The ELA Editing Task
Editing and the English Language Arts Tests, 3-8

Writing
For the writing section of the test at Grades 3, 5, and 7, students complete an editing task that consists of a paragraph containing errors in capitalization and punctuation (Grade 3) or in capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage (Grades 5 and 7). The student completes the task by identifying and correcting the errors.

Students in Grades 4, 6, and 8 will answer two extended-response questions, one in the reading section and one in the listening section. The responses to the extended-response questions will be scored for writing as well as reading.

Because the Regents Examination in English does not test students in independent writing, the New York State Testing Program, which has been created to align with the Regents examination, has eliminated the independent writing prompt from the writing section of the tests at all grade levels beginning in 2006.
# English Language Arts Test Design

## Grade 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1 (Book 1, Reading)</th>
<th>Session 2 (Book 2, Listening/Writing)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3–4 passages (literary and informational)</td>
<td>1 listening selection (literary)</td>
<td>4–5 passages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>4 multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>24 multiple-choice questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 short-response question</td>
<td>2 short-response questions</td>
<td>3 short-response questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 editing paragraph</td>
<td>1 editing paragraph</td>
<td>1 editing paragraph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>35 minutes (excluding reading aloud of passage)</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
</tr>
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English Language Arts Test Grades 3, 5, and 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 5</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4–5 passages</td>
<td>4–5 passages</td>
<td>5–6 passages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>24 multiple-choice questions</td>
<td>30 multiple-choice questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 short-response questions</td>
<td>2 short-response questions</td>
<td>4 short-response questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 editing paragraph</td>
<td>1 editing paragraph</td>
<td>1 editing paragraph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 minutes</td>
<td>70 minutes</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(excluding reading aloud of</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>passage)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Question Formats

• The English Language Arts Tests contain questions with a variety of formats, including multiple-choice, short-response, extended-response, and editing tasks.

• For multiple-choice questions, students select the correct response from four answer choices.

• For short- and extended-response questions, students write an answer to an open-ended question.

• The extended responses are scored for writing as well as for reading comprehension.

• For the editing task, students are required to make corrections and revisions to a short piece of writing.

• A sample editing paragraph will be included in the test to help guide students in completing the editing task.
Sample Editing Task for Grade 3

Before completing the editing task, students will be guided through a similar practice editing task to make sure that they understand how to complete this part of the test. For the practice task, the students will be given time to find the errors in the paragraph. The teacher will then go through the paragraph line by line with the class to make sure that the students have identified all the errors. The students will then complete the actual editing task independently.

Below is a sample of both the practice task and the editing task.
Practice Editing Task for Grade 3

There are some mistakes in this paragraph in capital letters and punctuation. Let’s correct them together.

My red bicycle is my favorite toy. It used to belong to my big sister katie. She gave it to me. I ride it after School each day. I like my bicycle because it is my favorite color. Do you have a favorite toy.
Here is a paragraph a student wrote. The paragraph has some mistakes in capital letters and punctuation. Some sentences may have no mistakes. There are no mistakes in spelling.

Read the paragraph, and find the mistakes. Draw a line through each mistake in the paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

Winter is a fun month. It snows a lot where I live. I like to play in the snow. My Brother likes to play in the snow, too. We make snowballs and snow houses. When it gets dark, we go inside, but we know we can go out again the next day?
There are some mistakes in this paragraph in capital letters and punctuation. Let’s correct them together.

My red bicycle is my favorite toy. It used to belong to my big sister Katie. She gave it to me. I ride it after school each day. I like my bicycle because it is my favorite color. Do you have a favorite toy.
Exemplary Response for Grade 3

Question 4 “Real” task:

Exemplary response:

Winter is a fun month. It snows a lot where I live. I like to play in the snow. My brother likes to play in the snow, too. We make snowballs and snow houses. When it gets dark, we go inside, but we know we can go out again the next day?

Score points:
Apply the 3-point editing task rubric for Grade 3.
3-point Holistic Editing Task Rubric for Grade 3

3 points No more than one error, either introduced or not corrected, remains after the student has corrected the paragraph.

2 points Two errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph.

1 point Three errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph.

0 points Four or more errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph.
Sample Editing Task for Grades 5 and 7

Before completing the editing task, students will be guided through a similar practice editing task to make sure that they understand how to complete this part of the test. For the practice task, the students will be given time to find the errors in the paragraph. The teacher will then go through the paragraph line by line with the class to make sure that the students have identified all the errors. The students will then complete the actual editing task independently.

Below is a sample of both the practice task and the editing task.
There are some mistakes in this paragraph. Let’s correct them together.

My school is having a “Back to School” dance on Friday. I am excited about them, but I have a problem. I don’t know how to dance. I am the only one in my family who has never took dance lessons. Well, I guess I will just create my own style. Of dancing.
Here is a report a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes at all. There are no mistakes in spelling.

Read the paragraph, and find the mistakes. Draw a line through each mistake in the paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

Last weekend, my family and I went to the new aquarium downtown. It is one of the most largest aquariums in the state. When we first arrive at the aquarium, we saw real otters, sharks, and penguins. Then we went to the aquarium’s Theater and saw a show called “The amazing Oceans.” I learned about different oceans across the world and about interesting creatures that lives in those oceans. It was so much fun to visit the aquarium. I can’t wait to go back!
There are some mistakes in this paragraph. Let’s correct them together.

My school is having a “Back to School” dance on Friday. I am excited about them, but I have a problem. I don’t know how to dance. I am the only one in my family who has never took dance lessons. Well, I guess I will just create my own style. Of dancing.
Exemplary Response for Grade 5

Question 10 “Real” task:

Exemplary response:

Last weekend, my family and I went to the new aquarium downtown. It is one of the largest aquariums in the state. When we first arrived at the aquarium, we saw real otters, sharks, and penguins. Then we went to the aquarium’s theater and saw a show called “The Amazing Oceans.” I learned about different oceans across the world and about interesting creatures that live in those oceans. It was so much fun to visit the aquarium. I can’t wait to go back!

Score points:

Apply the 3-point editing task rubric for Grades 5 and 7.
3-point Holistic Editing Task Rubric for Grades 5 and 7

3 points No more than one error, either introduced or not corrected, remains after the student has corrected the paragraph.

2 points Two to three errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph.

1 point Four to five errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph.

0 points Six or more errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph.
There are some mistakes in this paragraph. Let’s correct them together.

I like to go to the movies on weekends. I try to get to the theater early so I could buy snacks. My favoritest movies are comedies. They are fun to watch with friends because they make you laugh we are going to see a new movie this Saturday.
Here is a report a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes at all. There are no mistakes in spelling.
Read the paragraph, and find the mistakes. Draw a line through each mistake in the paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

When you look up at the night sky, you see the beautiful stars shining, you see a full moon. The view from space can be quite another matter, though. From Earth you cannot see none of the nuts, bolts, paint chips, and other assorted pieces of space debris orbits Earth every day. The worst thing about space debris is not it’s ugly appearance; space debris can be extremely dangerously. These bits of metal and other junk travels through the air at speeds greater than 20,000 miles an hour and can create serious damage.
There are some mistakes in this paragraph. Let’s correct them together.

I like to go to the movies on weekends. I try to get to the theater early so I could buy snacks. My favoritest movies are comedies. They are fun to watch with friends because they make you laugh we are going to see a new movie this Saturday.
Exemplary Response for Grade 7

Question 16 “Real” task:

Exemplary response:

When you look up at the night sky, you see the beautiful and stars shining, you see a full moon. The view from space can be quite another matter, though. From Earth you cannot see any of the nuts, bolts, paint chips, and other assorted pieces of space debris orbiting Earth every day. The worst thing about space debris is not its ugly appearance; space debris can be extremely dangerous. These bits of metal and other junk travel through the air at speeds greater than 20,000 miles an hour and can create serious damage.

Score points:
Apply the 3-point editing task rubric for Grades 5 and 7.
Conventions

Conventions includes punctuation, spelling, grammar, usage, capitalization, and paragraph indentation.

Abilities:

- Identify problems with conventions
- Fix problems with conventions
Key Strategies:

- Look for patterns
- Work on one pattern at a time
- Invent a strategy for each persistent problem:
  - Sound-based misspellings
  - Sight-based misspellings
  - Homonym problems (e.g., there, their, they’re)
  - Paragraph boundaries
  - Sentence boundaries
  - Fragments and run-ons
  - Comma, apostrophe, quotation marks
  - Pronoun reference
  - Agreement—subject/verb; pronoun/antecedent
  - Verb tense shifts
  - Capital letters
  - Usage problems
  - Constructions
  - Overuse of “and then”
  - Comparatives and superlatives
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conventions Error Tally Sheet</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student #</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound-based misspellings</td>
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<td>Sight-based misspellings</td>
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<td>Homonym problems (e.g., there, their, they’re)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Comma, apostrophe, quotation marks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pronoun reference</td>
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<td>Agreement-subject/verb; pronoun/antecedent</td>
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<td>Verb tense shifts</td>
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<td>Capital letter</td>
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<td>Usage problems</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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