

### Secondary Language Arts Exam -- Abridged

Please answer the following questions honestly and to the best of your ability. Some questions are multiple choice; others are short answer. Follow the directions to make sure you answer each question appropriately. Also, read the whole test before you begin, as the answers to some questions might be contained herein.

**Please place the letter of your choice in the blank provided.**

1. Which of the following is a **compound** sentence made of two independent clauses? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. When I was ten, I rode my bike everywhere.
  - B. If I were you, I would get to school on time.
  - C. She is my best friend, which is why my parents invited her to Thanksgiving dinner.
  - D. The cab driver turned the corner, and then she sped off into the night.
  
2. Which of the following is a **complex** sentence made of one independent and one dependent clause? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. When I was ten, I rode my bike everywhere.
  - B. If I were you, I would get to school on time.
  - C. She is my best friend, which is why my parents invited her to Thanksgiving dinner.
  - D. All of the above.
  
3. Which of the following is a **compound-complex** sentence consisting of two independent clauses and one dependent clause? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Matthew caught the ball and tossed it into the hoop, which made the crowd cheer.
  - B. When Jorge got home from school, he cooked an omelet, and then he played video games.
  - C. If I were you, I wouldn't say anything to her. It looks like she's in a bad mood.
  - D. Where did you go?
  
4. Which of the following is a **simple** sentence containing one independent clause? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. One of my socks is brown, and the other is black.
  - B. I can't get over how much you've grown; just last summer I was taller than you!
  - C. My sister's skateboard is black.
  - D. I hate my job right now, but I'm going to stick with it because I have found that things often change and become way better than you had anticipated.
  
5. Which of the following is the best definition of "**independent clause**?" \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. A phrase that contains a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought
  - B. A phrase that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought
  - C. A phrase that contains a noun and an adjective
  - D. Both A and B
  
6. Which of the following is the best definition of "**dependent (or subordinate) clause**?" \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. A phrase that begins with the word "The"
  - B. A phrase that lives with its parents
  - C. A phrase that cannot stand on its own because it doesn't have a subject and a verb
  - D. A phrase that cannot stand on its own because it doesn't express a complete thought
  
7. What must each **simple** sentence contain? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. A noun and an adjective

- B. A subject and a verb
- C. A boat
- D. The withered carcass of a freshwater carp

8. Which of the following is a **compound** sentence that is **punctuated correctly**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. First you go five miles east, and then you go two blocks north.
- B. You may test drive the blue Chevy, or you may take for a spin the yellow Mustang.
- C. Sally wanted to go fishing, but she forgot her tackle box.
- D. All of the above

9. Which of the following is a **compound-complex** sentence that is **not punctuated correctly**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. If I were the principal I would offer free food and also, I would offer free day-care for the students who have kids because when you have kids it's hard, to get by without affordable day-care.
- B. If I were you, I would get to practice; the team needs you.
- C. You are my best friend, which is why I have chosen you to clean my backpack; I hope you don't mind.
- D. All of my teachers demonstrate incredible pulchritude, especially my English teacher.

10. Which of the following are "**marker words**" that signify possible **dependent** clauses? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. if, because, with, you, everyone, tall, ice-cream
- B. when, because, which, if, before, after, until, unless
- C. yellow, blue, red, brown, orange, onyx
- D. how, camel, always

11. Which of the following is a **compound** sentence that uses the **semi-colon** correctly? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Most things are debatable; but not this.
- B. The black bear hibernates during winter; he needs to conserve energy.
- C. Here are the Spanish-speaking countries I want to visit; Spain, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Peru.
- D. All of the above

12. Why is it important to know the names and functions of the parts of a sentence? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. So you can punctuate correctly and hence communicate clearly
- B. So you can get frustrated and remind yourself that you're just a simpleton who should quit school at the first opportunity and sell stolen auto parts for your neighbor Lefty

**Please provide an answer in your own words.**

13. Write your own **complex** sentence containing at least nine words and correct punctuation. Don't forget to use a marker word, such as "if" or "when:" \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please place the letter of your choice in the blank provided.**

14. Which of the following is an example of a **metaphor**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Your eyes are like shimmering pools of tepid water.
- B. My heart is broken.
- C. The sky is blue.
- D. Astronauts eat freeze-dried food.

15. Which of the following is an example of a **simile**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Your eyes are like shimmering pools of tepid water.

- B. My heart is broken.
- C. The sky is blue.
- D. Astronauts eat freeze-dried food.

16. Which of the following is an example of **hyperbole**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. All teachers are mean.
- B. Some teachers are mean.
- C. You never listen.
- D. Both A and C

17. Which of the following is an example of **irony**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. A woman is rescued from a sinking ship and then later that night drowns in her own bathtub.
- B. A senator who voted against gay marriage takes a vacation to South Africa to marry his gay lover Tony.
- C. Both A and B.

18. Which if the following is the best definition of “**figurative language**?” \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Language that is not literal and that evokes the senses and yields a more profound understanding
- B. Language that allows for a connection between what is known and what is not yet known
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

**Please provide an answer in complete sentences.**

19. What is the “**theme**” of a text? \_\_\_\_\_

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20. In a persuasive composition, what and where is the author’s “**thesis**?” \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please place the letter of your choice in the blank provided.**

21. Which of the following is the typical outline of a **fictional narrative**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Set-up, Climax, Rising Action, Falling Action, Introduction
- B. Set-up, Rising Action, Falling Action, Surprising Ending, Introduction
- C. Set-up, Climax, Rising Action, Lunch
- D. Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Denouement
- E. Set-up, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution
- F. Both D and E

22. Which of the following is the typical outline of a **persuasive composition**? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Intro with Thesis; Reason I; Reason II; Reason III; Counter-argument; Conclusion
- B. Intro with Thesis; Reason I and Counter; Reason II and Counter; Reason III and Counter; Conclusion
- C. Intro; Body; Conclusion
- D. All of the above

23. Which of the following is the **author’s** presumed **primary purpose** in writing a textbook? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. To share with the public the author’s private, personal experience
- B. To inform the public on a particular topic
- C. To ask the public to act on a particular topic that the author is passionate about
- D. To kill time

24. Which of the following is the **author's** presumed **primary purpose** in writing a poem? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. To share with the public his or her personal way of seeing something
- B. To make the public dislike reading
- C. To earn money
- D. To play with words because that is all one has in prison

25. Which of the following is a list of sub-genres that falls within the super-genre "fiction?" \_\_\_\_\_

- A. fantasy, romance, magical realism, horror, autobiography
- B. science, history, gardening, technical manual, street map
- C. fantasy, romance, magical realism, horror, adventure
- D. fantasy, history, science fiction, cook book, dictionary

**Please provide an answer in complete sentences.**

26. Define and describe "**primary research**:" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

27. Define and describe "**secondary research**:" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

28. Define the term "**non-fiction**:" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

29. Define the term "**fiction**:" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

30. Write a possible opening sentence or sentences of a fictional narrative written from the **third person omniscient point of view**: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

31. What types of reading materials do you enjoy most? Comics? Magazines? Newspapers? Novels? Even if you don't read much, when you *do* read, what do you like? Please write your answer in **one** complete sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Write a composition.**

32. On a separate page, write your own 500+ word original composition. Choose from the following: **fictional narrative**; **narrative analysis** essay, **persuasive essay** or **autobiographical account** of your life so far.