

**New York State English As A
Second Language Achievement Test**

NYSESLAT

Name: _____

Grades
5–6

SPEAKING

LISTENING
READING
WRITING

Test Booklet

TEST SAMPLER

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Directions

I am going to ask you some questions. Listen and then answer. Be sure to answer in English using your own words.

People write in different ways. Sometimes people write letters, e-mails, or messages to their friends.

1.



2.



3.



1 Tell me how people can write.

Go On 

SPEAKING

In the early 1800s, two men named Lewis and Clark explored the western United States. They met many groups of Native American Indians who lived there. Lewis and Clark gave special medals to the Native American Indians from the U.S. government as a symbol of friendship.



Front

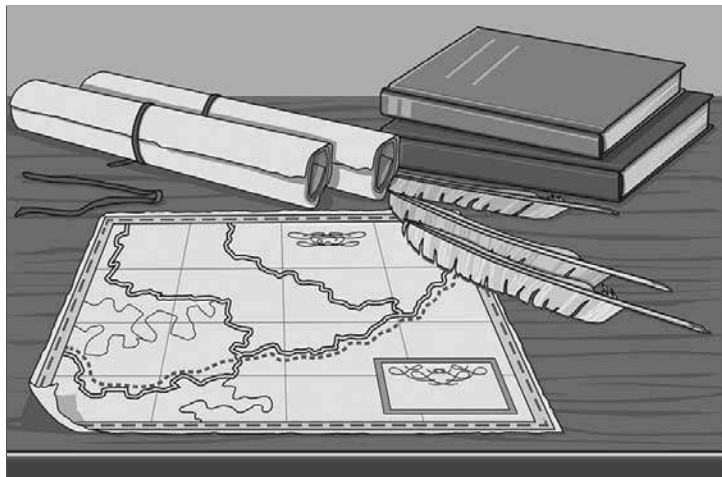


Back

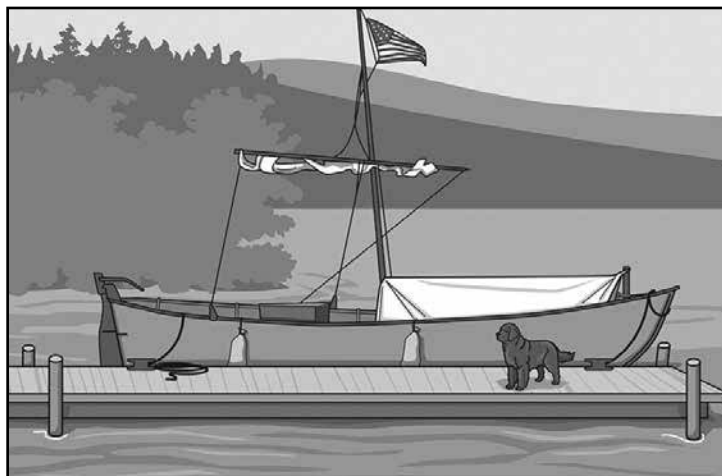
- 2 Tell me how the front and back sides of the medal are different.

In the early 1800s, two men named Lewis and Clark traveled through the western United States. Their journey was long and difficult. Here are some different things that explorers took with them when they traveled.

1.



2.



3

Which of these things do you think was most important for the explorers to take on their journey?

Go On 

SPEAKING

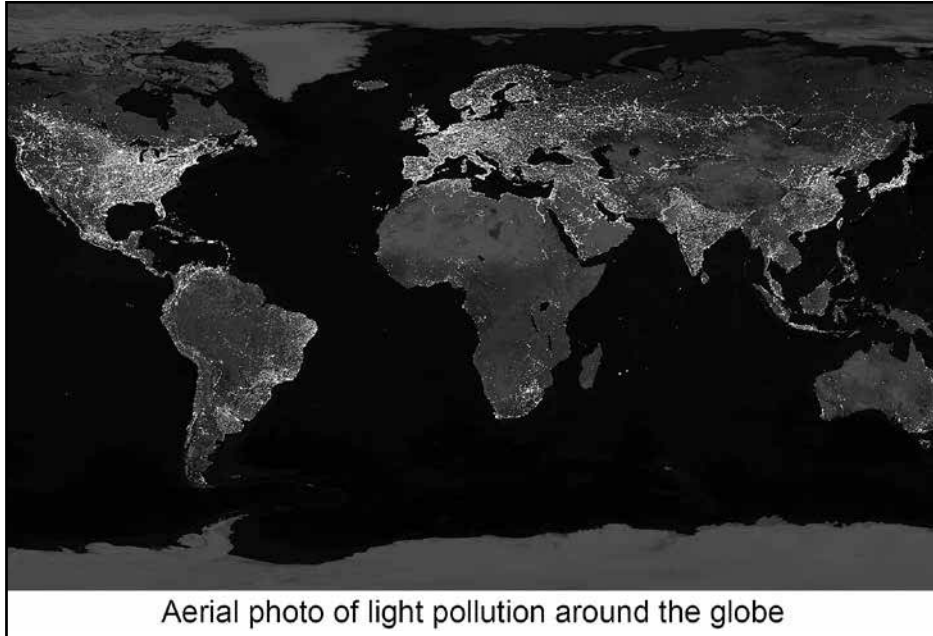
Lewis and Clark led a group of explorers on a journey across the United States in the 1800s. The explorers drew maps of new places they visited, and they also collected information about new plants and animals they saw. However, the journey was long, difficult, and sometimes dangerous. The weather was often very hot or very cold. The explorers on this trip were away from home for more than two years.



4 Would you like to be an explorer like Lewis and Clark?

Directions

Now let's talk about light pollution.



Aerial photo of light pollution around the globe

Electric light helps us see at night. But it also can cause a problem called light pollution. Light pollution refers to the electric light that shines at night around the world. In parts of many cities, the sky never gets completely dark because of light pollution.

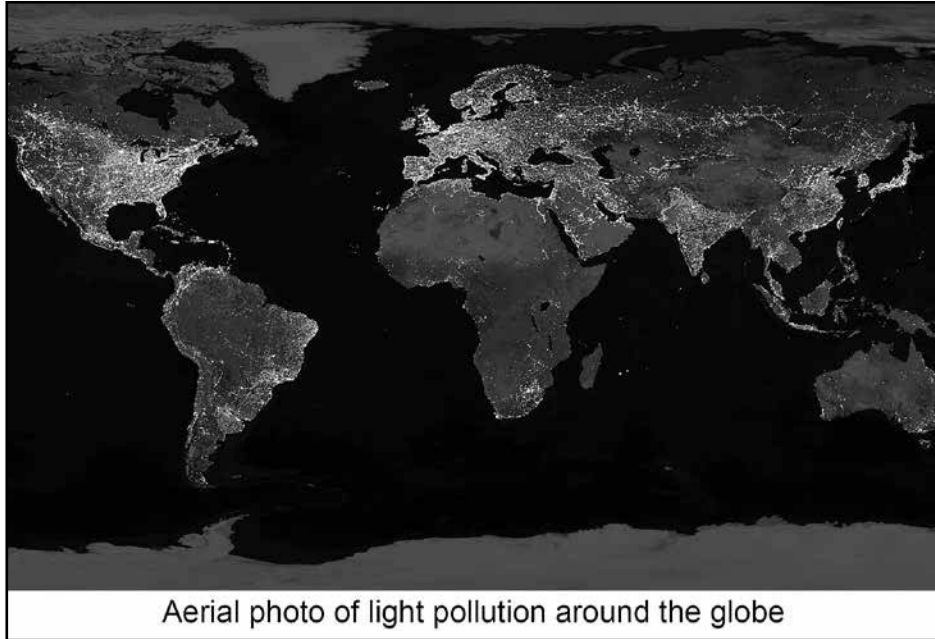
Scientists think that light pollution has dangerous effects on people and wildlife. Animals who hunt at night can become confused by light pollution. Light pollution can also disturb our natural sleep patterns. The human brain thinks it doesn't need to sleep because of the light.

5 Tell me about light pollution.

Go On 

SPEAKING

You just learned about light pollution.



Aerial photo of light pollution around the globe

Electric light helps us see at night. But it also can cause a problem called light pollution. Light pollution refers to the electric light that shines at night around the world. In parts of many cities, the sky never gets completely dark because of light pollution.

Scientists think that light pollution has dangerous effects on people and wildlife. Animals who hunt at night can become confused by light pollution. Light pollution can also disturb our natural sleep patterns. The human brain thinks it doesn't need to sleep because of the light.

6 Do you think light pollution is bad for people and the environment?



LISTENING
READING
WRITING

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Directions

Listen to the passage. Then answer Questions 1 through 6. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet.

Community Project



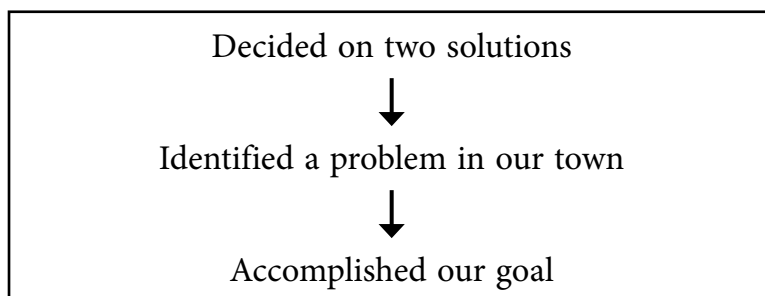
Go On 

LISTENING

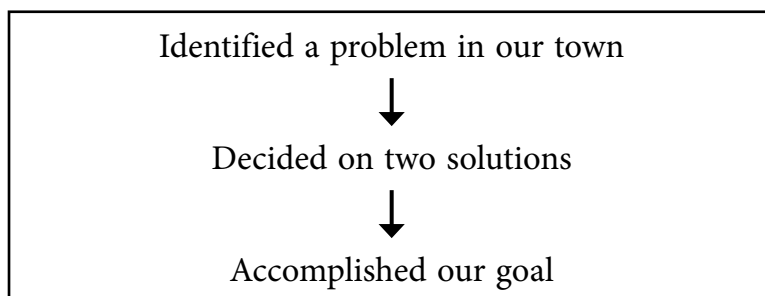
- 1** Which word or phrase tells what the social studies class created?
- A** Awareness project
 - B** Problem
 - C** Our town
 - D** Together
- 2** Which word helps tell the problem that Sehar talks about in her e-mail?
- A** Litter
 - B** Creek
 - C** School
 - D** Water

3 Which box shows the correct order of steps that Sehar's class took to complete the community awareness project?

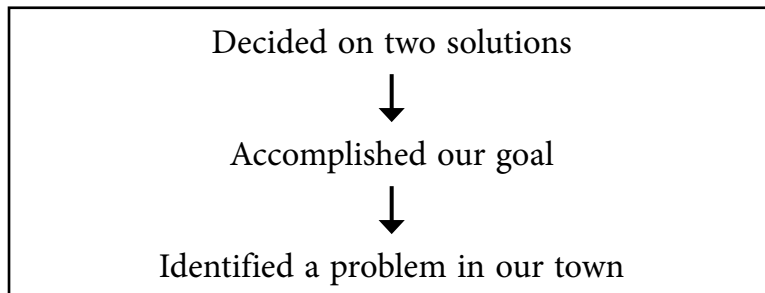
A



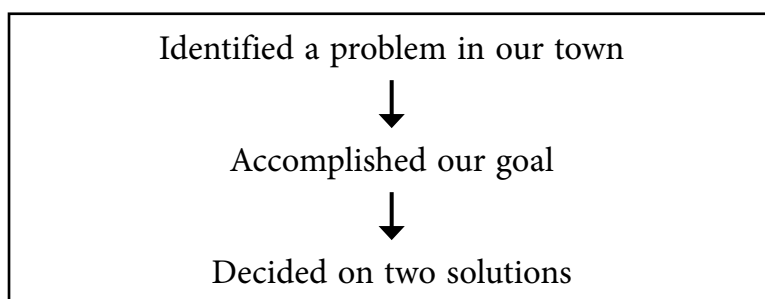
B



C



D

Go On 

LISTENING

- 4** Which phrase helps tell the meaning of we?
- A My social studies class
 - B Community awareness project
 - C Problem in our town
 - D Find a solution
- 5** Which phrase helps explain the meaning of donated?
- A Decided on two solutions
 - B Increased community awareness
 - C Formed a volunteer club
 - D Gave us free
- 6** Which pair of phrases from the e-mail tells the two solutions that the class decided on?
- A Suggested ideas
Accomplished our goal
 - B Identified a problem
Improved our town
 - C Increased community awareness
Formed a volunteer club
 - D Noticed a lot of litter
Marked the areas with the most litter



Directions

Read the passage. Then answer Questions 7 through 12. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet.

Sharing Ideas

Country	Idea	How the United States Adopted the Idea
Germany	Kindergarten	The U.S. school system added kindergarten classes.
	Physical Education	U.S. schools added gyms for exercising and sports.
China	Farming	U.S. farmers adopted new farming methods.
	Food	Businesses began selling Chinese food.

Immigrants from many countries have moved to the United States. Immigrants are people who move to new countries to make a new home and start a new life. They take their cultural ideas to new places with them. Cultural ideas are beliefs, feelings, and ways of doing things. Many of the cultural ideas brought to the United States are now a part of American life.

For example, German immigrants brought their ideas about education to the United States many years ago. People in Germany placed a high value on education. Their ideas affected the American school system. German immigrants started the first American kindergarten in 1855. Kindergarten classes already existed in Germany. Today, kindergarten continues to be an important part of the American school system. German immigrants had other ideas about schools, too. They believed in physical education in schools. Because of their ideas, gyms were also built in American schools.

Go On 

READING

Other examples of new cultural ideas brought to the United States are those from Chinese immigrants. Some ideas they shared long ago were good ways of farming. Their methods of farming were very successful in China. They brought these ideas to the United States and shared them with other people. In addition, Chinese ideas about food have also become a big part of American life. For example, Chinese food is popular in many restaurants and homes in the United States.

These are examples of ideas that have come to the United States from only two other countries: Germany and China. Many more ideas from many more countries and cultures have also become an important part of American life. Whenever people move from place to place, they take their culture with them. They share ideas from their culture, and those ideas spread to many other people in their new home.

7 Read these sentences again.

“Immigrants are people who move to new countries to make a new home and start a new life. They take their cultural ideas to new places with them.”

Which word helps tell the meaning of They?

- A** Countries
- B** People
- C** Places
- D** Ideas

8 Read these sentences again.

“German immigrants had other ideas about schools, too. They believed in physical education in schools. Because of their ideas, gyms were also built in American schools.”

Which words show what German immigrants believed in?

- A About schools
- B Physical education
- C Because of their ideas
- D American schools

9 Read these sentences again.

“For example, German immigrants brought their ideas about education to the United States many years ago. People in Germany placed a high value on education. Their ideas affected the American school system. German immigrants started the first American kindergarten in 1855. Kindergarten classes already existed in Germany. Today, kindergarten continues to be an important part of the American school system.”

Which phrase tells when German immigrants brought their ideas about education to the United States?

- A Many years ago
- B Placed a high value
- C Today, kindergarten
- D Continues to be

Go On 

10 Read these sentences again.

“Other examples of new cultural ideas brought to the United States are those from Chinese immigrants. Some ideas they shared long ago were good ways of farming. Their methods of farming were very successful in China. They brought these ideas to the United States and shared them with other people.”

Which word helps explain the meaning of methods?

- A Immigrants
- B Successful
- C Ways
- D People

11 Read these sentences again.

“In addition, Chinese ideas about food have also become a big part of American life. For example, Chinese food is popular in many restaurants and homes in the United States.”

Which word helps tell the meaning of In addition?

- A Also
- B Example
- C Popular
- D Many

- 12** The passage says, “Whenever people move from place to place, they take their culture with them.”

Which sentence from the passage supports this statement?

- A** “People in Germany placed a high value on education.”
- B** “Other examples of new cultural ideas brought to the United States are those from Chinese immigrants.”
- C** “Immigrants from many countries have moved to the United States.”
- D** “Their methods of farming were very successful in China.”



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Directions

Read this passage. Then you will be asked to write at least two paragraphs based on the passage.

Sharing Ideas

Country	Idea	How the United States Adopted the Idea
Germany	Kindergarten	The U.S. school system added kindergarten classes.
	Physical Education	U.S. schools added gyms for exercising and sports.
China	Farming	U.S. farmers adopted new farming methods.
	Food	Businesses began selling Chinese food.

Immigrants from many countries have moved to the United States. Immigrants are people who move to new countries to make a new home and start a new life. They take their cultural ideas to new places with them. Cultural ideas are beliefs, feelings, and ways of doing things. Many of the cultural ideas brought to the United States are now a part of American life.

For example, German immigrants brought their ideas about education to the United States many years ago. People in Germany placed a high value on education. Their ideas affected the American school system. German immigrants started the first American kindergarten in 1855. Kindergarten classes already existed in Germany. Today, kindergarten continues to be an important part of the American school system. German immigrants had other ideas about schools, too. They believed in physical education in schools. Because of their ideas, gyms were also built in American schools.

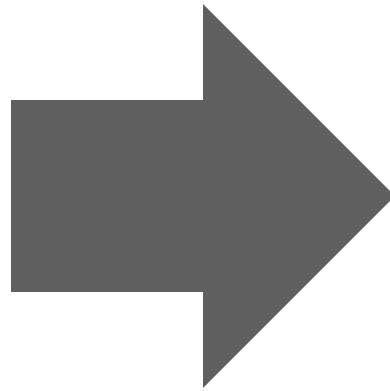
Go On 

WRITING

Other examples of new cultural ideas brought to the United States are those from Chinese immigrants. Some ideas they shared long ago were good ways of farming. Their methods of farming were very successful in China. They brought these ideas to the United States and shared them with other people. In addition, Chinese ideas about food have also become a big part of American life. For example, Chinese food is popular in many restaurants and homes in the United States.

These are examples of ideas that have come to the United States from only two other countries: Germany and China. Many more ideas from many more countries and cultures have also become an important part of American life. Whenever people move from place to place, they take their culture with them. They share ideas from their culture, and those ideas spread to many other people in their new home.

Go On



WRITING

13 Now read the directions below.

The passage “Sharing Ideas” gives information about ideas brought to the United States from Germany and China. These cultural ideas are now a regular part of life in the United States. Write at least two paragraphs describing a cultural idea, belief, or way of doing things. Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.

You may plan your writing for Question 13 here, if you wish. Use the space below to organize your ideas about what to write.

Write your final answer on Pages 23 and 24.

Planning Page

Checklist

- Write about the topic.
- Plan your writing from beginning to end.
- Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage.
- Support your answer with details.
- Use complete sentences.
- Check your writing for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

On the lines below, write at least two paragraphs describing a cultural idea, belief, or way of doing things. Remember to use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.

Go On 

WRITING

Writing, continued

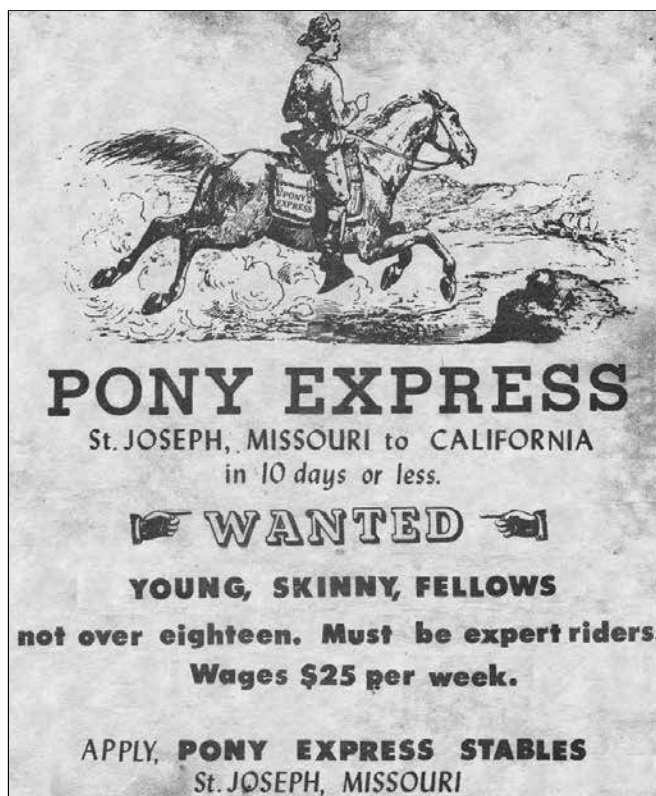
A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal lines for writing.



Directions

Read this passage. Then you will be asked to write one paragraph based on the passage.

Todd and the Pony Express



Todd's mother slid the pan across the table.

"You have a difficult ride ahead," she said. "You need to take some food!"

"You know I can't, Ma," Todd said. "I can't weigh the horse down anymore. He already has to carry 20 pounds of mail for 15 miles. I have to ride as fast as I can, and he will be exhausted. I'll switch horses every 10 or 15 miles, but they can't manage any additional weight or they will get too tired. Once the next rider secures the mail, I'll get some food. I only have to travel about a hundred miles. Then I'll eat and relax until I get the mail from another rider and return in the morning."

Go On 

WRITING

In May of 1860, Todd was only 16 years old. He became a Pony Express rider for excitement and a job. Pony Express riders delivered the mail 2,000 miles in just 10 days! They started in Missouri and ended up in California.

Todd glanced across the table at his younger brother, Jim. “It’s your responsibility to do the chores while I’m gone,” Todd said.

Jim nodded solemnly. “Be careful, Todd. That ride is dangerous.”

Todd smiled as he reached into his pocket. “You know I will. Now Ma, here’s my first week’s pay. This \$25 will pay the taxes on the farm.”

Ma looked relieved as she accepted the money. “You’re a good son, Todd,” she said. “Now go, and come back to Jim and me safely.”

14 Now read the directions below.

Think about Todd’s job as a Pony Express rider. Think about what Todd did as part of his job and why it was difficult. Write one paragraph to explain why the job of a Pony Express rider was difficult. Be sure to give reasons for your answer. Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.

- Checklist
- Write about the topic.
 - Plan your writing from beginning to end.
 - Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage.
 - Support your answer with details.
 - Use complete sentences.
 - Check your writing for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

On the lines below, explain why the job of a Pony Express rider was difficult. Remember to use your own ideas and ideas from the passage to help you write.

