



Name: _____ Class: _____

ReadTheory Free Practice State Test

Grades 9–12

Passage 1: The Value of Learning a Second Language

Grade Level: 9, Lexile Level: 1050L

In today's interconnected world, knowing more than one language is a significant advantage. Learning a second language improves communication skills, helps people understand different cultures, and opens up academic and job opportunities.

Research also shows that bilingual people often have better memory and problem-solving abilities. Learning a new language challenges the brain and can even delay age-related cognitive decline. Additionally, speaking more than one language can make travel more enjoyable and meaningful.

While learning a language requires time and effort, the long-term benefits make it a valuable goal for students and adults alike.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is one benefit of learning a second language mentioned in the first paragraph?

- A. It improves math skills
- B. It helps people understand different cultures
- C. It makes people taller
- D. It improves driving ability

2. How can being bilingual help with thinking?

- A. It helps people type faster
- B. It helps improve memory and problem-solving
- C. It reduces stress
- D. It helps with sports

3. What does the author say about travel?

- A. It's more expensive if you speak a second language
- B. It becomes more stressful
- C. It becomes more meaningful
- D. It is more dangerous

4. What does the word 'cognitive' most likely mean in the context of the passage?

- A. Social
- B. Physical
- C. Mental
- D. Cultural

5. Why might learning a second language be difficult?

- A. It requires time and effort
- B. It's illegal in some places
- C. It's too easy
- D. People don't like to read

Open-Ended Question

Based on the passage, do you think all students should be required to learn a second language? Why or why not?

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.

Passage 2: The Impact of Social Media on Communication

Grade Level: 9, Lexile Level: 1080L

Social media has revolutionized the way people communicate. Platforms like Instagram, X, and TikTok allow users to share photos, videos, and messages instantly. This has created opportunities for people around the world to stay connected, share ideas, and engage with news in real-time.

However, this shift has also introduced challenges. Many experts argue that while social media increases connectivity, it can reduce the quality of communication. Quick messages and posts often lack the depth of traditional conversations. Additionally, users may experience anxiety from constantly comparing themselves to others online. Balancing the benefits of connection with the potential drawbacks remains an important issue in today's digital world.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is one benefit of social media mentioned in the passage?

- A. It replaces all face-to-face communication
- B. It spreads rumors
- C. It stops people from talking
- D. It allows instant global sharing

2. What is one challenge mentioned about social media?

- A. It is difficult to use
- B. It causes people to forget how to type
- C. It may reduce the quality of communication
- D. It increases reading speed

3. How do some users feel because of social media?

- A. Anxious from comparison
- B. Bored
- C. Excited to write letters
- D. Lonely because they get too many messages

4. What does the author suggest about the future of communication?

- A. We should return to only writing letters
- B. We must stop using social media
- C. We need to balance benefits and drawbacks
- D. We will stop talking altogether

5. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Critical and harsh
- B. Balanced and thoughtful
- C. Angry and dismissive
- D. Excited and humorous

Open-Ended Question

Do you think social media helps or hurts communication more? Explain your reasoning using ideas from the passage.

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.

Passage 3: Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels

Grade Level: 10, Lexile Level: 1120L

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. While these changes can occur naturally, recent trends are largely driven by human activity—especially the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.

One of the most concerning effects of climate change is the rise in sea levels. As global temperatures increase, glaciers and ice sheets melt, adding more water to the oceans. Warmer water also expands, further raising sea levels. This can lead to flooding in coastal cities, loss of habitat for wildlife, and challenges for communities around the world.

Scientists and policymakers are working together to find solutions, such as reducing carbon emissions and investing in renewable energy. Still, many believe urgent action is needed to limit future damage and protect the planet.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the primary cause of recent climate change, according to the passage?

- A. Volcanoes
- B. Solar flares
- C. Human activity
- D. Animal extinction

2. Why are sea levels rising?

- A. More rainstorms
- B. Glaciers melting and warm water expanding
- C. Less evaporation
- D. More rivers forming

3. What is one effect of rising sea levels?

- A. Longer winters
- B. Drier deserts
- C. Flooding of coastal cities
- D. More forest fires

4. What are some solutions mentioned in the passage?

- A. Reducing emissions and using renewable energy
- B. Using more cars
- C. Building more factories
- D. Cutting down more trees

5. What is the tone of the final paragraph?

- A. Unconcerned
- B. Optimistic
- C. Urgent
- D. Confused

Open-Ended Question

What steps can individuals and governments take to help reduce the effects of climate change?

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.

Passage 4: The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

Grade Level: 11, Lexile Level: 1180L

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries, from healthcare to finance. AI can analyze massive amounts of data quickly, detect patterns, and even make predictions. Its ability to automate tasks is increasing productivity and changing the way people live and work.

However, the rise of AI also raises ethical concerns. For example, how should companies use AI when it comes to collecting personal data? Should AI be allowed to make life-altering decisions, such as in hiring or criminal justice? Bias in algorithms and the lack of transparency in decision-making are major issues that experts are trying to address.

As AI continues to evolve, society must consider how to balance innovation with responsibility. Ethical guidelines and regulations will play a crucial role in shaping a future where AI benefits everyone.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is one way AI is being used, according to the passage?

- A. Building roads
- B. Cooking food
- C. Driving school buses
- D. Analyzing data and making predictions

2. What is a major ethical concern related to AI?

- A. It uses too much water
- B. It is too slow
- C. It can make biased decisions
- D. It writes books on its own

3. What role do ethical guidelines play in AI development?

- A. They help ensure responsible use
- B. They protect innovation
- C. They slow progress
- D. They are not necessary

4. Which industry is NOT specifically mentioned as being affected by AI?

- A. Education
- B. Healthcare
- C. Finance
- D. None of the above

5. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Skeptical
- B. Sarcastic
- C. Hopeful and cautious
- D. Dismissive

Open-Ended Question

What are the benefits and ethical concerns of AI, and how can society address them?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey 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.

Passage 5: The Role of Civil Disobedience in Social Change

Grade Level: 12, Lexile Level: 1210L

Civil disobedience is the act of intentionally breaking laws to protest policies or social conditions considered unjust. It has played a critical role in many movements for change, including the American Civil Rights Movement led by figures like Martin Luther King Jr. Unlike violent rebellion, civil disobedience is nonviolent and seeks to create awareness and inspire dialogue. It often challenges the moral authority of unjust laws by demonstrating the courage and conviction of those who resist them. Though not without consequences, civil disobedience has historically led to legal reforms and shifts in public opinion. As society continues to debate the most effective ways to bring about change, civil disobedience remains a powerful tool. It reminds us that laws are not always just, and that peaceful resistance can bring attention to voices that might otherwise go unheard.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is civil disobedience?
 - A. Breaking laws to protest injustices
 - B. Obeying all laws at all times
 - C. Voting in every election
 - D. Writing books about justice

2. How does civil disobedience differ from violent rebellion?
 - A. It uses violence to win fast
 - B. It is nonviolent and seeks dialogue
 - C. It is louder
 - D. It happens more often

3. Which movement is mentioned as using civil disobedience?
 - A. Women's suffrage
 - B. American Civil Rights Movement
 - C. Labor movement
 - D. Environmental activism

4. What is one effect civil disobedience has had historically?

- A. No one noticed
- B. It caused confusion
- C. It led to reforms and changed opinions
- D. It stopped elections

5. What is the author's view of civil disobedience?

- A. It's unnecessary today
- B. It is a powerful tool for change
- C. It is too disruptive
- D. It is outdated

Open-Ended Question

Do you believe civil disobedience is still an effective method for promoting change? Support your answer with reasons from the passage.

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 9–12)

Passage 1 – Multiple Choice:

1. B. It helps people understand different cultures
2. B. It helps improve memory and problem-solving
3. C. It becomes more meaningful
4. C. Mental
5. A. It requires time and effort

Passage 1 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Yes, all students should be required to learn a second language because it improves communication and helps them understand other cultures. The passage says it also helps with memory and problem-solving. Learning a new language can create job and travel opportunities too. Even though it takes time, the benefits are worth it.

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

Score 3 – Competent: I think students should learn a second language. It helps with school and jobs, and it's good for your brain.

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

Score 2 – Developing: Learning a language is good. It helps people.

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

Score 1 – Minimal:

Languages are hard. I don't know.

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

Passage 2 – Multiple Choice:

1. D. It allows instant global sharing
2. C. It may reduce the quality of communication
3. A. Anxious from comparison
4. C. We need to balance benefits and drawbacks
5. B. Balanced and thoughtful

Passage 2 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: I think social media hurts communication more. Even though it helps people stay connected and share ideas quickly, the passage says it can reduce the quality of conversations. People post short messages instead of having real talks, and comparing themselves to others can cause anxiety. So even with some benefits, the problems are bigger.

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

Score 3 – Competent: Social media helps people talk and share ideas, but it also causes problems like anxiety. I think it still helps more than it hurts.

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

Score 2 – Developing: Social media is good and bad. People talk on it.

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

Score 1 – Minimal: I like TikTok. It's fun.

- 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. Human activity
2. B. Glaciers melting and warm water expanding
3. C. Flooding of coastal cities
4. A. Reducing emissions and using renewable energy
5. C. Urgent

Passage 3 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Individuals can help by using less energy, driving less, and recycling. Governments can invest in renewable energy and make laws to cut carbon emissions. The passage says burning fossil fuels causes climate change, so reducing that is important. These actions can help slow sea level rise and protect the environment.

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

Score 3 – Competent: People should recycle and use clean energy. The government can make rules to stop pollution.

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

Score 2 – Developing: People and the government can help the planet.

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

Score 1 – Minimal: Climate change is bad.

- 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. Analyzing data and making predictions
2. C. It can make biased decisions
3. A. They help ensure responsible use
4. A. Education
5. C. Hopeful and cautious

Passage 4 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: AI has many benefits, like helping people work faster and making predictions by analyzing data. It's used in fields like healthcare and finance. But there are also ethical concerns, like bias in algorithms and using AI to make big decisions about people's lives. The passage says society can address these concerns by creating rules and ethical guidelines to make sure AI is used fairly.

- Fully addresses the prompt with a clear explanation of both benefits and concerns
- Includes multiple accurate details from the passage
- Demonstrates clear organization and logical reasoning

Score 3 – Competent: AI helps people work better and faster. But it can be unfair, like if it's used to hire people. There should be rules.

- Adequately addresses the prompt with relevant ideas
- Includes at least one benefit and one concern from the text
- May have minor lapses in clarity or development

Score 2 – Developing:

AI is good but also has problems.

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

Score 1 – Minimal: AI is a robot.

- 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. Breaking laws to protest injustices
2. B. It is nonviolent and seeks dialogue
3. B. American Civil Rights Movement
4. C. It led to reforms and changed opinions
5. B. It is a powerful tool for change

Passage 5 – Open-ended Sample Responses:

Score 4 – Thorough: Yes, civil disobedience is still effective because it brings attention to unfair laws and starts important conversations. The passage says it has helped change laws and public opinion in the past, like during the Civil Rights Movement with Martin Luther King Jr. It also shows courage and uses peaceful protest to inspire change.

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

Score 3 – Competent: I think civil disobedience works because it helps people speak up without violence. It helped change things in the past.

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

Score 2 – Developing: It helps people protest. It's better than violence.

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

Score 1 – Minimal: Breaking laws is bad.

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