

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA STUDY GUIDE 2017

**Part A. Academic Vocabulary:** Please choose the correct term for each definition.

1. An autobiographical account of a portion of someone's life based on a memory is a **memoir**.
2. A class or division of people or things regarded as having particular shared characteristics is a **category**.
3. To disclose, unveil, or tell is to **reveal**.
4. A unifying or dominant idea that is stated directly or indirectly is a **theme**.
5. A **decision** is a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration.
6. To quote or reference from a text brought forward as support is to **cite**.
7. A word part added TO THE BEGINNING of a root or base word is a **prefix**.
8. Literal meaning of a word is a **denotation**.
9. A word part ADDED TO THE END of a root or base word is the **suffix**.
10. The **connotation** refers to the emotions that are associated with words

**Part B. Parts of Speech:** Identify how each word is functioning (as what part of speech) in the sentence:

11. It was raining when we got to Portland, Oregon. **helping verb**
12. I like *Grey's Anatomy*, but I love *The Walking Dead*. **conjunction**
13. Quinn ate cereal for breakfast. **direct object**
14. The driver stopped the bus abruptly. **Adverb**
15. Louis thought about the math problem. **action verb**

**Part C Grammar (Active/Passive, Verbals, & Sentence Types)**

*Identify the underlined verbals below.*

16. Billy refused to accept the idea that his birthday cake was gone. **infinitive**
17. The marathon runner, pushed to the edge of endurance, collapsed at the finish line. **participle**
18. Fred's arguing every call is getting frustrating. **gerund**
19. Al hopes that giving the players a break will improve their attitudes. **gerund**

*Complete the following sentences using the correct voice, either active or passive.*

20. This was problem \_\_\_\_\_ by your brother yesterday. **was solved**
21. Many things \_\_\_\_\_ in this house. **are said**
22. Which revision should the writer make to maintain the **ACTIVE VOICE** in the paragraph?

1Carl always enjoyed going camping with his uncle Mike. 2Each year a different location would be chosen and careful plans made. 3First, they would choose the best date for their trip. 4Next, they would make a list of supplies and equipment that they would need. 5Finally, they would create a schedule of activities. 6The trips were always fun and relaxing because all of the work had been done in advance.

Change sentence 2 to "Each year they chose a different location and made careful plans."

Identify whether the sentences are **Simple**, **Complex**, **Compound** or **Compound-Complex**. Please underline dependent clauses where it applies.

16. Vampire Dairies is my favorite television show, but I also love True Blood. (Compound)
17. The student wiped the white board that was filthy with last week's notes. (Complex)
18. The trendy fashion designer released her new line on Wednesday. (Simple)
19. Trina and Hareem went to a bar in Hollywood to celebrate their anniversary. (Simple)
20. Wicked Regina cast a spell on the entire city, so the citizens decided to rebel. (Compound)
21. While waiting for the paint to dry, Angela went to Home Depot, and Martin organized the kitchen appliances. (Compound-Complex)

#### **Part D. Writing:**

23. The race proved that Lee was a **faster** runner than Bob.
24. **The components of a narrative text ARE: Plot, characters, conflict, theme, beginning, middle and end.**
25. **The components of an informational text ARE: Introduction with thesis, support with cited evidence, conclusion**
26. **Which sentence should be added to the paragraph to BEST support the writer's argument?**

Dear Principal Maxwell:

I was disappointed to learn that the computer lab would no longer be available to students during lunch. I think this decision was a mistake. Many students use the computer lab during the lunch period to finish homework. It is also a great place for students to do research for school projects. Although the computer lab is open after school, students who ride the bus cannot take advantage of this time. I hope you will reconsider this decision and reopen the computer lab to students during the lunch period.

Sincerely,

A Hopeful Student

- A. Ms. Harrison, the computer lab instructor, is very knowledgeable and patient.
- B. In addition to the computer lab, many students use the library during their lunch.
- C. Working in the computer lab also helps students learn to use the latest technology.
- D. Ms. Harrison reports that only a few students use the computer lab during lunch period.

33. Which of these phrases should be added to sentence 2 to BEST link the ideas in the paragraph?

1Although early research into linked computer networks began back in the 1960s, the modern internet is a relatively new system. 2\_\_\_\_\_, computer networks were used mainly by government agencies and scientists at research centers. 3As personal computers became more popular, companies began offering internet access to individuals. 4Since that time, the use of the internet has grown steadily as use of internet-based services such as email have gained popularity. 5Today, about a third of the world's population uses the internet.

- A. Until about twenty years ago  
B. Difficult for most people to learn  
C. Requiring several years to complete  
D. To prevent problems from occurring

35. Which sentence should be added to the end of the paragraph to provide the BEST conclusion?

Stacey looked at the clock radio and frowned. The game would be starting in just a few minutes. Stacey had been looking forward to watching it on television all week. However, her social studies report was taking much longer than she had expected. She could put off the report until after the game, but that would mean staying up late.

- A. The game would be starting soon, but Stacey still had not decided what to do.  
B. "I hope my team wins today," Stacey thought with a feeling of nervous excitement.  
C. If she stayed up late finishing her work, she would be tired and might make mistakes.  
D. "I should be finished in time for the second half," she told herself, getting back to work.

36. Which sentence should be removed because it does NOT support the purpose of the letter?

Dear Mr. Rollins:

1Thank you for agreeing to take part in this year's career day event. 2To help make the event a success, participants are asked to attend an orientation meeting next Friday at 4:00 in the school library. 3Please bring copies of any materials that you plan to present to students, so that they can be approved by the principal. 4The principal is also encouraging everyone to consider joining the school PTA. 5Participants should also make a list of any special equipment they will need for their presentation and bring it to the meeting. 6We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely

Mr. Bill Anderson  
Assistant Principal

37. Here is the first part of Sarah's rough draft.

(1)A special person in my life is my big brother. (2)His name is Ben. (3)He is tall and thin.

How can sentences 1 and 2 best be combined?

- A. A special person in my life is Ben, my big brother.
- B. A special person in my life is my big brother and Ben is who he is.
- C. In my life a special person is my big brother and he is Ben.
- D. My big brother Ben is a special person, he is in my life.

Read the following passage in the box below:

"You say that they're happy and content and joyous. Those all mean basically the same thing. It's **redundant**."

38. As used in this passage, "**redundant**" means **repetitive**.

- A. useful
- B. necessary
- C. simple
- D. repetitive

39. **Even though** \_\_\_\_\_ Brian and Stacey don't want to work together, they still have to complete the assignment.

Choose the transition that best completes the blank in the sentence above.

Part B. Read the following two passages linking nonfiction and fiction, "When No Whistle Blew" and "Marathon Training Journal". Then, answer the questions that follow:

40. What does one know Driscoll didn't expect of her first soccer game?

- A. **that it would be competitive**
- B. that it would be embarrassing
- C. that a big red rubber ball would be used
- D. that players on the ground would be rescued

41. One reason Hall's time might have differed from Driscoll's is that

- A. **he had a wheelchair that weighed more**
- B. he could bench press twice his body weight
- C. he trained by riding 100 miles (160km) a week
- D. he was the first one to enter the Boston Marathon

42. Both stories are about

- A. wheelchair soccer
- B. **competitive athletes**
- C. training for a marathon
- D. overcoming air resistance

43. When one is forcefully thrown, one is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. drafted
- B. Impressed
- C. recruited
- D. **catapulted**

44. From the stories, the reader can tell that MOST LIKELY

- A. Hall saved energy by drafting
- B. Hall passed other racers in wheelchairs
- C. **Driscoll began to train months before each marathon**
- D. Driscoll won her first race when she was in high school