New England Common Assessment Program

Released Items Support Materials 2006

Grade 8 Reading

7.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

The protesters gathered in a band in front of city hall.

1 Which sentence uses the word band as it is used in the box?

A. I heard the band play in the park.
B. She wore a wedding band to the event.
C. A large band of employees demanded a raise.
D. Please place a band of ribbon around the gift.

7.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes, base words, common roots, or word origins; or context clues; or other resources, such as, dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

The owners decided to raze the crumbling building and to construct another one in its place.

2 What does the word raze mean as it is used in the box?

A. build up
B. tear down
C. hold within limits
D. reclaim what is lost

Town Animal Pounds
Informational Text

7.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes, base words, common roots, or word origins; or context clues; or other resources, such as, dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

3 The word innumerable means

A. countless.
B. serious.
C. measured.
D. ridiculous.

7.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions, to state the main/central ideas, or to provide supporting details

4 Town animal pounds were usually located

A. on the edge of a common field.
B. inside the village square.
C. on the outskirts of the largest farm.
D. outside of the village.

Town Animal Pounds
Informational Text

7.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions, to state the main/central ideas, or to provide supporting details

5 The stone walls of the pound in Durham were constructed by

A. piling stones to form a wall.
B. cutting stones to fit.
C. building in the shape of a trapezoid.
D. wedging a pole between boards.

7.7.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by obtaining information from text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, index, transition words/phrases, transitional devices, bold or italicized text, headings, subheadings, graphic organizers, charts, graphs, or illustrations)

6 The **main** purpose of paragraph 5 is to

A. illustrate the need for town animal pounds.
B. provide an example of a construction plan.
C. show how different an animal pound can be.
D. entertain the reader with a local story.

Town Animal Pounds
Informational Text

7.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting, mapping, paraphrasing, summarizing, or comparing/contrasting)

7 Explain how town animal pounds differed from one another. Use specific information from the passage to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how town animal pounds differed from one another. Response includes relevant and specific information from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of how town animal pounds differed from one another. Response includes some information from the passage.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how town animal pounds differed from one another. Response uses limited information from the passage.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

- Wealthy towns had larger and better-built pounds than poorer towns.
- Some town pounds cut the stones to fit when building. Others piled odd-shaped stones to make the walls.
- Some had low walls that were sloppily put together. Others had very tall, well-fortified walls.
- Some pounds had gates with hinged doors. Others just used a few boards and a pole to form the door.
- Most pounds were in the shape of a rectangle or square, but others were in different geometric shapes such as a trapezoid.
- Some had a source of water for the animals, and others did not.

Score Point 4

There were many differences between pounds in early colonial day. Most pounds had a rectangular shape with 25 feet in width, and 40 feet in length. The height of the walls were about "chest-height," so they would probably be about 4 feet high. The stones of the walls were cut to fit, but many other pound walls were made of odd-sized stones crammed into a wall. A town that was more successful usually had bigger, and stonger pounds than other towns that were least successful. Some pounds had low walls that were thrown together haphazardly. Others, like the pound in Richmond, RI, stand at 8 feet tall. The gates of pounds ranged from hinged doors, to a few boards supported by a pole. Usually a pound would be in a shape of a square, or rectangle. But sometimes they were forced to be made into different shapes that were circular or trapezoidal. A few pounds even had a brook running through them for the animals to be properly hydrated while staying within the walls.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how town animal pounds differed from one another and includes relevant information from the passage.

Score Point 3

The pounds were different because towns that had more money had nicer pounds. Also if the town was richer the pound would be built and constructed a lot better! Some of the differences were the size and materials used to build them. For example a rich town would have cut rock blocks to fit and be large. The a poor town would have just rocks stacked on top of each other and might be small and not very well built. Also later pounds were built in different shapes. Some were round some were square or rectangle and even a couple were trapizoids. So these pounds are different from one another.

Response provides an explanation of how town animal pounds differed from one another and includes some information from the passage.

Score Point 2

Town pound differed in many ways from one another. For instense some pounds had streams running through them to give the animals water. They also came in different sizes and shaps. Like the one in Chepachet is tryagle and seperates two streets and the more money the town had the better the pounds were.

Response provides a partial explanation of how town animal pounds differed from one another and uses limited information from the passage.

Score Point 1

There differed by the length And size.

Response is minimal.

Score Point 0

Town animal pounds differed from one another because of the different animals. The more one animal could do for you the more pounds it would be.

Response is irrelevant.

Progress and A New Age
Literary Texts

7.4.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text

8 According to the poem "Progress," musical equipment has become

A. cheaper.
B. louder.
C. heavier.
D. smaller.

7.6.1 Analyze and interpret author's craft, citing evidence where appropriate by demonstrating knowledge of use of literary elements and devices (i.e., imagery, exaggeration, repetition, flashback, foreshadowing, personification) to analyze literary works

9 In "A New Age," lines 2 through 5 and lines 8 through 15 are capitalized to

A. indicate speech.
B. stress grammar.
C. introduce new music.
D. show rhyme scheme.

Progress and A New Age
Literary Texts

7.5.2 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by describing characters' traits, motivation, or interactions, citing thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' traits, motivations, or their changes over time

10 Why does the jazzman recommend using a multi-media computer to new musicians?

A. It is easier to learn than other instruments.
B. It is a new instrument that is popular.
C. It is less expensive than buying other instruments.
D. It is the easiest instrument to bring to concerts.

7.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes, base words, common roots, or word origins; or context clues; or other resources, such as, dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses; or prior knowledge)

11 In the word multi-media, the prefix *multi* means

A. large.
B. open to choice.
C. electronic.
D. more than one.

Progress and A New Age
Literary Texts

7.6.1	**Analyze and interpret author's craft, citing evidence where appropriate by** demonstrating knowledge of use of literary elements and devices (i.e., imagery, exaggeration, repetition, flashback, foreshadowing, personification) to analyze literary works

12 Explain how the title of each poem shows the author's message. Use details from each poem to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how the title of each poem shows the author's message. Response includes relevant details from each poem.
3	Response provides an explanation of how the title of each poem shows the author's message. Response includes some details from the poems.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how the title of each poem shows the author's message. Response uses limited details from the poems. **OR** Response provides an explanation of the title of one poem.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Progress:

- Music players have changed over time.
- The change has meant that music players that were once very heavy and large are now able to fit in a pocket.
- This change to smaller, portable music players is considered progress.

A New Age:

- A young musician is asking an older musician about instruments.
- The older jazzman recommends a multi-media computer rather than a guitar.
- The jazzman is describing a new age (i.e., the changes).

Score Point 4

The titles "Progress" and "A New Age" clearly inform the reader of the author's message. In "Progress" the poem goes through four generations and states how they listened to music. Each person's form of a music player is smaller and more advanced then the previous person's music player. The poem shows how progress has been made throughout the years in technology, as is stated in the title. In "A New Age" the author shows how music is now digitalized instead of played. The old jazz man tells the boy to buy a multi-media computer instead of an instrument, because it would be of more use to him for a longer time. The titles hints to the reader that "A New Age" is about new forms of technology, and the dissappearance of what used to be. The titles in both poems tell the reader of the author's message before the reader has started reading the poems.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how the title of each poem shows the author's message and includes relevant details from each poem.

Score Point 3

The title for the poem "Progress" really fits what the poem is about. In the beginning, the author discribes how, a long time ago, how things were big and heavy. Then they get smaller, such as a hi-fi. Now, we have walkman that are so small we can fit it in our pockets.

Also, in the poem "A New Age", the title works out great. The Jazzman talks to a kid about how now that computers are made, you can do anything. There is no need to play an instrument, a computer can be used for that.

Response provides an explanation of how the title of each poem shows the author's message and includes some details from the poems.

Score Point 2

The Poem "Progress" is Showing the Progress of technology. From a 100lbs to a Walkman that fits in Someons Pocket is a huge advancement in technology.

In the Poem The New Age aPerson Said "That Music Sound is Digitized". That means everything is Synthasized now, Nothings real.

Response provides a partial explanation of how the title of each poem shows the author's message using limited details from the poems.

Score Point 1

the title Progress means
evelutionized music ployers

A new age means things
are difrent now then they
were

Response is vague.

Score Point 0

progress is getting Farther. New age is
a new 1,000 years.

Response is irrelevant.