grades 6 and 7
English Language Arts
Paper-Based Tests
Teacher's Directions
Spring 2024**

