

SAMPLE PAGES
FOR
HSAP PRACTICE TESTS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

AUTHORED BY JANE HEREFORD

This workbook is a supplement to our highly successful series "*Challenge The HSAP.*" It consists of 8 complete Practice Tests for the English Language Arts HSAP.



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SAMPLE PAGES FROM PRACTICE TEST

1

Directions: Read each selection and question carefully.

Fill in the letter on the answer sheet provided on page 1-27 that best answers the question.

Group Warns Fish in S.C. Lakes Contain Mercury

An environmental and consumer advocacy group has released a report that says elevated mercury levels in South Carolina's lakes are unsafe, but the state's health and environmental agency disputes some of the findings.

A report released Tuesday by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group said every fish in South Carolina contains mercury and about a third had levels that exceeded federal safety guidelines for women in their childbearing years.

The percentages are even higher nationally, where more than half of all fish were estimated to exceed the federal safety limits, based on women eating two meals of fish each week.

The group analyzed data the Environmental Protection Agency collected between 1999 and 2001. Mercury, some of which comes from power plant emissions, settles in waterways and accumulates in fish.

Pregnant women or those planning to have children are at greatest risk and shouldn't eat any fish containing mercury because of the negative health effects to children and fetuses, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The agency issues fish consumption advisories each year, letting South Carolinians know how much they can eat from a pond, river, lake or stream. The department also distributes advisory booklets to doctor's offices and posts them on the Web.

Tracy Shelley, a DHEC environmental toxicologist, said the report analyzed a small sampling and was not as comprehensive as the agency's findings.

"I'm not sure we can say every fish in South Carolina is contaminated," she said. "But we do have a lot of advisories here."

She compared the mercury advisories to warning labels on cigarettes, but said the scientific evidence for not smoking during pregnancy is much stronger.

The Public Interest Research Group wants power plants to curb mercury emissions by using filters. The Clean Air Act calls for a reduction by 2008, research group spokeswoman Jill Johnson said. But, she added, the Bush administration's plan doesn't call for emission reductions until 2018.

"Mercury pollution is making the fish in South Carolina unsafe to eat," Johnson said. "The mercury reductions in the Bush administration's plan are too little, too late."

Virginia Sanders of the state chapter of the Sierra Club said the problem affects poor people in her Lower Richland community, who don't know about the advisories or must eat fish because it's inexpensive.

"With so many low-income families in South Carolina subsisting on fish they catch from local rivers and lakes, it's a problem that should be dealt with now," Sanders said.

Practice Test 1

1. If you wanted to research more information about mercury levels in SC fish, which question could you ask Tracy Shelby to learn the most relevant, helpful information? (1)
 - a. What organization or agency could give me the largest sampling of data?
 - b. What are the lakes containing the highest levels of mercury?
 - c. How long has data on mercury levels been collected?
 - d. What percentage of SC lakes has fish that are contaminated with mercury?
2. What form of communication would best serve the purpose of this passage? (1)
 - a. An announcement on local radio or TV stations to warn SC residents of the danger of mercury-laden fish
 - b. A memo to schools and businesses asking them to poll students and employees on SC fish consumption
 - c. An article in a national newspaper to warn other states about possible high mercury levels in fish
 - d. A section from a chapter in an environmental science textbook to provide facts on mercury levels in fish
3. What is the most accurate conclusion that can be made from the information in this passage? (1)
 - a. The Clean Air Act will reduce mercury emissions from power plants by 2008.
 - b. Many low-income families will be affected by the mercury levels in SC fish.
 - c. Pregnant women or those planning to have children will not eat SC fish.
 - d. All SC fish in local lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams are contaminated with mercury.
4. What is the most accurate prediction that can be made from the information in this passage? (1)
 - a. South Carolina will create an agency to keep accurate data on mercury levels in local waters.
 - b. The Environmental Protection Agency will continue to monitor mercury levels in SC fish.
 - c. South Carolina will deal with the problem that low-income families are subsisting on fish caught from local sources.
 - d. The Sierra Club's membership will increase after data is published in local newspapers.

Respected African-American Studies

In the 1970s, Grace Jordan McFadden told her African-American studies class that she awoke each day feeling she had to prove herself with two strikes already against her—being black and being a woman.

McFadden was the first black female professor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of South .

“She kind of blazed the trail and set the trend,” said Cleveland Sellers, chairman of USC’s African-American studies department. “She encouraged the university to have more women as professors as well as more minorities.”

In the process, McFadden earned the respect and admiration of her friends and colleagues, inspired her students and helped bring African-American studies to the forefront in South Carolina.

She had a very quiet demeanor, but was very forceful in her ideas and opinions, whether it be social, educational or spiritual,” said Johnnie McFadden, her husband.

A native of California, Grace McFadden graduated from the University of California in Sacramento with a degree in political science. She then received her master’s degree in urban education from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and her doctorate degree in African-American history from Union Graduate School-Antioch in Ohio.

McFadden came to South Carolina in 1971 to work at the South Carolina School Desegregation Center at USC.

“Grace was a very regal person,” said Beryl Dakers, who met McFadden in 1971. “She was tall. She was stately. When she walked into a room, she had a presence about her.”

McFadden married in 1972 and gave birth to a daughter, Rashida, in 1977.

But committing to living in South Carolina was an adjustment for McFadden.

“She grew up with all kinds of different races and when she came to the South, it was just black and white,” Rashida said. “She talked about moving back to California, but decided to stay.”

McFadden served as chairwoman of the African-American studies department at USC from 1988 to 1994, when she retired. She also organized a symposium in 1988 that marked the 25th anniversary of the desegregation of USC directed the Oral History and Culture Project, which taped the recollections of blacks in the Southeast, and created a documentary on the struggle for civil rights in South Carolina.

“African-American history is a history of liberation, freedom and struggle,” McFadden told The State in 1991. “And with more and more exposure, I see a breakthrough in liberating minds to some degree.

“It’s like a domino effect—with exposure comes discontent, and with discontent comes a desire for change.”

5. Which phrase best states the meaning of **desegregation**? (1)
 - a. making less sensitive
 - b. subjecting to abuse
 - c. separating races
 - d. abolishing the separation of races

6. Which word could most likely be found in a thesaurus for **demeanor**? (1)
 - a. scorn
 - b. relationship
 - c. bearing
 - d. function

7. If you wanted to research more information about Grace Jordan McFadden, which resource would provide the most relevant helpful information? (1)
 - a. a visit to USC’s African-American Studies department
 - b. an encyclopedia in your school library
 - c. a website at your local bookstore
 - d. a visit to the University of California

Practice Test 1

8. Which form of communication would best serve the purpose of this passage? (1)
- An article from a South Carolina newspaper to provide facts about McFadden
 - A brochure from USC's African-American Studies department providing facts about McFadden
 - A section from a chapter of a South Carolina history book
 - A USC website
9. What is the best way to correct the capitalization of this sentence from the third paragraph? (1)
- "She kind of blazed the trail and set the trend," said Cleveland Sellers, Chairman of USC's African-American studies department.
 - "She kind of blazed the trail and set the trend," said Cleveland Sellers, chairman of USC's African-American Studies Department.
 - "She kind of blazed the trail and set the trend," Said Cleveland Sellers, Chairman of USC's African-American Studies Department.
 - (best as it is)

Lassie, call home

GPS SETUP ON COLLARS HELPS PEOPLE QUICKLY LOCATE LOST PETS

In the Walt Disney film "The Incredible Journey," two dogs and a cat are reunited with their owners after a long and dangerous cross-country trip.

For many pets, there is no such happy Hollywood ending. Only a small percentage of animals separated from their owners are reunited, according to the American Humane Association.

But wireless technology may one day provide some help both for animals and the humans who cherish them, whether the pets have strayed across town or across the border.

In one emerging technology, owners can keep track of their dogs by way of miniaturized Global Positioning System receivers and mobile modems attached to the dogs' collars.

If the pet leaves the yard, you'll get a call on your cell phone, PDA or any other two-way wireless device," said Jennifer Durst, chief executive of GPS Tracks in Oyster Bay, N.Y., which has devised a GPS-based system called the Global Pet Finder.

Durst said the system would be on the market by the end of the year and would fit dogs of all sizes except toy breeds. The receiver will cost about \$300, and there will be a monthly "monitoring fee" of about \$13, she said. "Cats will be next year," she said, "in version 2."

People who use the new system can set the boundaries for their dogs at a Web site or on the miniaturized device itself, specifying how far their pets can roam. It might be a back yard, Durst said, or, if both owner and pet are on vacation, a section of a beach, perhaps.

Software checks the pet's position constantly. When it passes the default boundaries, an automatic alert is triggered and owners receive a text message. It will say, 'Your pet has left' and send the exact location," Durst said.

10. Which word could most likely be found in a thesaurus for **emerging** in the following sentence? (1)
- In one **emerging** technology, owners can keep track of their dogs by way of miniaturized Global Positioning System receivers and mobile modems attached to the dogs' collars.*
- interesting
 - departing
 - seeming
 - rising
11. What is the main idea of this passage? (1)
- Emerging technology will provide humans with a way of keeping track of their pets.
 - All receivers and modems will become mobile.
 - Dogs are more important than cats, therefore cats are not included in Version 1.
 - Anything can be monitored for a fee.
12. What is the most accurate conclusion that can be made from the information in this passage? (1)
- Lassie would have benefited from one of these collars.
 - The boundaries for these devices are limitless.
 - There is no end to what technology can accomplish.
 - GPS Tracks will make millions from this device.
13. If you wanted to learn more information about these collars, which primary source would provide the most relevant helpful information? (1)
- the film "The Incredible Journey"
 - a page from the website for GPS Tracks
 - a brochure from the American Humane Association
 - a visit to the SPCA

SAMPLE PAGES FROM PRACTICE TEST 6

Directions: Read each selection and question carefully.

Fill in the letter on the answer sheet provided on page 6-31 that best answers the question.

Child Seats Urged for Air Travel

The Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates airlines, supports use of child safety seats but has not required them. The agency says studies show that some families would drive instead of flying if forced to buy seat tickets for children younger than 2. That would prompt more fatalities on the road than it would save on planes, the agency believes.

Under current rules, children younger than 2 can fly free if they sit in a parent's lap. Most airlines accommodate passengers who want to use car safety seats if they buy a ticket for their child. Most child safety seats designed for autos also work in airliners.

NTSB member Debbie Hersman, the mother of boys ages 3 and 2, said she found the issue "heart-wrenching. As a mother I can't ever imagine knowingly putting my children into a situation where they are less safe than I am," she said. "But I have done that. Before I became a member of the board, I made trips with my boys on my lap."

Research by NTSB staffers contradicted other findings showing that requiring child restraints on planes would lead to more highway deaths.

The agency identified three periods since 1980 in which large numbers of people stopped flying: the 1981 air traffic controller strike, the 1991 Gulf War and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. However, highway deaths were down or flat during those years.

The FAA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration remain unconvinced. "Aviation is substantially safer than highway travel," said Peggy Gilligan, deputy chief of the FAA's safety division.

NTSB investigators have examined three accidents since 1984 in which small children died because they were not belted in and several others in which babies were seriously injured.

One young child died and three others suffered minor injuries when they flew out of their parents' arms in the 1989 crash landing of a United Airlines DC-10 in Sioux City, Iowa.

1. Which phrase would most likely be listed in a thesaurus for **mandatory**? (1)

*The National Transportation Safety Board on Tuesday reviewed its call for **mandatory** child safety seats on airline flights, calling their absence, "unacceptable."*

- a. required
- b. optional
- c. elective
- d. voluntary

2. Which statement best summarizes the main idea of this passage? (1)
 - a. Requiring child restraints on planes would increase highway fatalities.
 - b. Children's lives would be saved if child restraints were required on planes for those under age 2.
 - c. NTSB investigators have examined three accidents since 1984.
 - d. There has been a 25-year battle over how to protect children under 2 in flights.

3. If you wanted to research more about safety seats in planes, which question could you ask to receive the most relevant, helpful information? (1)
 - a. At what age should child restraints not be required since children are different sizes?
 - b. What data from these studies has proven that child restraints are necessary in planes?
 - c. Why does the FAA continue to not require child restraints?
 - d. Who in the NTSB can help me understand why child safety seats should be mandatory?

4. What is the best prediction that can be made from the facts in this passage? (1)
 - a. Children will continue to be fatally injured on airplanes.
 - b. Studies by the NTSB will continue and maybe one day the FAA will require child safety restraints.
 - c. The FAA will continue to be unconvinced that children should be required to wear safety restraints in planes.
 - d. Parents will begin buying extra seats on the plane for their children.

Making a Big Splash!

Rock Hill's aquatic center will not be ready for swimmers for another few months, but it's already 10 years ahead of other similar centers, representatives with USA Swimming said Saturday while in town.

They like it so much they plan to use the center being built on Rawlinson Road near Old Pointe Elementary as a model for others.

"This is the wave of the future," said Mick Nelson of Colorado-based USA Swimming, which is the national governing body for competitive swimming in the United States. Nelson consults with other clubs like Rock Hill's all over the country.

Saturday, representatives from USA Swimming took a tour of the facility and complimented YMCA aquatics director Merv Faassen de Heer for the plans of the center, which some have called a natatorium.

The 41,000-square-foot aquatics center should be completed Nov. 16, said Faassen de Heer. Officials hope to open it around Jan. 1, he said.

The center caught the attention of USA Swimming last month because of its advanced design, which moves water waves away from the swimmers and allows for faster swimming times. This type of system makes it fair for all swimmers because those in the outside lanes don't have to put up with everyone else's waves, Faassen de Heer said.

Though USA Swimming officials have an interest in the two pools, neither are Olympic size. That

means most national competitions wouldn't be held at the Rock Hill center. But sectionals, or competitions leading up to a national meet, could be held there.

The building will have a 10-lane cool-water pool and an 8-lap warm-water pool, full service locker rooms and bleachers that will sit 500 people. The spectator section will have its own ventilation system, so fans won't feel hot and muggy.

"This is a marvelous building—that's just beautiful," Nelson said.

What makes the place special, he said, is that it will offer programs for both youth and senior citizens. Third and fourth graders in the Rock Hill school district will take swimming lessons and can compete in swim meets. The school district and the Rock Hill YMCA made a 25-year agreement in which the YMCA provided the land and will maintain the complex and the district pays for construction.

More aquatic centers should follow that plan, Nelson said. This new aquatic center is ahead of most communities that don't focus on making the center for everybody, he said. Many aquatic centers have failed in raising money for programs when certain groups of people are left out.

"Word is out. Rock Hill is going to be known outside the Carolinas," said Nelson, who added 2,700 other programs would pop up in the next 10 years similar to the one here. "This could be their dream," Nelson said.

Faassen de Heer said he hopes to host national and international meets. Two large statewide events have already been booked at the center.

"If we run a good show, we'll get the numbers (people) in," he said.

5. Which statement is the best conclusion from this passage? (1)
- Rock Hill aquatic center is a wave of the future that provides programs and facilities for many groups of people.
 - The Rock Hill aquatic center has booked two statewide meets.
 - Several programs will be provided at the aquatic center for youth and senior citizens.
 - The Rock Hill aquatic center will fail because it does not focus on everyone in the community.
6. Which of the formats below would best communicate the purpose of this passage? (1)
- general information from a website for USA swimming
 - an article in a local newspaper
 - a flyer hanging in the Rock Hill's aquatic center's lobby
 - paragraphs from a letter to the YMCA asking for their assistance in this project.



Burst the Oil Price Bubble

In a shocking display of market irresponsibility, the Russian government has chosen a moment of worldwide concern about tight supplies of oil to raise big questions about the reliability of Russian oil exports amounting to 2 percent of the world's supply. In the resulting scramble to assure adequate supplies for their customers, oil traders have pushed prices to record highs. Oil prices are squeezing economies around the world and may account for the summer slowdown in the American economy.

Because the world's economy runs on oil, a 2 percent shortfall, if it materializes, could have an even more dramatic impact on prices than we have already seen. Some traders have forecast a rise from the present level of over \$40 a barrel to prices ranging from \$60 to \$100 a barrel if supplies fall that far short of demand.

No one seems to know precisely why Russia is roiling markets by being unclear about its intentions toward Yukos, a private oil company the Russian government is suing for back taxes. Quite apart from concerns about alleged illegal activity by Yukos and its jailed chairman, the Kremlin ought to be concerned about Russia's reputation as a reliable source of oil exports. Yukos is a major exporter—mainly to China—but it must pay its transportation bills if it wishes to continue to export.

In recent days, the Russian government first indicated that it would block Yukos from meeting its export transportation obligations, then that it would not, and then, again, that the blockage had been restored. Yukos is reported to be within days of being unable to pay its pipeline fees.

Oil market experts note that this continued uncertainty plays into the hands of speculators already concerned about other uncertainties. Agence France Presse cites a Russian journalist's claim that "people who play the markets" in Russia "are involved in this affair. These people are creating havoc and then making money. That is clear." The Toronto Globe and Mail reports Canadian energy experts believe that market speculators have run the price of oil up by \$15 a barrel or 50 percent above the level where it would otherwise be.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia would be wise to take control of the Yukos affair in order to calm markets. Regardless, the speculative fever must be broken. President Bush would do well to recall the effect his father had in cooling off speculative oil markets in the run-up to Gulf War I in 1991 when he authorized selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as needed to stabilize oil markets. As Alan Reynolds of the Cato Institute recently recalled, oil prices tumbled, even though there were no sales by the U.S. government. That statement by President George H.W. Bush was all it took, he noted, to prick a dangerous speculative bubble. The same approach could work today.

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7. Which statement best explains the bias of the author of this editorial? (1)
- The author believes that the only way to solve the problem of high oil prices is for President Bush to sell off oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
 - The author believes that the Russian government should block Yukos from meeting its export transportation obligations.
 - The author believes that Russians who “play the markets” are involved in the Yukos affair that has caused such uncertainty in the oil market.
 - The author believes that a 2 percent shortage in oil production could have a dramatic impact on prices.
8. Which of the following is an argument this author makes in the editorial? (1)
- Yukos is reported to be within days of being unable to pay its pipeline fees.
 - Oil prices are squeezing economies around the world and may account for the summer slow-down in the American economy.
 - President Vladimir Putin of Russia would be wise to take control of the Yukos’s affair in order to calm markets.
 - The same approach could work today.
9. According to the editorial all of the following facts about the oil markets are true, except ____ .
- The Russian government has chosen a moment of worldwide concern about tight supplies of oil to raise questions about the reliability of Russia oil exports amounting to 2 percent of the worlds supply.
 - Yukos is a major exporter of oil—mainly to China.
 - Yukos, a private oil company, is being sued by the Russian government for back taxes.
 - President George H.W. Bush did nothing to cool off speculative oil markets in the run-up to the Gulf War I in 1991.
10. Which of the following is an opinion from the author of this editorial? (1)
- President Bush would do well to recall the effect his father had in cooling off speculative oil markets in the run-up to Gulf War I.
 - Yukos is reported to be within days of being able to pay its pipeline fines.
 - Oil prices are squeezing economies around the world.
 - Oil traders have pushed prices to record highs.

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