

# English Language Arts

## Constructed Response Items

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Measures of Student Learning: NC's Common Exams

Released Fall 2012

These released test items may be used by school systems to help acquaint students with constructed response items on the Measures of Student Learning: NC's Common Exams. These materials must not be used for personal or financial gain.

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The selections used in the English Language Arts common exams are not released as these selections may be used in future common exams. Only the constructed response items are released.

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 1 What effect is created by the chemist's interaction with the narrator at the end of the selection? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 2 What global effect will be caused by continued deforestation? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 3 Besides the title, what evidence is there to suggest that the poem is about improvement? Include one example from the text to support your answer.



The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
  2. Be sure to write your name on each page.
- 4 Determine the author's purpose for starting the selection with the quote, "When you get down to near death, it's amazing the clarity you get about what's really important and what is not," and analyze how the author's purpose is presented in the selection. Include two examples from the text to support your answer.

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1. What effect is created by the chemist’s interaction with the narrator at the end of the selection? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements for a level 2 performance
- Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies what effect is created by the chemist’s interaction with the narrator at the end of the selection;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

2. What global effect will be caused by continued deforestation? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance
- Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies a global effect caused by continued deforestation;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

3. Besides the title, what evidence is there to suggest that the poem is about improvement? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance
- Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies evidence that the poem is about improvement;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

4. Determine the author’s purpose for starting the selection with the quote, “When you get down to near death, it’s amazing the clarity you get about what’s really important and what is not,” and analyze how the author’s purpose is presented in the selection. Include two examples from the text to support your answer.

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance
- Score 2 Fulfills 2 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance
- Score 3 Fulfills 3 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance
- Score 4 Clearly and coherently identifies the author’s purpose for starting the selection with the quote;  
Clearly and coherently analyzes how the author’s purpose is presented in the selection;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text;  
Supports answer with a second relevant example from the text



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The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 1 What claim is the author making through his comparison of men and women in this selection? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 2 Based on the text, how does the anecdote about truckers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] contribute to the selection as a whole? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 3 Based on the poem, how does the poet's use of figurative language in the first lines impact its meaning? Include one example from the text to support your answer.



The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
  2. Be sure to write your name on each page.
- 4 Identify the author's claim and explain how it is refined within the selection. Analyze how the author addresses any counterclaims in the text. Include two examples from the text to support your answer.

## RUBRICS --- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS III



1. What claim is the author making through his comparison of men and women in this selection? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt

Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance

Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies the claim the author is making through his comparison of men and women;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

2. Based on the text, how does the anecdote about truckers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] contribute to the selection as a whole? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt

Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance

Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies how the anecdote about truckers Elaine and Casey contributes to the selection;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

3. Based on the poem, how does the poet's use of figurative language in the first lines impact its meaning? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt

Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance

Score 2 Clearly and coherently explains how the poet's use of figurative language in the first lines impacts the meaning;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

4. Identify the author's claim and explain how it is refined within the selection. Analyze how the author addresses any counterclaims in the text. Include two examples from the text to support your answer.

Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt

Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance

Score 2 Fulfills 2 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance

Score 3 Fulfills 3 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance

Score 4 Clearly and coherently identifies the author's claim and explains how it is refined within the selection;  
Analyzes how the author addresses any counterclaims;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text;  
Supports answer with a second relevant example from the text





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The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 1 Based on the sentence below from the first paragraph, how does the author's choice of words impact the meaning of the text? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

"Ultimately he became nothing, a delightful, ineffectual young man with a perfect profile and no profession."

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 2 Based on the first paragraph, how is the idea of negotiating a treaty developed within the selection? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
2. Be sure to write your name on each page.

- 3 Which detail from the poem supports the development of the theme? Identify the theme. Include one example from the text to support your answer.



The question you read next will require you to answer in writing.

1. Write your answer on separate paper.
  2. Be sure to write your name on each page.
4. Based on the selection, identify the author's point of view. Explain how the author develops his points. Include two examples from the text to support your answer.

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**The selections used in the English Language Arts common exams are not released as these selections may be used in future common exams. Only the constructed response items are released.**

1. Based on the sentence below from the first paragraph, how does the author’s choice of words impact the meaning of the text? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

“Ultimately he became nothing, a delightful, ineffectual young man with a perfect profile and no profession.”

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance
- Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies how the author’s choice of words impacts the meaning of the text;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

2. Based on the first paragraph, how is the idea of negotiating a treaty developed within the selection? Include one example from the text to support your answer.

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance
- Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies how the idea of having a treaty developed throughout the selection;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text

3. Which detail from the poem supports the development of the theme? Identify the theme. Include one example from the text to support your answer.

- Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt
- Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 2 requirements of a level 2 performance
- Score 2 Clearly and coherently identifies the theme of the poem;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text



4. Based on the selection, identify the author's point of view. Explain how the author develops his points. Include two examples from the text to support your answer.

Score 0 No response or the response does not address the prompt

Score 1 Fulfills only 1 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance

Score 2 Fulfills 2 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance

Score 3 Fulfills 3 of 4 requirements of a level 4 performance

Score 4 Clearly and coherently identifies the author's point of view;  
Clearly and coherently explains how the author develops his points;  
Supports answer with one relevant example from the text;  
Supports answer with a second relevant example from the text

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