
English II

Practice Assessment

ENGLISH II



6 The cliff dwellers were clever builders. They constructed



1 Which statement best expresses the thesis of the excerpt?

" Ancestral Puebloans were attracted to the cliffs of Colorado centuries ago.

#

- 3 In paragraphs 9, 10, and 12, the details support the key idea that the Ancestral Puebloans —
- " developed new construction skills
 - # frequently faced challenges in surviving
 - \$ often moved in search of a better home
 - % outgrew the available resources
-

- 4 Which detail from the section titled "The Cliff Dwellings at Mesa Verde" (paragraphs 3–7) supports the key idea that social interaction was important to Ancestral Puebloan communities?
- " The size of the living areas
 - # The location of the kiva
 - \$ The function of the courtyard
 - % The proximity of the dwellings
-

- 5 Why does the author most likely include the illustrations in the excerpt?
Select TWO correct answers.
- ˘ To explain how the Ancestral Puebloans used different resources
 - ˘ To show how the Ancestral Puebloans designed and built structures
 - ˘ To demonstrate the challenges of building dwellings in the cliff
 - ˘ 7R VKRZ KRZ WKH GLIIHUHQW SDUWV RI WKH FOLII GZ
 - ˘ To contrast different types of buildings built by the Ancestral Puebloans

- 6 Read this quotation from paragraph 8.

For about 700 years, Mesa Verde was a thriving community of many thousands of Native American people now referred to as Ancestral Puebloans. These people were master

- 8 How does the author organize the section titled "The Ancestral Puebloans" (paragraphs 8–13) to develop the thesis?
- " By describing the events that forced the Ancestral Puebloans to adapt to changes in their environment
 - # By listing the agricultural skills necessary to master farming the land in the Mesa Verde area
 - \$ By explaining how the Ancestral Puebloans altered the natural environment
 - % By recounting the establishment of increasingly complex and sophisticated structures in the Mesa Verde area
-

- 9 Which idea about society is developed in the excerpt?
- " Communities form in order to satisfy the human desire for new experiences.
 - # People adapt to environmental conditions to help their civilizations thrive.
 - \$ People are more likely to survive in communities than on their own.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Volunteering Is Its Own Reward

1 In his 1961 inaugural address, John F. Kennedy famously declared, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." With his introduction of the Peace Corps later that year, President Kennedy initiated an era of service and volunteerism that remains as active as ever.

2 Today, dedicated Americans still serve communities throughout the world as Peace Corps volunteers. What's more, over the decades new government-sponsored programs have emerged that carry on and expand the mission to serve. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, for example, have touched the lives of millions by engaging youth and senior citizens alike much closer to home, in their own communities.

3 -sponsored progr

3

Or hardworking students with demanding schedules? Why should they make time to do unpaid labor? For those already stressed out and stretched to the limit, why offer to do extra work?

- 7 The answer, actually, is quite simple. It's good for you. Helping others doesn't build stress—it relieves it. People who engage in volunteer activities are happier and stay in good health longer than those who don't.
- 8 Stephanie Watson, of *Harvard Women's Health Watch*, by making people feel socially connected and less lonely, but it also may help people live longer. "A growing body of evidence," she writes, "suggests that people who give their time to others might also be rewarded with better physical health—including lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan."
- 9 Rodlescia Sneed, who conducted a study in 2013 on volunteering, notes that volunteering appears to lower stress. stress reduction, and we know that stress is very strongly linked to health outcomes," she says. Sneed's study found a correlation between doing 200 hours of volunteer work per year and having lower blood pressure.
- 10 Studies have also shown a link between helping others and being happy. A study conducted by the London School of Economics and published in *Social Science and Medicine* found that the more people volunteered, the happier they were. Compared to people who never volunteered, people who volunteered once a month were 7 percent more likely to report being "very happy." People who volunteered once a week were 16 percent more likely to report being "very happy."
- 11 A 2012 study in the journal *Health Psychology* had a particularly interesting result. Like other studies, it found participants who volunteered on a regular basis lived longer. But what made this study unique was that it examined the motives of the participants. The participants "who volunteered for self-oriented reasons" did not live any longer than those who did not volunteer at all. In other words, to get the health

10 In paragraph 12, what does the word *Paradoxically* mean?

- " Improbable but humorous
 - # , P S U H V V L Y H E X W V H O ¿ V K
 - \$ Contradictory yet accurate
 - % Competent yet inconsistent
-

11 What is the best summary of the information in paragraphs 1 through 4?

- " The Peace Corps served as an inspiration for the AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs, which allow volunteers to serve near their homes. Some volunteers work with senior citizens and hospital patients. Others work with animals or in outdoor areas. Some adult age groups are volunteering more today than in 1974.
- # Since President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, American volunteerism has been widespread. Millions of people have volunteered in government programs around the world and throughout the United States. Many people have also volunteered in local programs run by charities and civic organizations.
9 R O M H H U L V P U D W H V W R G D \ V K R Z V L J O F D W L E U H D V H V V L E H
the 1970s.
- \$ The Peace Corps was started by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, and since then volunteerism in the United States has greatly increased. Americans also continue to volunteer around the world

15 What is the most likely reason the author includes contrasting ideas about stress in paragraph 7?

" To restate a key point more vividly

7R TXHVWLRQ FRQÀLFWLQJ HYLGHQFH

\$ To emphasize an unusual perspective

%

17 What effect does the shift in tone between paragraphs 6 and 7 have on the author's argument?

" The shift from a doubtful tone in paragraph 6 to a patronizing one

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal lines, intended for writing.

Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

This story takes place in an industrial city of northern Italy in the early 1950s.

from "The City Lost in the Snow"

by Italo Calvino

translated by William Weaver

- 1 That morning the silence woke him. Marcovaldo pulled himself out of bed with the sensation there was something the light between the slats of the blinds was different from all other hours of day and night. He opened the window: the

getting lost in a different city: instead, his footsteps were taking
him straight to his everyday place of work, the usual shipping
department, and, once he had crossed the threshold, the worker
ZDVDPD]HGDWGLKLPVHOIDPROVWKRVDZDOOVWKHVDPHDV

London Snow

by Robert Bridges

~~: KPHHHDHHSWKVREPHAD~~
~~, ODUJHZKLWHDNHVIDOOLORWKHFLW\EURZO~~
Stealthily and perpetually settling and loosely lying,
~~XKLO\WKHODWHVWWUDI\FRIWKHKGURZV\WRZO~~
5 HDGH\OP\AO\WLAOLWVPM\IP\VIDLOLO
~~D]LO\DGLEHVVD\O\RDWLO\GRZDGGRZO~~
Silently sifting and veiling road, roof and railing;
Hiding difference, making unevenness even,
Into angles and crevices softly drifting and sailing.
10 All night it fell, and when full inches seven
It lay in the depth of its uncompacted lightness,
Its clouds blew off from a high and frosty heaven;
And all woke earlier for the unaccustomed brightness

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- 21 Read the question carefully. Then record your answer in the box provided.

How does the rising action in paragraphs 3 and 4 develop a theme in the excerpt? Support your answer with evidence from the excerpt.

-
- 22 How do the events described in paragraphs 1 and 2 contribute to the plot of the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow"?

- " They establish the snowfall as a rare, almost magical happening.
- # They introduce the confusion Marcovaldo feels throughout the story.
- \$ They provide a sense of approaching danger to Marcovaldo and his neighbors.
- % They suggest that the storm has created a unique, unfathomable mystery.

23 How does the setting of “an industrial city of northern Italy” affect the plot in the excerpt from “The City Lost in the Snow”?

" The shipping department workplace suggests Marcovaldo feels
FRQHWKDWKLVSRVLWLRQWZRUNZLOOLPSURYH

The snow-covered city on Marcovaldo’s walk to work inspires him to imagine a life without restrictions.

\$ The deserted city streets emphasize the reason Marcovaldo must walk slowly on his way to work.

% The hidden Italian streets convey the importance of Marcovaldo’s job to clear the snow from the sidewalks.

24 The author uses irony in paragraph 8 of the excerpt from “The City Lost in the Snow” most likely to show that —

" Sigismondo’s efforts are being erased by the efforts of a fellow worker

Sigismondo’s crew is unable to keep up with the rapidly accumulating snow

\$ the snow continues to pile up as the workers race to gain favor with their boss

% the speed at which the workers must shovel is beginning to cause them distress

25 How does the language the author uses in paragraph 4 contribute to the mood in the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow"?

" It creates empathy for people who walk to work.

It suggests hope that there will be progress for the worker.

\$ It emphasizes the sense of fantasy that ends abruptly.

% It reveals a feeling of warmth that contrasts with the cold outside.

26 What does the use of alliteration in lines 1 through 9 of the poem "London Snow" convey to the reader?

" The soothing lull of the falling snow

The shadowy gloom of the endless snow at night

\$ The dangers hidden by the thick snow

% The exciting thrill of watching the snow fall

27 Read lines 15 and 16 of the poem "London Snow."

The eye marvelled—marvelled at the dazzling whiteness;
The ear hearkened to the stillness of the solemn air;

RZGRHVWKHJNDWLYHODDQJHLWKHVHOLEBVUHYHDOWKH
speaker's attitude toward the snow?

- " By suggesting that human productivity is hampered by the unexpected weather
- # By conveying how the sight of snow is more appealing than the void of sound
- \$ By describing how the individual senses are affected by dramatic changes in nature
- % By showing that the newly fallen snow conceals the bleakness of everyday life

28 What is most likely the poet's purpose for using contrast to present the ideas in lines 31 through 37 of the poem "London Snow"?

- " To describe the advancements of society despite the dangers of nature
- # To reveal the freedom people feel when they live close to nature
- \$ To show the ability of nature to alter the landscape of society
- % To illustrate the tranquility nature brings to the lives of people

29 How does the language in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow" DIFFER from the language in lines 1 through 9 of the poem "London Snow"?

" The language in the excerpt emphasizes the surprise of a character, while the language in the poem suggests the sadness of the speaker.

The language in the excerpt conveys the fear of a character, while the language in the poem reveals the excitement of the speaker.

\$ The language in the excerpt conveys the enthusiasm of a character, while the language in the poem reveals the calmness of the speaker.

% The language in the excerpt emphasizes the objectivity of a character, while the language in the poem suggests the bias of the speaker.

30 Which sentence best expresses a SIMILARITY between the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow" and the poem "London Snow"?

" Newly fallen snow can bring a welcome change to everyday life.

Forces in nature can be hostile and compel people to work harder.

\$ Nature constantly reminds people that progress is only an illusion.

% Heavy snowfall isolates people from one another.



32 What is the DIFFERENCE in the way the newly fallen snow affects the working men in the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow" and the working men in the poem "London Snow"?

- " While the laborers in the excerpt compete for scarce jobs shoveling the snow, the laborers in the poem feel that the snow has made their work much harder.
- # While the laborers in the excerpt feel overwhelmed by the increased workload due to the snow, the laborers in the poem trudge through the snow without noticing it.
- \$ While the laborers in the excerpt worry about the monumental task of shoveling the snow, the laborers in the poem think of the snow as a part of their daily struggles.
- % While the laborers in the excerpt appreciate opportunities brought
E\WKHVBZWKHODERUHUVLW\KHSRHPGWKHVBZDVKRUW
distraction from the drudgery of their day.

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(20) On the fourth leg of the crossing, the currents pushed Thomas off the path she had so carefully planned. (21) She wasn't initially aware that the currents were causing trouble, but around 3:00 a.m. one of her crew let her know that she still had another three hours to go. (22) Her mother and her husband were actually a part of her crew as well. (23) "I had expected to be done by 3:00 a.m., so it was a stunning blow," Thomas later recalled. (24) "However, we had come that far already, and it never crossed my mind that I wouldn't swim until I had solid ground below my feet again."

(25) Thomas reached solid ground around 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday and was greeted by a large group of enthusiastic supporters. (26) She commented that she felt both numb and stunned. (27) The journey that should have been about 84 miles long turned out to be closer to 134 miles, so after celebrating with chocolate, she said she planned to sleep for the rest of the day. (28) "I'm pretty tired right now," she admitted.

(29) Sarah Thomas accomplished something that had never been done before. "It was a moment of incredible nothing," Thomas said, "on moments of incredible."

- 33 Sentence 2 needs to be revised. In the box provided, rewrite sentence 2 in a clear and effective way.

-
- 34 Which sentences can replace sentences 4 and 5 to create a more effective controlling idea for this paper?

- " However, one swimmer, Sarah Thomas, has managed to go above and beyond all the rest. She set a new record by swimming the English Channel four times without stopping.
- # But Sarah Thomas is a swimmer who yearned to do more. She has ~~IDFHGVRPHFKDOOHOLFLUFKRVWDEHVLKQHUOLIHDCIHOWFRQHW~~ she was ready to tackle the English Channel.
- \$ As a result, Sarah Thomas was able to accomplish something no

- 35 Heike wants to add this sentence to the third paragraph of her paper (sentences 10–14).

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37 KLFKVHWHHLWKHJWKSDDDSKVHWHHVERWDLQ



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Julia wrote a story to tell about a girl's surprise opportunity. Read Julia's draft and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Surprise Stop

(1) Art class had always been Natalia's favorite elective. (2) She preferred it over theater, music, and even gym. (3) She loved everything about it—clay, map pencils, markers, papier-mâché—but painting was her greatest interest.

(4) Natalia's eighth-grade art teacher had a Georgia O'Keeffe painting hanging on the wall in her classroom. (5) Natalia admired
LWGDLO\DGWULHGWRSDLO\RZHUVWKDWORRNHGVLPLODUWR2\HHIHHV
(6) At home she studied other works by the artist and routinely marveled at her talent. (7) Natalia was in awe of O'Keeffe's
SDLO\LO\RI1HZRUNDGLWVVN\VFUDSHUV7KH\RZHUVDG
landscapes of New Mexico most inspired the teenager. (9) She worked hard to perfect her paintings, trying ard 7s of New Mcpeeffe

(18) Summer came, and it was time for Natalia's family to take their annual road trip to visit family in Albuquerque, New Mexico. (19) Early one Saturday morning, Mom, Dad, and Natalia climbed into the car to start the three-and-a-half-hour journey from their home in El Paso to Aunt Jackie's house in Albuquerque. (20) A little more than two hours into the trip, Natalia settled in for a nap, hoping they'd be at their destination by the time she woke up. (21) When she awoke, however, she was confused. (22) Instead, they were driving through a quaint neighborhood, and before long she noticed a sign that read "Georgia O'Keeffe Museum." (23) They weren't in Albuquerque! (24) They were in Santa Fe! (25) Finally

41 Which sentence would best follow sentence 21?

" According to her watch, they should have already arrived at her aunt's house in Albuquerque.

This was a long road trip, so no one had been surprised when she had decided to sleep for a good while.

\$ She was unsure about a number of things as she rubbed her eyes and looked out the window.

% \$ V X V X D O W K H U H Z D V D O R W R I W U D I ; F R Q W K H K L J K
so her dad had been driving slowly.

42 ~~OLDZR~~~~GOLNHDPRIHI~~ | HFWLYHFORVLDORWKH;WKSDDDSK
(sentences 18–25). Which sentence can replace sentence 25 to help Julia accomplish this goal?

" When Natalia's dad opened his car door, he asked everyone to gather their things and quickly follow him inside.

After a great deal of confusion, Natalia put the clues together and deduced that they were not going to go to her aunt's house yet.

\$ Natalia understood that they had traveled to the museum and would subsequently be late getting to her aunt's.

% When Natalia's dad turned around and asked her if she would like to go into the museum, she squealed in delight.

43 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 27?

- " Through room after room she moved slowly, paintings hung neatly on white walls.
 - # She moved slowly through room after room of paintings hung neatly on white walls.
 - \$ As she moved slowly through room after room, paintings on white walls hung neatly.
 - % She moved slowly through room after room of paintings on white walls that hung neatly.
-

44 Julia has included a sentence in the last paragraph (sentences 31–35) that repeats information. Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?

- " Sentence 32
- # Sentence 33
- \$ Sentence 34
- % Sentence 35

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Vijay is writing a paper about an exciting event that took place in Pennsylvania. Read these paragraphs from the beginning of Vijay's paper and look for corrections he needs to make.

45 What is the correct way to write sentence 7?

- " The unique event, known as Skyscraper Games by Kids, was the brainchild of Frank Lee.
 - # Known as Skyscraper Games by Kids. It was a unique event and the brainchild of Frank Lee.
 - \$ The unique event, known as Skyscraper Games by Kids. It was the brainchild of Frank Lee.
 - % Known as Skyscraper Games by Kids, a unique event that was the brainchild of Frank Lee.
-

46 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?

- " Change **he** to it
 - # Change **manipulate** to mannipulate
 - \$ Change **building's** to buildings'
 - % No change is needed.
-

47 What change needs to be made in sentence 12?

- " Change the comma after **Tetris** to a semicolon
- # Change **involves** to will involve
- \$ Change **rotating**



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Charles is writing a paper about some interesting towers in Austin, Texas. Read these paragraphs from the body of Charles's paper and look for corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Still Shining After All These Years

7KHVWWWRZHVDVOLWLGH3DNDVWHHWFVDVXWVKDW was then on the north edge of town. (2) It gave light to a 3,000-foot-diameter space, stood 165 feet tall, had a base of 15 feet, and weighed approximately 5,000 pounds. (3) Similar towers were put into operation soon afterward.

(4) The moon towers, which is what people now call the structures, is no longer a practical source of light. (5) They are, however, a special part of Austin's history. (6) In 1976 the famous towers ZHUHDGGHGWRDQJFLDOOLVWNBZDVWKH1DWLRQO5HJLVWHURI Historic Places. (7) In the early 1990s, the towers were carefully deconstructed and completely restored. (8) The city celebrated their return with a festival.

(9) Though hotels and skyscrapers tower over them today, the moon towers have left a legacy. (10) They have inspired a documentary, *The Last of the Moonlight Towers* that pays homage to this part of Austin's history. (11) The Moontower Comedy Festival is a popular yearly tradition. (12) But an even more popular tradition is the Zilker Park holiday tree, which uses a moon tower as its trunk.

49 What change needs to be made in sentence 2?

- " Change **It** to They
 - # Delete the comma after **space**
 - \$ Change **had** to has
 - % Change **approximatly** to approximately
-

50 What change needs to be made in sentence 4?

- " Delete the comma after **towers**
 - # Change **call** to called
 - \$ Change **is** to are
 - % Change **practical** to practacal
-

51 What change needs to be made in sentence 10?

- " Change **documentary** to documentery
- # Insert a comma after **Towers**
- \$ Change **that** to who
- % Change **Austin's** to Austins'

52 What change should be made in sentence 12?

" Change **But** to While

Change **is** to was

\$ Change **Zilker Park holiday tree** to Zilker Park Holiday Tree

% Change **its** to it's



