



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## ReadTheory Free Practice State Test

### Grades 6–8

#### Passage 1: The Importance of Coral Reefs

*Grade Level: 6, Lexile Level: 890L*

Coral reefs are some of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. They are made up of tiny animals called coral polyps. These creatures form large structures over time by secreting calcium carbonate. Coral reefs provide homes to thousands of marine species. They also help protect coastlines from waves and storms. However, coral reefs are in danger due to pollution, climate change, and overfishing. Scientists are working hard to save these ecosystems through conservation efforts and educating people about their importance.

#### Multiple Choice Questions

1. What forms the structure of coral reefs?
  - A. Fish bones
  - B. Seaweed
  - C. Calcium carbonate from coral polyps
  - D. Sand and rocks
  
2. Why are coral reefs important?
  - A. They are colorful
  - B. They help build boats
  - C. They grow trees
  - D. They provide homes and protect coastlines
  
3. What is threatening coral reefs?
  - A. Tree cutting
  - B. Lack of sunlight
  - C. Pollution and climate change
  - D. Strong tides

4. How are scientists helping coral reefs?

- A. By moving them
- B. By building aquariums
- C. Through conservation and education
- D. By painting them

5. What is a coral polyp?

- A. A type of fish
- B. A tiny animal
- C. A piece of plastic
- D. A type of shell

### Open-Ended Question

Describe why coral reefs are both valuable and at risk.

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## Passage 2: The Rise of the Printing Press

Grade Level: 6, Lexile Level: 920L

Before the invention of the printing press, books had to be copied by hand. This process was slow and expensive, meaning that very few people owned books. In the 1440s, Johannes Gutenberg invented a machine that could print text on paper quickly. His printing press made it possible to produce books in large numbers, which helped spread ideas more easily. This invention played a huge role in the spread of knowledge during the Renaissance. It also made it easier for scientists, artists, and scholars to share their discoveries. The printing press is considered one of the most important inventions in human history.

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. What problem did the printing press solve?
  - A. Books were expensive and rare
  - B. People could not read
  - C. Books were too heavy
  - D. There were too many books
  
2. Who invented the printing press?
  - A. Isaac Newton
  - B. Albert Einstein
  - C. Johannes Gutenberg
  - D. Leonardo da Vinci
  
3. How did the printing press impact the world?
  - A. It made writing harder
  - B. It helped ideas spread more easily
  - C. It stopped people from reading
  - D. It replaced the internet

4. Which event did the printing press influence?

- A. The Ice Age
- B. The Industrial Revolution
- C. The Space Race
- D. The Renaissance

5. Why is the printing press considered important?

- A. It made books colorful
- B. It helped people share knowledge
- C. It made paper cheaper
- D. It created electricity

### Open-Ended Question

Explain how the invention of the printing press changed the way people learned.

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## Passage 3: The Power of Renewable Energy

Grade Level: 7, Lexile Level: 940L

As the world continues to use more electricity, there is a growing need for cleaner sources of energy. Renewable energy comes from natural resources that are constantly replenished, such as sunlight, wind, and water. These sources are better for the environment than fossil fuels, which release harmful gases into the air. Many countries are investing in solar panels and wind turbines to reduce pollution and slow climate change. Renewable energy is not only cleaner but also sustainable, making it essential for our future.

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is a key benefit of renewable energy?
  - A. It is cheap to use
  - B. It never breaks
  - C. It reduces pollution
  - D. It comes from coal
  
2. Which of these is a renewable energy source?
  - A. Sunlight
  - B. Oil
  - C. Coal
  - D. Natural gas
  
3. Why are fossil fuels harmful?
  - A. They are natural
  - B. They release harmful gases
  - C. They grow slowly
  - D. They create more wind

4. What does 'sustainable' mean in the passage?

- A. Expensive
- B. Short-term
- C. Used once and thrown away
- D. Able to last long without running out

5. How are countries encouraging renewable energy use?

- A. By using more oil
- B. By banning sunlight
- C. By planting trees
- D. By investing in solar and wind

### Open-Ended Question

Why is renewable energy considered a solution to environmental problems?

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## Passage 4: The History of the Olympics

Grade Level: 7, Lexile Level: 970L

The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece over 2,700 years ago. They were held every four years in Olympia and were part of a religious festival. Only men could compete, and events included running, wrestling, and chariot racing. The modern Olympics began in 1896 and are now one of the world's most popular sporting events. Athletes from around the globe gather to compete in sports ranging from swimming to gymnastics. The Games promote international cooperation and celebrate human achievement and athletic excellence.

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Where did the Olympic Games originate?

- A. Rome
- B. Athens
- C. Paris
- D. Olympia

2. When did the modern Olympics begin?

- A. 1776
- B. 2000
- C. 1896
- D. 1200

3. How were ancient Olympics different from today's Games?

- A. Only women competed
- B. They were held monthly
- C. Only men competed
- D. They included only swimming

4. Why are the Olympic Games important today?

- A. They promote global unity and sportsmanship
- B. They help cities grow
- C. They are old traditions
- D. They teach history

5. What is a key theme of the passage?

- A. Sports have always been dangerous
- B. The Olympics have evolved and bring people together
- C. Only Greeks were athletic
- D. Sports are boring

### Open-Ended Question

Explain how the Olympics have changed over time and what purpose they serve today.

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## Passage 5: The Science Behind Sleep

Grade Level: 8, Lexile Level: 1010L

Sleep is essential for health, yet many people don't get enough of it. During sleep, the brain processes information from the day and the body repairs itself. There are different stages of sleep, including light sleep, deep sleep, and REM (rapid eye movement) sleep. Each stage serves a different function.

Scientists have discovered that teenagers need about 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. However, due to homework, social media, and early school start times, many teens are sleep-deprived. This can affect their concentration, mood, and even their physical health.

Experts recommend creating a sleep routine, avoiding screens before bedtime, and maintaining a cool, dark sleeping environment. Prioritizing sleep can help improve focus, academic performance, and overall well-being.

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. What happens during sleep, according to the passage?
  - A. The brain processes information and the body repairs itself
  - B. The body stops working
  - C. The brain turns off
  - D. Nothing at all
  
2. What is REM sleep?
  - A. Rapid eye movement sleep
  - B. The deepest sleep stage
  - C. Rest every morning
  - D. A short nap

3. How much sleep do teenagers need each night?

- A. 5–6 hours
- B. 7–8 hours
- C. 8–10 hours
- D. More than 12 hours

4. What is one reason many teens don't get enough sleep?

- A. They take too many naps
- B. They eat too late
- C. Early school start times
- D. They exercise too much

5. What is one recommendation for improving sleep?

- A. Eat sugary snacks before bed
- B. Watch TV in bed
- C. Use a bright light
- D. Avoid screens before bedtime

## Open-Ended Question

Why is it important for teenagers to get enough sleep, and what can they do to improve their sleep habits?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Teacher Directions: ReadTheory Practice State Test

This ReadTheory-aligned practice test simulates the structure of a state ELA assessment. It includes five reading passages, each with multiple-choice questions and one open-ended writing prompt. This resource can be used for formal assessment, targeted practice, or progress monitoring.

You may print and distribute the test for in-class use or assign it as independent practice.

### How to Use the Test

- Administer the test over multiple days or as a full-length assessment.
- Students should complete the passages and questions independently.
- No assistance should be given with content or answer selection.

### Scoring Instructions

Each of the 5 passages includes:

- 5 multiple-choice questions (1 point each)
- 1 open-ended writing question (4 points)

### Scoring Breakdown

- Multiple Choice: 5 questions × 5 passages = 25 points
- Writing: 1 prompt × 5 passages = 20 points
- **Total Possible Score: 45 points**

### Final Raw Score

- Raw Score = Total Multiple Choice Correct (out of 25) + Total Writing Score (out of 20)
- Example: 20 MC + 19 Writing = 39/45

### Open-Ended Writing Rubric (1–4 Scale Per Passage)

Score and Description:

4 – Fully addresses the prompt with clear organization and strong evidence from the text

3 – Addresses the prompt adequately with some relevant support

2 – Partial or unclear response; limited or loosely connected evidence

1 – Incomplete, off-topic, or unsupported response

### Converting Raw Score to Final Grade (Scaled 1–4)

Once you have the total score out of 45, convert it to a final scaled score:

4 – Exceeds Expectations: 90–100% (41–45)

3 – Meets Expectations: 75–89% (34–40)

2 – Approaching Expectations: 60–74% (27–33)

1 – Below Expectations: Below 60% (0–26)

To calculate percentage: Divide the raw score by 45, then multiply by 100.

Example: Raw Score = 39

$(39 \div 45) \times 100 = 86.7\% \rightarrow \text{Final Grade} = 3$

For best results, consider reviewing the open-ended responses with students to reinforce strengths and address areas for growth. Happy reading!

## ReadTheory Practice State Test Answer Key (Grades 6–8)

### Passage 1 – Multiple Choice

1. C. Calcium carbonate from coral polyps
2. D. They provide homes and protect coastlines
3. C. Pollution and climate change
4. C. Through conservation and education
5. B. A tiny animal

### Passage 1 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Coral reefs are valuable because they are home to many marine animals and help protect coastlines from waves and storms. They are made by tiny animals called coral polyps, which build the reefs over time. But coral reefs are in danger because of pollution, climate change, and too much fishing. That’s why scientists are working to save them.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: Coral reefs are important because they protect the coast and give animals a place to live. But they are in trouble because of pollution and people fishing too much.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one relevant detail from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing: Coral reefs help animals. But they can be hurt.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks specific detail or development
- Limited connection to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal:

Coral reefs are in the ocean. They are big.

- Off-topic or very limited response
- No clear connection to the prompt or text
- May show misunderstanding or confusion

**Passage 2 – Multiple Choice:**

1. A. Books were expensive and rare
2. C. Johannes Gutenberg
3. B. It helped ideas spread more easily
4. D. The Renaissance
5. B. It helped people share knowledge

**Passage 2 – Open-ended Sample Responses:**

Score 4 – Thorough: The invention of the printing press changed learning by making books easier and cheaper to get. Before the press, books were copied by hand, so not many people had them. But Gutenberg’s invention allowed many books to be printed quickly. This helped ideas spread during the Renaissance and made it easier for scientists, artists, and scholars to share what they learned.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: The printing press helped more people learn because it made books faster and cheaper to make. That meant more people could read and share ideas.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one relevant detail from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing: Books were made faster. People learned more.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks specific detail or development
- Limited connection to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal: Books are paper. People read them.

- Off-topic or very limited response
- No clear connection to the prompt or text
- May show misunderstanding or confusion

### **Passage 3 – Multiple Choice:**

1. C. It reduces pollution
2. A. Sunlight
3. B. They release harmful gases
4. D. Able to last long without running out
5. D. By investing in solar and wind

### **Passage 3 – Open-ended Sample Responses:**

Score 4 – Thorough: Renewable energy is a solution to environmental problems because it comes from clean sources like the sun, wind, and water. These don't pollute the air like fossil fuels do. Using solar panels and wind turbines helps reduce pollution and slow climate change. Since renewable energy is also sustainable, it's important for protecting the planet in the future.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: Renewable energy helps the Earth because it doesn't pollute. It comes from the sun and wind, which are better than fossil fuels.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one relevant detail from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing: It is clean and helps the Earth.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks specific detail or development
- Limited connection to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal: Energy is good. The sun is hot.

- Off-topic or very limited response
- No clear connection to the prompt or text
- May show misunderstanding or confusion



#### **Passage 4 – Multiple Choice:**

1. D. Olympia
2. C. 1896
3. C. Only men competed
4. A. They promote global unity and sportsmanship
5. B. The Olympics have evolved and bring people together

#### **Passage 4 – Open-ended Sample Responses:**

Score 4 – Thorough: The Olympics have changed a lot since they started in ancient Greece. Back then, only men competed in a few sports like running and wrestling. Now, athletes from all over the world, both men and women, compete in many different sports. Today, the Olympics bring people together from different countries and celebrate athletic skill and teamwork.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: The Olympics used to be in Greece and only for men. Now, they are worldwide and help people work together.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one relevant detail from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing: The Olympics are big now. They were not always like this.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks specific detail or development
- Limited connection to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal: The Olympics have sports. People run.

- Off-topic or very limited response
- No clear connection to the prompt or text
- May show misunderstanding or confusion

### **Passage 5 – Multiple Choice:**

1. A. The brain processes information and the body repairs itself
2. A. Rapid eye movement sleep
3. C. 8–10 hours
4. C. Early school start times
5. D. Avoid screens before bedtime

### **Passage 5 – Open-ended Sample Responses:**

Score 4 – Thorough: Teenagers need enough sleep because it helps their brain focus and their body stay healthy. Without sleep, they may have trouble concentrating and feel moody. Scientists say teens should get 8 to 10 hours of sleep, but things like phones and homework can get in the way. To sleep better, teens should follow a routine, avoid screens before bed, and keep their room cool and dark.

- Fully addresses the prompt
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: Sleep helps teens do better in school and feel better. They should sleep 8 to 10 hours and turn off screens at night.

- Adequately addresses the prompt
- Includes at least one relevant detail from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing: Teens need sleep. They can go to bed early.

- Partially addresses the prompt
- Lacks specific detail or development
- Limited connection to the passage

Score 1 – Minimal: Sleep is nice. Phones are fun.

- Off-topic or very limited response
- No clear connection to the prompt or text
- May show misunderstanding or confusion