

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS HS)

Reading Sample Test



Arizona Department of Education

Assessment Section
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Mathematics Sample Test for 2008 Revised Standards and Writing Sample Test

Spring 2011 are now posted in a new document located at the following link:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/AIMS/Think-Throughs/default.asp>

READING

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

DIRECTIONS: Read this letter and then answer questions 1 through 5.

12831 N. 6th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85020
January 28, 2009

Steve Whitman
President
Performance Builders, Inc.
9121 N. 43rd Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85051-5700

Dear Mr. Whitman:

I am writing to thank you for allowing Maria and me to use your office as a workspace as well as to compliment your wonderful organizational skills. Maria and I, as you know, have been in your office multiple times in the past few days writing letters to raise money for our community service trip to Pucallpa, Peru, where we will work with impoverished children. Not only did you allow us to use your office space, but also you helped us greatly by providing us with a list of possible contributors. Without your assistance, I don't think we would have been able to raise enough money for such a trip.

We recognize that accommodating our request for office space required flexibility on your part, but because of your exemplary organizational skills and assistance we were able to accomplish our objectives without disrupting your daily routine. Every time we needed office supplies, such as pens, highlighters, envelopes, or paper, we were able to find them with ease. Your donations of the materials and postage needed to send over one hundred letters are most appreciated. We could not have done this without you.

You have helped us greatly this past week. Your generosity will not only provide us with the opportunity to make this trip possible, but will also be a great benefit both to the children in Pucallpa and us. Again, we thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Amy Fynmore
Amy Fynmore

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

1 In paragraph 1, what does the word impoverished mean?

- A illiterate
- B sick
- C poor
- D disabled

2 Based on the letter, which of the following statements is an unsupported inference?

- A The writer will be traveling with someone else.
- B The writer raised enough money to go to Peru.
- C The writer sent many letters asking for donations.
- D The writer is going to Peru for two weeks.

3 What is the position/title of the person to whom this letter is written?

- A president
- B secretary
- C student
- D manager

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 4 Based on the text, what logical inference can be made?
- A Amy and Maria hope to get jobs with the company.
 - B Amy and Maria will receive support from the company in the future.
 - C Amy and Maria will be paid for their work in Peru.
 - D Amy and Maria hope to receive money from other sources.
- 5 What is the purpose of this letter?
- A to request information
 - B to express appreciation
 - C to offer assistance
 - D to clarify objectives

Go On 

DIRECTIONS: Read this passage and then answer questions 6 through 9.

The Prom Date

(The date that's not really a *date*.)

by Emily Jenkins

“Well, he doesn’t have a date, and I really want you to go. So, I thought you two could just go together. What do you think?”

I still remember those exact words as I think back on the events of my first prom. My reaction to my best friend’s question was probably what anyone would say when faced with the prospects of a blind date. What did I think? Well, I felt like the last pair of old socks stuck in the bottom drawer that will have to do because all of the good ones are in the laundry basket. Of course, I would never dare reveal that thought to her since she is my best friend and she genuinely wanted me to go to one of the major milestones of high school. I gave my friend permission to disclose my phone number to him so that he could call me to “make the necessary arrangements.”

Soon, this obscure person who was to accompany me on this magical event called me. Our conversation was less than encouraging.

“What color is your dress?”

“Blue. Why?”

“So I can match the vest of my tux with your dress.”

“Oh. So, are you going to pick me up or meet me somewhere?”

“I can pick you up.”

“Okay, do you want my address?”

“Well, I can get all the stuff from Tina. See you at seven?”

“Okay. See you then.”

“Bye.”

As shocked as I was about his need to color coordinate, I was more shocked at the civility of the whole conversation. It was as if we were setting up some kind of business meeting. I understood his mindset; the situation was as awkward and uncomfortable for him as it was for me.

The fateful day arrived! Hours before I was supposed to be whisked away in my chariot with my knight in shining armor, he called. Evidently he was being delayed by a previous engagement, and I would miss ALL of dinner if he picked me up himself. Being the gentleman that he is, however, he called my friend and arranged for her to swing by and drive me to the restaurant. My reputation for getting cranky when hungry had probably preceded me.

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

Surprisingly, dinner was quite good. The service was efficient, the food was excellent, and I had a great time with my friend and her date. I was glad I was able to go. Just as the dinner bill was being paid, my date appeared, offered me his arm, and walked me to his car. The evening made a very pleasant turn when I had my first glimpse of his futuristic-looking car. The sleek, curved lines of the body started me wondering if he would begin the countdown for liftoff at any moment. The dash resembled a computer with a touch-screen monitor complete with a locator system. It had to be the coolest car in which I have ever ridden. I spent the entire trip playing with the interactive screen and asking all sorts of questions, such as, “Does it yell at you when you make a wrong turn?”

We almost made it to the dance without incident. It took several minutes for my heart to stop racing after we were nearly side-swiped by a car in the next lane. Apparently, this futuristic car has a severe blind-spot problem.

Finally we made our way into the building, and as we approached the check-in table, the adults greeted my “date,” then stared at me like I was some kind of exotic animal. The woman with her official list greeted me with the right first name, but a completely wrong last name. After an embarrassing session of thoroughly comparing my face to the tiny photo on my school ID, my date finally agreed that,

yes, that was my name. My puzzlement grew as the talkative lady prattled on about how her seven-year-old daughter has the same name and how she was surprised to see her daughter’s name on the list. I smiled sheepishly while my date dragged me past the table. Once we were in the main room, he confessed that he had fabricated a name rather than admit he didn’t know his date.

As midnight approached, discussion of the “after-party” began. After some deliberation, we decided that ice cream and videos at my friend’s house would be fun. My date and I were delegated the task of buying the ice cream, while everyone else was delegated the task of driving there. Two stores later, we had two flavors of ice cream and a couple of great date movies. We were ready to rock! (Oh, baby, do we know how to party.)

Before the night ended, I was treated to more joy-ride in the future-car. Things were a bit awkward once we arrived at my house, but then I remembered this was not really a date. I thanked him for the nice night, got out of the car, and hurried to my front door. It might not have been the fairytale I had hoped for and I will definitely think twice before letting my best friend talk me into another blind date, but a night that included good food, a cool car, and ice cream can’t be all bad.

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 6 As used in this passage, what is the meaning of fabricated?
- A invented
 - B memorized
 - C assumed
 - D suggested
- 7 Which of the following events did the narrator most enjoy?
- A watching video
 - B talking to her date
 - C buying the ice cream
 - D eating in the restaurant
- 8 Which of the following statements supports that the narrator is not looking forward to the date?
- A "...I felt like the last pair of old socks..."
 - B "...I was more shocked at the civility of the whole conversation."
 - C "The evening made a very pleasant turn..."
 - D "My reputation for getting cranky when hungry had probably preceded me."

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 9 Which of the following reflects a sarcastic tone?
- A "...I was more shocked at the civility of the whole conversation."
 - B "...the situation was as awkward and uncomfortable for him as it was for me."
 - C "My puzzlement grew as the talkative lady prattled on..."
 - D "Oh, baby, do we know how to party."

Go On 

DIRECTIONS: Read this passage and then answer questions 10 through 13.

December 6, 2009

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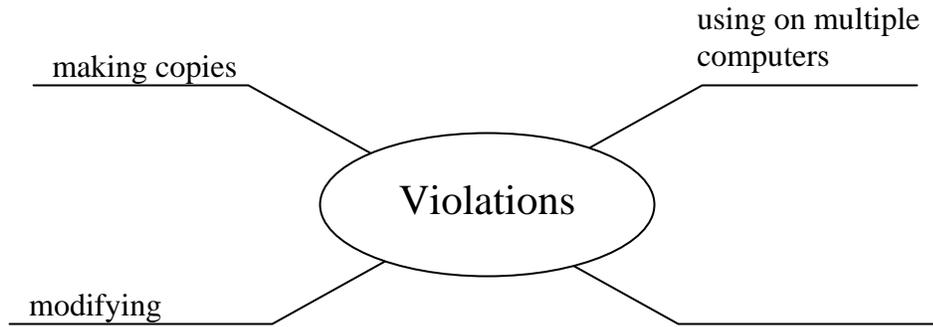
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Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 10 Look at the web below.



Which of the following should **not** be used to complete the web?

- A returning the software
 - B adapting the software
 - C selling to others
 - D reducing to readable form
- 11 Which of the following is **not** a reason the License Agreement uses the pronoun “you” throughout?
- A to indicate that the user accepts all conditions of the agreement
 - B to show that Great Games personally knows each user
 - C to allow the agreement to be used for many different users
 - D to define the rights of the user and Great Games

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 12 Based on the format, what is the **most** important priority of the License Agreement?
- A to provide technical help to the user
 - B to inform of Great Games' warranty
 - C to warn the user of possible defects
 - D to protect Great Games' software
- 13 Based on the passage, which of the following **best** describes the user's rights to the game?
- A the user has ownership rights to the game
 - B the user has the right to use the game
 - C the user has the right to sell the game
 - D the user has the right to reprogram the game

Go On 

DIRECTIONS: Read this poem and then answer questions 14 through 17.

Pencil

by Rob Mack

Have you ever looked at me?
I mean, really looked. Hard.
Studied my every angle, precise point, smooth yellow?
No?

5 I'm not surprised.

Who else can be your tool/weapon but me?
I am the unlikely bridge,
(wooden, with cracks)
that connects you to your writing.

10 To me, creation is no big feat.
I do and undo it all the time,
without the need for faith or hatred.
Do.
Undo.

15 I am the fickle spirit of the written word,
Your two-faced best friend.

Wanna really hurt somebody?
I'm your scapegoat,
ready to slander the innocent.

20 Wanna really inspire somebody?
I'm your apprentice.
Write it down.

I can be your portable righteousness
or your pocket-sized evil.

25 I can create.
I can destroy.

I can't do it without your help.
I am nothing on my own.

No will, no heart, to write.

30 I need your gentle touch,
your guiding caress,
to work my magic.

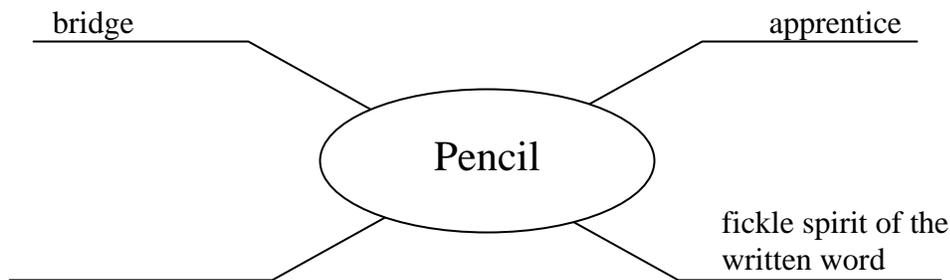
So grasp me, and let's begin ...

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

14 As used in line 18, what is the meaning of scapegoat?

- A one who speaks up against wrong
- B one who uses others for personal gain
- C one who takes the blame for others' mistakes
- D one who assigns tasks for others to complete

15 Look at the web below.



Which of the following **best** completes the web?

- A faith or hatred
- B nothing on my own
- C my every angle
- D no big feat

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 16 Read the following stanza from “Pencil.”

**I am the fickle spirit of the written word,
your two-faced best friend.**

What does the author mean by referring to the pencil as “your two-faced best friend”?

- A The pencil needs to write on two sides of a sheet of paper.
 - B The pencil might be smiling today and frowning tomorrow.
 - C The pencil has one end for writing and the other end for erasing.
 - D The pencil can be used to write constructive or destructive things.
- 17 Which of the following phrases in “Pencil” contributes to a serious tone?
- A “I am an unlikely bridge,”
 - B “Wanna really hurt somebody?”
 - C “I can be your portable righteousness...”
 - D “Studied my every angle...”

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

DIRECTIONS: Read this letter and then answer questions 18 through 22.

1871 W. Marlette Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85013
January 26, 2009

Kevin Plant
Regional Manager
X-Ports
1020 Hill Street
Phoenix, AZ 85001

Dear Mr. Plant:

I am an avid camper and longtime X-Ports customer, but after being verbally abused for the third time at your Sierra Vista location, I am writing to complain about your rude employees. They should all be fired!

Several months ago, I bought a tent that leaked the first time I used it and wanted it replaced. When I took it back, your employees accused me of tearing it myself. I left not only with my torn tent, but no refund and no satisfaction.

A couple of weeks ago, I bought a sleeping bag that was supposed to hold two people comfortably. It didn't. Your employees refused to give me my money back even though I had the receipt. I was asked to leave the store, again with no satisfaction.

However, my latest purchase of camping equipment resulted in a substantial revenue for your store. The propane camp stove I purchased didn't work properly. When I returned to exchange it or have it replaced, the rude clerk refused to help me because I did not have my sales receipt. It was an even exchange! He implied that I am a problem and even asked if I had seen what products I could purchase at one of your competitor's stores at comparable prices. Was he accusing me of something? Why would I have brought a receipt for an even exchange? Why would I know the price at other stores?

Furthermore, the clerk called security and had me escorted from your store – without my camp stove! How can I go camping now? The tent leaks, the sleeping bag is just wrong, and I don't have a stove to keep warm! Who is going to reimburse me for my stove? Who is going to help me get over the mortification I suffered in your store?

You, as the regional manager, must clear these matters up for me immediately! I am sending copies of this letter to your corporate office and the Sierra Vista Store.

Sincerely,

Ima Kumpanee

Ima Kumpanee

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 18 Which of the following items was **not** purchased by Ima?
- A sleeping bag
 - B stove
 - C flashlight
 - D tent
- 19 Which form of organization did Ima use in this letter?
- A cause and effect
 - B Analogy
 - C chronological
 - D Classification
- 20 What is Ima's proposed solution for the problem with the sleeping bag?
- A to replace
 - B to exchange it for another
 - C to have it repaired
 - D to get a refund for it

Go On 

AIMS HS Sample Test
Reading

- 21** Why does Ima point out that she is “an avid camper and longtime X-Ports customer”?
- A** to show that she knows more about camping than X-Ports
 - B** to suggest she wants to remain an X-Ports customer
 - C** to keep the manager from being angry with her
 - D** to let the manager know they share an interest in camping
- 22** Which of these sentences uses an emotional appeal?
- A** “Why would I know the price at other stores?”
 - B** “The propane camp stove I purchased didn’t work properly.”
 - C** “Who is going to help me get over the mortification I suffered in your store?”
 - D** “A couple of weeks ago, I bought a sleeping bag that was supposed to hold two people comfortably.”

Go On 

DIRECTIONS: Read this passage and then answer questions 23 through 27.

San Diego Summer

by Emily Jenkins

The summer after my sophomore year in high school, I finally had the opportunity to live with my super-cool sister in San Diego for three weeks. It was going to be great! I would do nothing but lie on the beach in the sun all day. Perhaps I would surf a little or ride my bike around Coronado Island. Yes, life was going to be amazing for those three weeks. Or so I thought...until I saw the flaws in my plan.

First flaw: I would not have a vehicle of my own while I was there. Not only that, I was strictly forbidden to drive any vehicle owned by my sister or her husband. *But, I thought, that might not be so bad. I could borrow my sister's bike; the beach wasn't that far away.*

Second flaw: I would spend every morning, Monday through Friday, teaching YMCA kids how to play tennis...for FREE. Since college wasn't too far off and since I had practically zero hours of community service, my volunteering at the Y was smart. *It might not be so bad, I thought, since I like tennis and I even kind of like little kids.*

Third flaw: I had a mountainous pile of summer homework that included reading two books, summarizing four chapters of history, and writing two foreign language compositions. That

would surely occupy most of my time in the afternoon after I was done teaching youngsters the wonders of tennis. So, not only would I not be able to transport myself to the beach, I would have absolutely no time in which to go. These three weeks were shaping up to be anything but amazing.

I soon realized that, while I wasn't able to laze away at the beach and soak up the sun, it didn't really matter because the weather in San Diego was absolutely beautiful! I was able to walk outside without frying like a slab of bacon - a common occurrence in the oven that is Phoenix. However, wonderful weather only takes one so far before reality sets in.

On my first day at the Y, I was shocked by the smallness of the children. The kids could barely clutch a racket, let alone swing one. This is when it occurred to me how potentially disastrous the situation was. A group of thirty small children with rackets in hand and only four coaches. The odds were definitely against us. Luckily, the kids did not have blood on their minds, and they were *relatively* docile and cooperative.

It soon became painfully obvious that I was the only "coach" actually coaching. Rather

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
High School

ironic when one considers I was the only one of the four NOT being paid for my time. I must admit, however, that despite all of my efforts these children were not retaining much. I had to keep telling myself that while I couldn't enjoy the fruits of my labor at the moment, I would be reveling in the benefits once college application time came. Thus, I soldiered on.

Equally as frustrating was the fact that my mountain of schoolwork didn't really seem to be shrinking very quickly until my last week in San Diego... my last week of summer. I could almost feel the grains of time slipping through

my fingers as the heinous date approached: the first day of school. Frantic, I began to trudge my way through the two books and as the last waning days of summer came and went, I managed to jot down some hastily constructed history notes and even draft two almost coherent French compositions.

As my plane landed at the Phoenix airport one day before the opening of school, I had complete peace of mind. Although I did not spend every day at the beach as I had initially hoped to do, I did accomplish several things...and I felt as if I were a better person because of my three weeks in San Diego.

- 23 The phrase "Thus, I soldiered on," reflects which of the following characteristics about the narrator?
- A her desire to enter the military
 - B her love for teaching tennis
 - C her determination to not give up
 - D her frustration over not going to the beach
- 24 Based on the text, what is the narrator's reaction when she first learns she is going to visit her sister in San Diego?
- A anger
 - B hopeful
 - C disappointment
 - D excitement

AIMS Sample Test - Reading
High School

25 Which of the following clauses suggests that the narrator is feeling desperate?

- A "...I had complete peace of mind."
- B "I could almost feel the grains of time slipping through my fingers..."
- C "...I would be reveling in the benefits once college application time came."
- D "...I wasn't able to laze away at the beach and soak up the sun..."

Read this statement from the passage.

26 "I was able to walk outside without frying like a slab of bacon..."

What is the effect of the above statement?

- A It adds some humor.
- B It advances conflict.
- C It clarifies the message.
- D It enhances the plot.

Read this statement from the passage.

27 "...and I felt as if I were a better person because of my three weeks in San Diego."

Based on the statement, what can we predict the author might do in the future?

- A apply to a university
- B move to the beach
- C play tennis professionally
- D perform community service



AIMS Sample Test Answer Key - Reading
High School

Item Number	Correct Answer	Performance Objective
1	C	1-4-1
2	D	3-1-2
3	A	3-1-3
4	D	3-1-7
5	B	3-2-3
6	A	1-4-2
7	D	2-1-1
8	A	2-1-2
9	D	2-1-4
10	A	1-6-3
11	B	3-2-3
12	D	3-2-3
13	B	3-2-3
14	C	1-4-2
15	B	1-6-3
16	D	2-1-2
17	B	2-1-4
18	C	3-1-3
19	C	3-1-6
20	D	3-3-1
21	B	3-3-1
22	C	3-3-2
23	C	1-4-3
24	D	2-1-1
25	B	2-1-2
26	A	2-1-4
27	D	3-1-8