HiSET™ Language Arts – Writing Practice Test
Directions

This is a test of some of the skills involved in revising written materials. There are four selections similar to the reports, letters, and articles high-school students often need to write. Each selection is presented twice, first in a box in a conventional format and then in a spread-out format with certain parts underlined and numbered. Read quickly through the boxed text to get an idea of its purpose and style. Then go on to the spread-out format.

For each underlined part there are alternatives listed in the right-hand column. Choose the alternative that

- makes the statement grammatically correct
- expresses the idea in the clearest or most appropriate way
- is worded most consistently with the style and purpose of the writing
- organizes the ideas in the most effective way

In some cases, there may be more than one problem to correct or improve.

When you have decided which alternative is best, mark your choice on the answer sheet. If you think the original underlined version is best, choose “No change.” In questions about organization, you will probably find it helpful to look at the boxed text. In the questions about spelling, you are to indicate which of three underlined words is misspelled, if any. If there are no errors in any of the words, mark “None.”

Work as quickly as you can without becoming careless. Don’t spend too much time on any question that is difficult for you to answer. Instead, skip it and return to it later if you have time. Try to answer every question even if you have to guess.

Mark all your answers on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question and make every mark heavy and dark, as in this example.

Correct

Incorrect

If you decide to change one of your answers, be sure to erase the first mark completely.

Be sure that the number of the question you are answering matches the number of the row of answer choices you are marking on your answer sheet.
Language Arts – Writing

Part 1

Time—30 minutes

19 Questions
Read quickly through the draft feature article in the box below. Then go to the spread-out version and consider the suggestions for revision.

1 Buying a car takes research as well as money. Having your license and saving enough money for an older car and insurance are just the beginning. Finding the right car will require some time and effort. Where do you start? What should you look for?

2 Surprisingly, your local library might be good. There you can access online consumer guides that rate such things as performance, comfort, and mechanical reliability. Don’t forget how helpful reference librarians can be.

3 When you have located a car that you think will meet your needs, try to find out the repair history on the vehicle. Was the oil changed as scheduled to prevent wear on the engine? Has the car had any ongoing or repeated problems? Don’t forget to take mileage into consideration, as well as the number of owners the car has had and also seeing if you can get information about any damage the car may have sustained as a result of accidents. It’s a good idea to take the car to an independent auto mechanic for an inspection. It’s worth the cost to identify potential problems. Before you make a major investment.

4 Finally, check the vehicle’s appearance. If the body has numerous dents and scratches and the inside is ruined, chances are the engine hasn’t been well maintained. If there are major rust spots, you can expect the body to deteriorate rapidly. While these suggestions won’t guarantee a foolproof purchase, they can help you make an informed decision. Researching a car before making an investment is always time well spent. Remember, once you buy a used car, it’s yours.
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After attending a local political debate, a blogger wrote the following article. Read quickly through the draft in the box below. Then go to the spread-out version and consider the suggestions for revision.

1 Citizens filled the Mesa Vista High School auditorium Thursday evening to hear the two mayors’ candidates participate in a special debate. The event was organized by Ms. Roberta Valdez, a social studies teacher at Mesa Vista who is herself a former council member.

2 Ms. Valdez moderated the debate beginning by introducing the candidates: Mayor Barbara Mahoney, who has lived in the city for many years, and Councilor Luther Quinn, her challenger. Each contender made an opening statement, and then they took turns responding to questions.

3 [1] Mayor Mahoney opened the debate on a serious note, describing some difficult issues facing the city. [2] Councilor Quinn’s opening statement, by the way, consisted primarily of hilarious anecdotes about his years as a student at Mesa Vista. [3] The mayor was impressive with her thorough knowledge of the issues often citing programs she has initiated during her time in office. [4] Councilor Quinn also had a good grasp of the issues, but as a council member, he naturally has fewer accomplishments that affect the entire city. [5] During the question-and-answer period, one distinct difference between the two candidates became apparent when you took a look at their responses to a question concerning the proposal for a recreation center in Goldman Park. [6] The mayor was voicing her continued opposition, saying that it would tear up one of the last wooded areas in the city. [7] She suggested why not fix up an empty building on the waterfront instead. [8] But Councilor Quinn, who strongly supports the original plan, pointed out that where the site is most people can get to easily. [9] Audience members, too, were divided on this issue, though most feeling that the recreation center is needed.

4 After the debate citizens’ comments indicated that although the audience was clearly more entertained by Councilor Quinn there was no decisive winner. Several audience members agreed with Jamie Reese, a local small business owner, who said, “We need to stick with what works, and that’s Mayor Mahoney.” Others shared the opinion expressed by Eddie Talini, a self-employed carpenter: “I think Councilor Quinn can give this city the energy and imagination it needs.”
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13 A (No change)  
B was made when taking a look at their responses to a question  
C became apparent in their responses to a question  
D was made by responses to the question

14 A (No change)  
B voiced  
C had voiced  
D wanted to voice

15 A (No change)  
B to fix up  
C fixing up  
D they could fix

16 A (No change)  
B the site for where the center is to be located is one  
C the park site is a location that  
D the park site for putting the center is in a location

17 A (No change)  
B would feel  
C feels  
D felt

18 The writer is considering splitting Paragraph 3 into two paragraphs. The best place to begin a new paragraph would be with  
A Sentence 4.  
B Sentence 5.  
C Sentence 6.  
D Sentence 7.
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Language Arts – Writing

Part 2

Time — 45 minutes
Staying physically fit involves practicing habits such as exercising regularly, eating well and getting enough sleep. Research has shown that people who are physically fit perform better in work and school. Your employer is printing a special newsletter informing employees about important ways they can practice staying fit.

Write an essay for your employer’s newsletter to persuade workers to adopt at least one behavior that will improve their fitness. Think carefully about what reasons will convince other workers to change their behavior.
Writing Practice Test
Section 1
Answer Key

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<th>Correct Answer</th>
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