Ohio Department of Education

Student Name _____

OHIO GRADUATION TESTS

Writing

Practice Test for Ninth Graders

September 2004

© 2004 by Ohio Department of Education

WRITING TEST

DIRECTIONS: The writing test consists of two writing-prompt questions, 10 multiple-choice questions, and one short-answer question. The maximum time allowed for the entire test is 2 1/2 hours. You may answer the questions in any order, but plan your time so that you have enough time to complete the second writing-prompt question, which is at the end of the test. You may refer to the questions as often as necessary.

For writing-prompt questions, space is provided for prewriting activities. This section is provided for planning your writing. Nothing written in this space will be scored.

Make sure the draft you want scored is written in the lined section of the Answer Document. Your draft needs to be legible to be scored. It may be in printed or cursive handwriting.

Revision and editing are encouraged, although for the purposes of this test, you will not be able to use reference materials. Erasing, crossing out, and other editing changes may be made right on your draft in the Answer Document. You do not have to use all of the space provided in your Answer Document, but be sure your answer is complete. You may refer to the question as often as necessary.

For multiple-choice questions, most questions are associated with a brief paragraph or a sentence. Some of the questions are clustered together; others stand alone. After reading the paragraph and question, choose the best answer and blacken the corresponding space in your Answer Document. If you want to change an answer, make sure that you erase the old answer completely.

For the short-answer question, write your answer in the Answer Document in the space provided. You do not have to use all of the space provided in your Answer Document, but be sure your answer is complete. You may refer to the question as often as necessary.

Writing

1. Some high schools require a drug test of those who want to play sports or participate in other school activities. Before adopting this policy, your superintendent has decided to ask students for their opinions.

   Write to the superintendent stating your opinion. Persuade him/her to agree with your view. Write your response in the **Answer Document**. (18 points)

PREWRITING

Important! Use the space below only to plan and practice your response. Nothing you write in the space below will be scored.

Use the draft paragraph to answer questions 2 – 4.

1. One of the best family activities is camping. 2. The key to a successful camping trip is being well-prepared. 3. One recommendation I would give is to keep a master list of all the items you might need for camping so they can be gathered easily before you leave for your trip. 4. It takes a lot of work to get ready for a camping trip, set up your campsite, break down your campsite, and unpack when you get home. 5. We are always glad that we decided to go camping.

2. Which sentence would be an appropriate replacement for sentence 1?
   - A. Many families go camping for weeks at a time.
   - B. Some of my best childhood memories are of camping with my family.
   - C. Camping is a great family activity, but it is one that requires a lot of work.
   - D. When you go camping, you can enjoy a low-cost vacation with your family.

3. Which phrase is appropriate to add at the beginning of sentence 5?
   - A. As a result,
   - B. Even when it rains,
   - C. Since we enjoy camping,
   - D. Despite all the effort it requires,

4. Which revision appropriately summarizes the ideas in sentence 4?
   - A. Be prepared for camping to tire you out.
   - B. If you don't like to work, you won't enjoy camping.
   - C. Camping is a lot of work before, during and after the trip.
   - D. Setting up a campsite, camping, and unpacking can cause a lot of problems.

Writing

Use the following information from a handbook on language to answer question 5.

- Use a semicolon between main clauses not joined by a coordinating conjunction.
- Main clauses contain a subject and a predicate and do not begin with a subordinating word.
- Subordinating words include because, although, since, as if, so that, after.
- Coordinating conjunctions are *and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet*.
- A semicolon may be used to join two independent main clauses which are connected by an adverb such as *however, therefore, otherwise* or *nevertheless.* The adverb must be followed by a comma.

5. Which sentence combines the sentences below into one sentence by correctly using a semicolon?

   The Southwest is known for vast open spaces and endless skies.

   But the sunsets are especially beautiful.

   A. The Southwest is known for vast open spaces and endless skies; the sunsets are especially beautiful.

   B. The Southwest is known for vast open spaces and endless skies; but the sunsets are especially beautiful.

   C. The sunsets are especially beautiful in the Southwest; which is known for vast open spaces and endless skies.

   D. The southwestern states are known for vast open spaces and endless skies; and the sunsets are especially beautiful.

Use the following outline to answer question 6.

Outline for essay about soccer

I. Introduction

II. Equipment

III. Rules of the game

A. Structure of game

B. Violations

IV. Skills to practice

A. Kicking

B. Dribbling

C. Passing

D. Goalkeeping

V. Conclusion

6. Which sentence would be appropriate in Section I?

A. The goalie is the only player who can use his or her hands.

B. Soccer is becoming increasingly popular in the United States.

C. One of the most important things you need to play soccer is a ball.

D. If you learn the rules and study the skills you have just read, you can play soccer.

7. Officials in your school district are concerned that high school students are not learning as much as they could be with the current high school schedule. The officials are considering extending the school day by an hour for high school.

You are planning a letter to your principal either supporting or opposing the extension of the school day. Identify two arguments you would use to support or oppose a longer school day. Write your response in the **Answer Document**. (2 points)

Writing

Use the draft paragraph to answer questions 8 – 10.

[1.] I have always wanted to play high school basketball. [2.] Even when I was small. [3.] I went to all practices, ran all the sprints, and was shooting well. [4.] My best friend tried out too. [5.] I am a better player than him, but he was chosen and I was not.

8. Where should the sentence below be inserted into the paragraph?

   I was disappointed that my hard work had not earned me a spot on the team.

   A. after Sentence 2
   … Even when I was small. **I was disappointed that my hard work had not earned me a spot on the team.** I went to all practices, ran all the sprints, and was shooting well. …

   B. after Sentence 3
   … I went to all practices, ran all the sprints, and was shooting well. **I was disappointed that my hard work had not earned me a spot on the team.** My best friend tried out too. …

   C. after Sentence 4
   … My best friend tried out too**. I was disappointed that my hard work had not earned me a spot on the team.** I am a better player than him, but he was chosen and I was not.

   D. after Sentence 5
   … I am a better player than him, but he was chosen and I was not. **I was disappointed that my hard work had not earned me a spot on the team.**

9. In the context of the paragraph, what is the correct way to revise sentence 2 to make it a complete sentence?

   A. When I was small even.

   B. When even I was small.

   C. Even when I was small playing in the neighborhood.

   D. Even when I was small, I dreamed of playing on the high school team.

10. In the context of the paragraph, which revision improves the parallel structure in sentence 3?

   A. I went to all practices, ran all the sprints, and shot well.

   B. I was going to all practices, running all the sprints, and shot well.

   C. I went to all practices, running all the sprints, and was shooting well.

   D. I was going to all practices, ran all the sprints, and was shooting well.

Use the information below to answer question 11.

Use a comma:

- following introductory words, phrases or clauses. (*During a snow storm,* a large branch fell from the tree in our backyard.)
- before and after parenthetical words or expressions. (*generally, in fact, in other words)*
- to set off appositives. (Mr. Elliot, *an artist,* had several paintings at the show.)
- to separate two or more adjectives preceding a noun. (The *fuzzy, white* cat stretched out on the floor.)

11. Select the appropriate revision and/or edit to the sentence below.

Although the mall closes at 9:00 I have found that generally he works until 9:30.

A. Although the mall closes at 9:00 I have found that, generally, he works until 9:30.

B. Although the mall closes at 9:00, I have found that generally, he works until 9:30.

C. Although the mall closes at 9:00, I have found that, generally he works until 9:30.

D. Although the mall closes at 9:00, I have found that, generally, he works until 9:30.

12. What revision and/or edit improves the usage in the sentence below?

Everyone should watch their belongings at airports because people might steal their belongings.

A. Everyone should watch his or her belongings at airports because others might steal unguarded items.

B. People should watch after his or her belongings at airports because others might steal their things.

C. Everyone should watch their belongings at airports because others might steal belongings.

D. Others might steal their belongings, so people should watch after them at airports.

Writing

13. Think about your favorite season of the year. It may be your favorite because of the weather, or a memory associated with the season, or certain activities that take place during the season. Explain why this one season of the year is your favorite. Be sure to support your essay with specific examples and details. Write your response in the **Answer Document**. (18 points)

PREWRITING

Important! Use the space below only to plan and practice your response. Nothing you write in the space below will be scored.

W