

7th Grade CST Pre-test

1) Which choice is **not** an example of a common idiom?

- a. He bit my head off.
- b. She's like a gazelle.
- c. Money burns a hole in my pocket.
- d. Hold your horses!

2) Which choice demonstrates the correct usage of a metaphor?

- a. Her stomach is as solid as a rock.
- b. Her skin is like chocolate.
- c. The boy is old.
- d. His fist is iron.

3) What does the word amphibious mean?

- a. can only live on land
- b. can only live in water
- c. can live on land or in water
- d. cannot live on land or in water

4) What does the word monochrome mean?

- a. in shades of one color
- b. in many colors
- c. in masculine colors
- d. in light colors only

Passage for questions 5 to 9:

Read this passage and then answer the question(s) below.

Bears

If you go camping this summer in a state park, you may be lucky enough to see a California black bear. Obviously, everyone loves animals, and most people are excited at the thought of seeing a bear, especially in its natural habitat. Most people, however, don't know what steps to take if they actually come across a bear in the wild. More and more people are now living in cities, and rarely leave their urban environs, so they have never seen a live bear (except for in the zoo). Because of this, they don't realize just how dangerous an encounter with a bear can be.

The California black bear generally weighs about 200 pounds, but some of the biggest can weigh up to 500 pounds. They can run fast—up to thirty miles an hour. If you see a bear, don't try to run away. Instead, make yourself as "big" as possible, by standing up straight and raising your arms. Never approach the bear. Most bears will try to avoid humans, but if a mother bear feels that her cubs are threatened, she may be incited to attack. Baby bear cubs are even cuter than puppies and kittens, but you should never give in to the temptation to pick one up.

There are many ways to discourage bears from coming to your campsite in the first place. Make sure to properly dispose of all garbage, including wrappings and fruit peelings (be assured that bears can smell even the faintest of food odors!) At night, put food far away from your tent or sleeping bag. Bears are very adept at clawing through plastic bags; many can even open up a plastic cooler or break a lock. Because of this, many camping stores sell specially designed food storage units that bears are unable to open (most stores charge too much for these storage units; they should be less expensive). By exercising caution and common sense, you can help ensure that the wilderness is a safe, beautiful place for both people and bears.

5) Read this sentence from the passage:

Most bears will try to avoid humans, but if a mother bear feels that her cubs are threatened, she may be incited to attack.

What could replace the underlined phrase without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- a. feel too excited to attack
- b. feel uncertain about attacking
- c. feel angered enough to attack
- d. feel afraid of being attacked

6) Read this sentence from the passage:

Bears are very adept at clawing through plastic bags; many can even open up a plastic cooler or break a lock.

What means the same as adept?

- a. skillful
- b. adamant
- c. likely
- d. cheerful

7) This passage would most likely appear in-

- a. a brochure for a state park, in order to teach visitors about how to be safe in bear country.
- b. an instruction manual for a bear storage unit, in order to teach consumers how to use it.
- c. a sign posted at the entrance to a zone populated by bears, in order to get people excited about bears.
- d. an online magazine for a pet store, in order to make people uncomfortable around wild animals so they will want to buy a house pet.

8) Read the author's concluding statement:

By exercising caution and common sense, you can help ensure that the wilderness is a safe, beautiful place for both people and bears.

What main points does the author make to develop this argument?

- most people want to see bears; bears are
- a. very powerful; bear canisters are too expensive

- b. most people are not familiar with bears; bears can be dangerous; there are ways to minimize the danger

- c. bears are big and fast; bears usually don't attack humans; bear cubs are very cute; bears have good senses of smell
- d. everybody loves animals; make yourself big if you see a bear; bears can break locks

9) Which of the following statements from the article demonstrates the author's bias?

- Obviously, everyone loves animals, and most
- a. people are excited at the thought of seeing a bear, especially in its natural habitat.

- b. More and more people are now living in cities, and rarely leave their urban environs, so they have never seen a live bear (except for in the zoo).

- The California black bear generally weighs
- c. about 200 pounds, but some of the biggest can weigh up to 500 pounds.

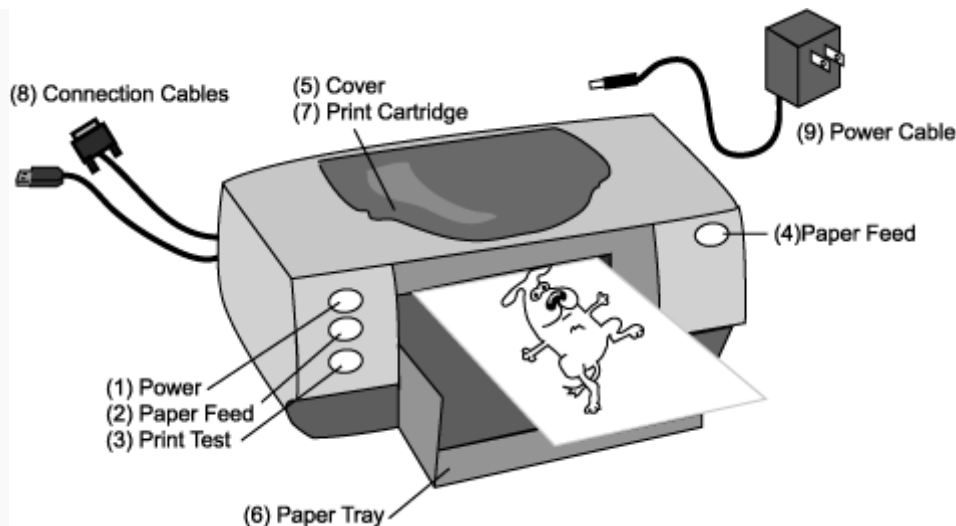
- d. Most bears will try to avoid humans, but if a mother bear feels that her cubs are threatened, she may be incited to attack.

Passage for questions 10 to 12:

Read this passage and answer the question(s) below.

Congratulations on your purchase of a new EZPrint 2000 color printer! You have selected one of the best printers available today. Follow the directions in this booklet to discover how easy it is to print almost anything in brilliant, lifelike color. Photographs, reports, and even t-shirts can be created right from your desktop! If you have any questions about your recent purchase, please contact our customer service department at 1-800-EZ-PRINT or on our website at <http://www.ezprint.net>.

Connecting and Setting Up Your New Printer



1. First, install the printer drivers and printer software from the EZPrint CD-ROM that came with your printer.

Drivers and software work on all Windows and Mac systems. If you need drivers and/or software for another type of computer system, please contact us.

2. Turn your computer off, as well as any other devices (such as external CD-ROM drives) connected to your computer.

3. Select a location for your printer. The printer should be within 5 feet of your computer, and needs to have

ample space in front of and behind it in order to open the paper feeder and print tray. It should also be elevated off the ground to keep dust and dirt from clogging the print heads.

4. Carefully unpack your printer and cables. Your printer comes with one power cable and two connection cables (one serial and one USB). Check your computer to see which connection cable you need.

5. When your printer is in place, connect the correct connection cable from the printer to the computer. Each

end of the connection cable is clearly marked.

6. Connect the power cable from the back of the printer to the power bar or surge protector.

7. Finally, turn on your printer and restart your computer. Print a test page to be sure that the printer is working properly. If you have any further problems, see the "Troubleshooting" appendix on page 57.

10) What should you do if the CD-ROM software does not work on your computer?

- a. attempt to print out a test page
- b. install the correct printer drivers
- c. call the customer service department
- d. read the "Troubleshooting" appendix

11) Which of these steps deals **mainly** with safety issues?

- a. Step 1
- b. Step 2
- c. Step 4
- d. Step 5

12) What would **most likely** happen if you did not install the printer drivers and software before attempting to use the printer?

- a. The printer would not function properly.
- b. You would need to contact customer service.
- c. The connection cables would not fit the printer.
- d. You would not be able to turn on the computer.

13) Read the excerpt from an editorial.

Many people do not realize how uncomfortable it is to be around them. They talk too loudly in restaurants, they let their cellular phones ring obnoxious songs while in a movie theater, and they yell at people who get in their way. This behavior has an extremely negative effect on society. It creates an atmosphere that revolves around them, and it causes others to be uncomfortable. There is no reason why others should suffer because somebody feels the need to be rude.

According to this excerpt, what is the main reason people cause others discomfort?

- a. They own cellular phones that play loud music.
- b. They get bored during movies, so they talk too much.
- c. They behave in a manner that is loud and offensive to others.
- d. They do not like other people, so they want to confront them.

14) Which of these is **not** true about a novel?

- a. A novel usually contains chapters.
- b. A novel usually contains dialogue.
- c. A novel usually has more than one character.
- d. A novel usually is a true story.

Making Apple Butter

My sister looks older, she who was always my mirror. Together, we raced across our father's pasture, scaled fences and trunks of trees, fragrant apples always in our pockets. We gnawed the skins between our fine, sharp teeth.

Apple's taste is autumn, flower to fruit, a good taste, but now it saddens me. What can I say? My sister says her fingers stiffen. She says she can no longer peel an apple without gritting her teeth.

Still we go and pick them, she and I. Mornings bright and sunny, the sky a thin blue china. Together we stir and stir the pot, the kitchen filling with the scent of apples.

Yes, it is like an orchard, that same sour-sweetness, tree rows boxed in shadow, and my sister's face unreeling back through me like a long green silk ribbon until she is again a girl like me, laughing in the leaves over my head, tossing me apples from her apron.

15) What is the main problem in the passage?

- a. The apples are very difficult to peel.
- b. Making apple butter is very time consuming.
- c. The narrator's sister is laughing at her.
- d. The narrator realizes she and her sister are getting old.

Passage for questions 16 to 17:

Read this passage and then answer the question(s) below.

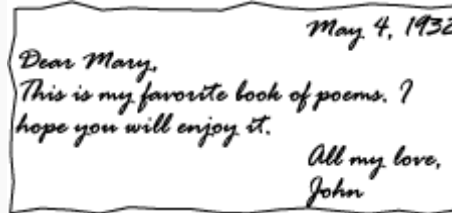
The Discovery

Susan made her way up the steps of the local library. It was a chilly winter day, and the sky was filled with clouds that threatened to break into rain at any moment. Susan yawned as she pushed open the heavy wooden door. Getting a part-time job at the library had seemed like a good idea. The work wasn't very hard and the pay was good. But barely anyone came into the library during her shifts, which were on weekend mornings, and the job was a lonely one. "I should be home in bed," thought Susan.

Susan hung up her wool coat in the staff room and went to her desk. Her supervisor had left her an enormous pile of books to reshelve. Susan sighed and shook her head. Returning books to the shelves was the most tedious part of her job.

Susan put the books on a wheeled cart and pushed it down the hall to the library's poetry section. She stared, already bored, at the dusty books lining the shelves. Just then, a particular book caught her eye. She couldn't say why, but for some reason she was drawn to it. Maybe it was because of the book's distinctive purple and gold binding. She took the book off the shelf, and as she opened it, a piece of paper fell out.

Susan unfolded the paper carefully. It was old and faded. In scratchy blue ink, someone had written:



May 4, 1932
Dear Mary,
This is my favorite book of poems. I
hope you will enjoy it.
All my love,
John

Susan gasped. Had the paper been folded inside the book for over seventy years? She looked at it again, wondering about the relationship between John and Mary. Had he given her the book for a birthday? As a token of love?

Susan smiled to herself and put the piece of paper back in the book. There's no reason to remove it now, she thought to herself. She went back to her work. For some reason, she did not feel nearly as lonely as she had before.

16) Which of the following seems most likely to be true?

- a. John worked with Mary.
- b. John cared about Mary.
- c. John was lonelier than Mary.
- d. John was uninterested in Mary.

17) Which of the following **best** describes Susan's feelings at the end of the passage?

- a. She feels better than she did before.
- b. She dislikes her job even more.
- c. She feels more excited about shelving books.
- d. She feels more tired than before.

Read this poem and then answer the question(s) below.

I am

Wong, O'Brien, Ketheesian
I am Mirabella, Johanssen, Lipkovich
I am the turban-wearing foreigner selling fruit at the shop around the corner
I am
I am Schnabel
I am Takeda and Feinberg
I am
I am the boy whose accent glides like skis across the snow
I am the little old lady who smiles on the bus
I am a professor of International Studies
I am a cab driver
I am La Plume, Rodriguez, DeCordova
I am the hero, or villain
I am just a person, working hard, and trying to do better
I am the woman whose clothing blooms like flowers on the city streets
I am a baby, whose skin and giggles are both like caramel
I am Petrovka, Yapo
I am Sharif
I am the man who raises the flag on July 4th and weeps with pride

I am the girl who celebrates a holiday you have never heard of
I am
I am
I am American, just like
you

18) The theme of this poem is-

- a. good versus evil.
- b. finding love.
- c. embracing diversity.
- d. loyalty to friends.

Passage for questions 19 to 20:

Read this passage and answer the question(s) below.

Joining the Club

Cheryl sat down in a folding chair and looked around the crowded room. What was she doing here? Her mother had encouraged her to join the Black Students Association during her first semester of college, but she had resisted. That's just not the way I want to meet people, Cheryl had told her mother. I'd rather make friends from my classes or in the dorms. Not through an organization. But now it was second semester, and Cheryl had been so busy with her studies and the track team that she hadn't met nearly as many people as she thought she would. So here she was at the first spring semester meeting of the BSA—even though she still thought it was sort of a dumb idea.

Cheryl listened as Vanessa, the president of the organization, spoke about the dances and fundraisers the BSA would be holding that semester. Cheryl studied her carefully, and a little resentfully. Vanessa looked poised and perfect, not the least bit uncomfortable talking in front of a huge room full of people. I bet she gets straight As too, Cheryl thought. She stretched and yawned.

The girl sitting next to Cheryl nudged her and whispered, "Have you been to one of these meetings before?"

Cheryl looked at her. She seemed nice, maybe a little shy. "No, this is my first time."

"Me, too." The girl laughed. "My name's Dahlia. I'm only here because my father keeps bugging me to join."

Cheryl started laughing too. Maybe she would meet some nice people here, after all.

19) This passage is written in-

- a. the first person.
- b. the second person.
- c. the third person.
- d. the fourth person.

20) This passage can **best** be described as-

- a. a subjective look at parent/child conflict.
- b. a subjective look at an individual's feelings.
- c. an objective look at parent/child conflict.
- d. an objective look at an individual's feelings.

Read this passage and answer the question(s) below.

Stage Fright

I peeked out from behind the curtain. There they were, waiting like vultures to devour me. To hurl insults at me. To trample me underfoot. Yes, there they were. My audience.

Objectively speaking, they appeared harmless enough. It was a crowd of young families, many of whom I already knew from school. The expressions on their faces were expectant and eager. It was steaming hot in the auditorium, and I saw that some of the older people were using their programs as makeshift fans.

I saw some of my classmates squirming in their seats, impatiently waiting for the performance to begin. My friends Michael

and Paul had assured me that I would do just fine, that I had nothing to worry about. *That's easy for them to say*, I thought bitterly. They might feel bored waiting for the show to start, but I was the one who had to stand backstage, anticipating the disaster to come. My role was a pretty small one, and I didn't even have to be onstage for very long, but I still wasn't looking forward to it.

I saw Daniel, one of my fellow performers. He looked absolutely green. "Are you all right?" I asked.

He smiled at me wryly. "Hey, Peter. I feel like I'm going to be sick." To tell the truth, he did seem pretty bad.

I started to get even more worried. Daniel was the lead in the play. If he couldn't go on stage, the whole evening would be ruined. And, I thought to myself, we'd have to do this all over again.

"It won't be so bad," I said, trying to reassure him.

"You don't think so?" Daniel didn't look very convinced. I could hear the music starting. The lights in the auditorium went dim; the performance would start any moment.

"Look, Daniel." I grabbed him by the shoulders. "It's time for you to go out there."

"I guess you're right," he said reluctantly. "The show must go on."

"That's the spirit!" I watched as Daniel tentatively made his way to the stage entrance. If he could do it, so could I.

21) Read the following sentence from the passage.

To trample me underfoot.

This sentence is best described as an example of-

- a. a historical reference.
- b. ironic understatement
- c. tragic foreshadowing.
- d. comic exaggeration.

Passage for questions 22 to 23:

Read this draft of a student's report and answer the question(s) below.

The Monarch Butterfly	
(1) The monarch butterfly is among the most common butterflies in the United States (2) It is also one of the most beloved. (3) In fact, the monarch butterfly is so popular that six states – Idaho, West Virginia, Minnesota, Illinois, Alabama, and Texas-- have chosen it as their official "state insect." (4) With its bright orange, black, and white pattern, it is relatively easy to identify, even for people who are not very skilled at telling the difference between various kinds of flying insects. (5) Astonishingly enough, monarch butterflies, which follow the same migration patterns annually, can travel for thousands of miles. (6) It is a mystery to scientists how these little creatures can migrate such a great distance. (7) Year after year, monarchs that weren't even born the previous year find their way to the very same clump of trees that were used the season before. (8) Winters can be very cold. (9) Many monarchs spend their winters in warm Mexico, or in sunny California.	
(10) Given its small size, it would seem that the monarch butterfly would be very vulnerable to enemies, so how does it protect itself from birds and other voracious predators? (11) Its blood contains toxins that contain poison, and birds and animals don't like the taste. (12) Animals don't like to eat butterflies that are toxic. (13) This is why monarch butterflies can afford to have such glorious, vivid colors. (14) They don't need to worry about hiding themselves, for predators quickly learn to keep away!	
(15) Many teachers have students raise monarch butterflies for science projects so that they can witness first-hand the astonishing transformation of the monarch larvae into butterflies. (16) This helps students learn more about the physical development of this beautiful insect.	

22) Where is the **best** place to break the first paragraph into two?

- a. between sentences 3 and 4
- b. between sentences 4 and 5
- c. between sentences 5 and 6
- d. between sentences 6 and 7

23) Reread sentence 11 of the student's report.

Which word or phrase could **best** provide a transition in this sentence that would unify its ideas with the previous sentence?

- a. However,
- b. Fortunately,
- c. On the other hand,
- d. In addition,

Passage for questions 25 to 26:

Look at the outline and then answer the following questions.

Climbing Mount Shasta

I) Physical Features

- A) 14,162 feet above sea level
- B) 7,000 feet from base to peak
- C) Year-round snow

II) Equipment

- A) Ice Axe
- B) Crampons
- c) Tent
- D) Sleeping Bag

III) Day 1

- A) Bunny Flat-trailhead
- B) Avalanche Gulch Trail-preferred route
- C) Helen Lake-overnight camp

IV) Day 2

- A) Final climb to the peak
- B) Descent to Bunny Flat

27) Suppose you are writing an essay to provide a general overview of wooly mammoths for class. Which of the following questions would **least** need to be addressed?

- a. What did wooly mammoths look like?
- b. What did wooly mammoths eat?
- c. Which museums have wooly mammoth fossils?
- d. When did wooly mammoths live?

24) Read this sentence.

Air quality in the Los Angeles area has greatly improved in the last ten years.

If this were the topic sentence of a paragraph, which of the following could **not** be used to help support this statement?

- a. The number of emergency room visits for breathing problems is declining.
- b. Humans and other animals need oxygen to survive.
- c. On sunny days you can now see the mountains in the distance.
- d. Carmakers have lowered the levels of toxic substances in car exhaust each year.

25) If you intended to climb Mount Shasta, at what stage of your trip would the information in section II be most useful?

- a. planning for the trip
- b. climbing from the trailhead to Lake Helen
- c. camping at Helen Lake
- d. descending back to Bunny Flat

26)

Where should a description of the weather at Mt. Shasta appear?

- a. at the end of the section about physical features
- b. just after the section about ice axes
- c. between the sections on Avalanche Gulch Trail and Helen Lake
- d. in the section on the final climb to the peak

28) Suppose your teacher has asked you to write a one-page essay about an important historical event. Which of the following topics would be **most** appropriate?

- a. a history of the United States
- b. your family history
- c. a description of an important event from your past
- d. a description of an important moment in George Washington's life

29) Look at the following entries from a bibliography.

Fairfield, Asa Merrill. *Fairfield's Pioneer History of Lassen County*. H.S. Crocker Company, San Francisco, CA, 1916.

Myrick, David F. *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California, Vol. 1*. Howell-North Books, Berkeley, CA, 1962.

Which of the following statements is true of **both** entries?

- a. Both books were printed in several volumes.
- b. Both books were published in the first half of the 20th century.
- c. Both books were published by Howell-North Books.
- d. Both books were published in the state of California.

30) Read this sentence.

He felt a scare when the roller coaster plunged down the first hill.

Which of these would be the best way to rewrite this sentence and clarify its meaning?

- a. He felt frightening when the roller coaster plunged down the first hill.
- b. He felt a frighten when the roller coaster plunged down the first hill.
- c. He felt scary when the roller coaster plunged down the first hill.
- d. He felt afraid when the roller coaster plunged down the first hill.

31) Read this sentence.

Many people believe that traveling to foreign countries and experiencing new things can expand their brains.

Which of these word substitutions would help clarify the meaning of this sentence?

- a. *know* instead of believe
- b. *weird* instead of foreign
- c. *widen* instead of expand
- d. *minds* instead of brains

32) Read this sentence.

The sleeping student was reprimanded by the teacher.

Which choice changes the passive voice to the active voice?

- a. The loud teacher was annoyed by his sleeping student.
- b. The screaming student was reprimanded by the teacher.
- c. The teacher reprimanded the sleeping student.
- d. The sleeping student was poked by his classmates.

33) Read the following sentence.

Cats do not like it when dogs chase them or take their toys.

What does the word them refer to in this sentence?

- a. cats
- b. dogs
- c. chase
- d. toys

34) Read this sentence.

The team and the referees arrived simultaneously.

The underlined part of the sentence is a-

- a. compound verb
- b. compound subject
- c. phrase
- d. modifier

35) Read this sentence.

While Mike went to the garage, Mary stayed at the store.

The underlined part of the sentence is the-

- a. main clause.
- b. subordinate clause.
- c. modifier.
- d. subject.

36) Read the sentence.

Thomas practiced clarinet every day, but he didn't play in the school band.

This is an example of what kind of sentence?

- a. simple
- b. complex
- c. compound
- d. compound-complex

37) Read this sentence.

Tony is not in school today but he will be here tomorrow.

A comma should be placed **after** which of the following words?

- a. Tony
- b. today
- c. but
- d. here

38) Read this sentence.

Injured the player left the field.

A comma should be placed **after** which word in the sentence?

- a. Injured
- b. player
- c. left
- d. the

39) Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- a. My friend lives across town, however, we see each other often.
- b. My friend lives across town: however, we see each other often.
- c. My friend lives across town-however, we see each other often.
- d. My friend lives across town; however, we see each other often.

40) Which of these sentences uses correct capitalization?

- a. His new job title in the stockroom is Material coordinator.
- b. The new book is titled *from here to there, a study in migration*.
- c. His movie deals with the Japanese Empire as the victor in WWII.
- d. The President of the company, mr. Edgers, addressed the sales staff.

41) Select the sentence containing the underlined word that is spelled correctly. If all the underlined words are spelled correctly, select *All are correct*.

- a. He viewed his job with great disatisfaction.
- b. The treasure was located in the innermost room.
- c. The successful job restablished her position in the company.
- d. all correct

42) Select the phrase containing the underlined word that is spelled correctly. If all the underlined words are spelled correctly, select *All are correct*.

- a. Ice is an excellent refrigerant.
- b. It was a simple refineman.
- c. I worked with regimentel precision.
- d. all correct

43) Select the sentence containing the underlined word that is spelled correctly. If all the underlined words are spelled correctly, select *All are correct*.

- a. He literaly crashed and burned the model plane.
- b. She aggressively attacked the arithmetic problem.
- c. Comparatively speaking, Louise did better than George.

44) Select the sentence containing the underlined word that is spelled correctly. If all the underlined words are spelled correctly, select *All are correct*.

- a. She set a bountyful table for the birthday dinner.
- b. The migrating birds were too numerous to count.
- c. We were frightened by the immencity of the quake.
- d. all correct