Ohio’s State Tests

ITEM RELEASE

FALL 2017

GRADE 3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
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## Grade 3 ELA
### Fall 2017 Item Release
#### Content Summary and Answer Key

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question No.</th>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Content Standard</th>
<th>Answer Key</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hot Text</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Table Match</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Evidence-Based</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.</td>
<td>B; A, D</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question No.</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
<td>Content Standard</td>
<td>Answer Key</td>
<td>Points</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Table Match</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Extended Response</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stimulus for Questions 7 - 14

Passage 1: Earthworms: Nature’s Recyclers
by Christine H. Smith

1. What comes to mind when you think about worms? Creepy, crawly, and slimy? Good to put on the end of a fish hook? What else? Worms have a more noble purpose than snagging some fish off the end of the dock. Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.

2. Worms are nature’s recyclers. It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels. These tiny burrows help water to soak into the ground, making it easier for plants to grow.

3. Worms also leave behind droppings called castings. Castings help plants to grow by creating a rich topsoil that plants like. Worms are also a source of food for many other animals, birds, and reptiles.

4. Anywhere food and moisture are in the ground, earthworms can be found. In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre. An acre is about the size of a big backyard. That’s a lot of worms!

5. So next time you see a worm remember: Even creatures that seem scary or yucky play an important role in the natural cycle of our environment.

Glossary

debris: waste

Passage 2: Worm Farm
by Staff Writer

This passage will tell you the steps to take and the things you need to build a worm farm.

6 Worms are not only great dancers—they are also important to the environment. They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow. Worms also dig tunnels in the ground, which help the soil "breathe." Watch them shimmy through their tunnels by creating your very own worm world!

7 What To Do

1. Layer the bottom of the glass jar with gravel, then place several inches of soil on top. Sprinkle dead leaves over the soil and moisten with a few drops of water.
2. Place the earthworms in the jar, then put the jar in a very dark place (like a closet or basement). Important: Do not put a lid on the jar. Sprinkle the soil with water every 2 days.
3. When you water the soil, check on your worms' progress. You'll be able to see the crazy tunnels they've dug!
4. After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.

8 What You'll Need

Large, clean glass jar
Gravel
Soil
Earthworms (dug from your yard or purchased from a local bait shop)
Dead leaves

Excerpt from "Worm Farm" by Staff Writer, from Spider. Copyright © 2015 by Carus Publishing Co. Reprinted by permission of Carus Publishing Co. via Copyright Clearance Center.
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 7

Question and Scoring Guidelines
**Question 7**

Read the sentence from Passage 1.

“Worms have a more noble purpose than snagging some fish off the end of the dock.” (paragraph 1)

What is the meaning of the word *noble* as it is used in this sentence?

- A  easy
- B  important
- C  quiet
- D  scary

**Points Possible:** 1

**Topic:** Informational

**Content Standard:** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
**Scoring Guidelines**

**Rationale for Option A:** This is incorrect. Students might select this option if they think that an earthworm’s job of recycling is easier than catching fish; however, the context of the passage indicates that the meaning of "noble" is important.

**Rationale for Option B:** Key – The information in the passage states that an earthworm’s job is important to the environment.

**Rationale for Option C:** This is incorrect. Students might select this option if they think that an earthworm’s job of recycling is quieter than catching fish; however, the context of the passage indicates that the meaning of "noble" is important.

**Rationale for Option D:** This is incorrect. Students might select this option if they think that an earthworm’s job of recycling is scarier than catching fish; however, the context of the passage indicates that the meaning of "noble" is important.

**Sample Response: 1 point**

Read the sentence from Passage 1.

“Worms have a more **noble** purpose than snagging some fish off the end of the dock.” (paragraph 1)

What is the meaning of the word **noble** as it is used in this sentence?

- **A** easy
- **B** important
- **C** quiet
- **D** scary
Grade 3
English Language Arts
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Question 8

Question and Scoring Guidelines
Question 8

Select the sentence that helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *burrows* in Passage 1.

“Worms are nature’s recyclers. It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels.” (paragraph 2)

**Points Possible:** 1

**Topic:** Informational

**Content Standard:** Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

Scoring Guidelines

Correct response:

- Student selects: “Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels.” (1 point).
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Question 8

Sample Responses
Sample Response: 1 point

Select the sentence that helps the reader understand the meaning of the word burrows in Passage 1.

“Worms are nature's recyclers. It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels.” (paragraph 2)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives full credit (1 point). The sentence selected includes the phrase “…then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels”, which provides a clue to the meaning of the word burrows.
Sample Response: 0 points

Select the sentence that helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *burrows* in Passage 1.

“Worms are nature’s recyclers. It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels.” (paragraph 2)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). To receive credit, sentence 4 of the paragraph must be selected. That sentence includes the phrase “…then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels”, which provides a clue to the meaning of the word *burrows.*
Sample Response: 0 points

Select the sentence that helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *burrows* in Passage 1.

“Worms are nature’s recyclers. It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels.” (paragraph 2)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). To receive credit, sentence 4 of the paragraph must be selected. That sentence includes the phrase “...then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels”, which provides a clue to the meaning of the word burrows.
Question 9

Which statement describes the author’s point of view in Passage 2?

A. Earthworms are good to have as pets.
B. Building an earthworm farm is hard work.
C. Keeping earthworms in a jar is dangerous.
D. Watching earthworms dig tunnels is interesting.

Points Possible: 1

Topic: Informational

Content Standard: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.
Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. Although the author refers to worms as "new friends", he does not suggest keeping them; instead, says to let them go.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. Although the passage lists the steps to building an earthworm farm, the author does not indicate that it is hard work.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. Although the author says in the last step to let the worms go, he does not say this because it is dangerous to keep them.

Rationale for Option D: Key - The overall passage, and specifically step 3, indicate that in the author's opinion earthworms are interesting to watch.

Sample Response: 1 point

Which statement describes the author’s point of view in Passage 2?

A. Earthworms are good to have as pets.
B. Building an earthworm farm is hard work.
C. Keeping earthworms in a jar is dangerous.
D. Watching earthworms dig tunnels is interesting.
Question 10

What information would you expect to find under the heading What You’ll Need in Passage 2?

A. materials used to dig up worms
B. materials used to clean a worm farm
C. materials used to build a worm farm
D. materials used to add worms to a garden

Points Possible: 1

Topic: Informational

Content Standard: Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
Scoring Guidelines

Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. Although materials are mentioned, they are materials that help a person build a worm farm, not dig up worms.

Rationale for Option B: This is incorrect. Although materials are mentioned, they are materials that help a person build a worm farm, not clean a worm farm.

Rationale for Option C: Key - The materials mentioned help a person build a worm farm.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. Although materials are mentioned, they are materials that help a person build a worm farm, not add worms to a garden.

Sample Response: 1 point

What information would you expect to find under the heading What You’ll Need in Passage 2?

A  materials used to dig up worms
B  materials used to clean a worm farm
C  materials used to build a worm farm
D  materials used to add worms to a garden
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 11

Question and Scoring Guidelines
Question 11

Using information from Passage 2, complete the table by showing the order of the steps needed to make a worm farm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
<th>Step 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The earthworms leave the worm farm.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The worm farm goes into a dark place.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and water go into the worm farm.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels can be seen inside the worm farm.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points Possible: 1

Topic: Informational

Content Standard: Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

- “Step 4” selected for “The earthworms leave the worm farm.”
  AND
- “Step 2” selected for “The worm farm goes into a dark place.”
  AND
- “Step 1” selected for “Food and water go into the worm farm.”
  AND
- “Step 3” selected for “Tunnels can be seen inside the worm farm.” (1 point).
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English Language Arts
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Question 11

Sample Responses
Sample Response: 1 point

Using information from Passage 2, complete the table by showing the order of the steps needed to make a worm farm.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
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<th>Step 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The earthworms leave the worm farm.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
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<td>Food and water go into the worm farm.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tunnels can be seen inside the worm farm.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on Scoring

This response receives full credit (1 point). The steps in the process of making a worm farm have been correctly sequenced: step one is row three, step two is row two, step three is row four, and step four is row one. To receive full credit, each row must be correctly sequenced.
Sample Response: 0 points

Using information from Passage 2, complete the table by showing the order of the steps needed to make a worm farm.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
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<td>The earthworms leave the worm farm.</td>
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<td>Tunnels can be seen inside the worm farm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). The steps in the process of making a worm farm have not been correctly sequenced. The sequence should be: step one is row three, step two is row two, step three is row four, and step four is row one. To receive full credit, each row must be correctly sequenced.
Sample Response: 0 points

Using information from Passage 2, complete the table by showing the order of the steps needed to make a worm farm.

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<thead>
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<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). The steps in the process of making a worm farm have not been correctly sequenced. The sequence should be: step one is row three, step two is row two, step three is row four, and step four is row one. While rows one and two are correct, rows three and four are incorrectly sequenced. To receive full credit, each row must be correctly sequenced.
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 12

Question and Scoring Guidelines
Question 12

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A
What is a main idea in both passages?

A) Earthworms are good at digging tunnels into the earth.
B) Earthworms do a job that is important to the environment.
C) Earthworms are thought of as scary creatures by many people.
D) Earthworms can be found in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Part B
Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Choose two answers.

☐ “Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.” (paragraph 1)
☐ “It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat.” (paragraph 2)
☐ “In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre.” (paragraph 4)
☐ “They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow.” (paragraph 6)
☐ “After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.” (paragraph 7)

Points Possible: 2

Topic: Informational

Content Standard: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
**Scoring Guidelines**

**Part A**
Rationale for Option A: This is incorrect. Although this is a detail that can be found in both passages, it is not the main idea.

Rationale for Option B: **Key** – This is a main idea found in both passages.

Rationale for Option C: This is incorrect. Although this is a detail in Passage 1, it is not the main idea.

Rationale for Option D: This is incorrect. Although this is a detail that can be found in both passages, it is not the main idea.

**Part B**
Rationale for First Option: **Key** – This detail from Passage 1 supports the main idea that worms are beneficial and necessary to the environment.

Rationale for Second Option: This is incorrect. Although this sentence describes a feature of an earthworm, the sentence does not support the main idea.

Rationale for Third Option: This is incorrect. Although this sentence describes the abundance of worms in certain areas, it does not support the main idea.

Rationale for Fourth Option: **Key** – This detail supports the main idea that worms are important and necessary to the environment.

Rationale for Fifth Option: This is incorrect. Although this sentence states that worms should be put in a garden after a few weeks of being in the worm farm, it does not support the main idea.
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 12

Sample Responses
Sample Response: 2 points

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is a main idea in both passages?

A  Earthworms are good at digging tunnels into the earth.
B  Earthworms do a job that is important to the environment.
C  Earthworms are thought of as scary creatures by many people.
D  Earthworms can be found in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Part B

Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Choose two answers.

☑  “Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.” (paragraph 1)
☐  “It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat.” (paragraph 2)
☐  “In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre.” (paragraph 4)
☑  “They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow.” (paragraph 6)
☐  “After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.” (paragraph 7)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives full credit (2 points). The main idea for both passages is correctly identified as Option B in Part A. Options A and D are correctly selected as details that support the main idea in Part A. To receive full credit, Part A and Part B must be correct.
Sample Response: 1 point

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

What is a main idea in both passages?

A. Earthworms are good at digging tunnels into the earth.
B. Earthworms do a job that is important to the environment.
C. Earthworms are thought of as scary creatures by many people.
D. Earthworms can be found in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

**Part B**

Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Choose two answers.

- [ ] “Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.” (paragraph 1)
- [ ] “It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat.” (paragraph 2)
- [ ] “In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre.” (paragraph 4)
- [X] “They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow.” (paragraph 6)
- [X] “After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.” (paragraph 7)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives partial credit (1 point). The main idea is correctly identified as Option B in Part A. However, Option E is selected as one of the supporting details in Part B, which is incorrect. Options A and D must be selected as supporting details for the main idea. To receive full credit, the main idea must be correctly identified in Part A and both supporting details must be identified in Part B.
Sample Response: 1 point

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is a main idea in both passages?

- Earthworms are good at digging tunnels into the earth.
- Earthworms do a job that is important to the environment.
- Earthworms are thought of as scary creatures by many people.
- Earthworms can be found in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Part B

Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Choose two answers.

- “Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.” (paragraph 1)
- “It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat.” (paragraph 2)
- “In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre.” (paragraph 4)
- “They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow.” (paragraph 6)
- “After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.” (paragraph 7)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives partial credit (1 point). The main idea is correctly identified as Option B in Part A. However, Option B and C are identified as supporting details in Part B, which is incorrect. Options A and D must be selected as details that support the main idea. To receive full credit, the main idea must be correctly identified in Part A and both supporting details must be identified in Part B.
Sample Response: 0 points

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A
What is a main idea in both passages?

A. Earthworms are good at digging tunnels into the earth.
B. Earthworms do a job that is important to the environment.
C. Earthworms are thought of as scary creatures by many people.
D. Earthworms can be found in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Part B
Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Choose two answers.

☑ “Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.” (paragraph 1)
☐ “It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat.” (paragraph 2)
☐ “In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre.” (paragraph 4)
☑ “They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow.” (paragraph 6)
☐ “After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.” (paragraph 7)

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). The main idea is incorrectly identified as Option D in Part A. While the supporting details selected are correct, they cannot be counted because they are chosen to support the wrong main idea. To receive full credit, the main idea must be correctly identified in Part A and both supporting details must be identified in Part B.
**Sample Response: 0 points**

The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

What is the main idea in both passages?

- Earthworms are good at digging tunnels into the earth.
- Earthworms do a job that is important to the environment.
- Earthworms are thought of as scary creatures by many people.
- Earthworms can be found in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

**Part B**

Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Choose two answers.

- “Worms have a job to do, as do all of nature’s inhabitants.” (paragraph 1)
- “It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths, and they love to eat.” (paragraph 2)
- “In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands, there can be as many as six million worms per acre.” (paragraph 4)
- “They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow.” (paragraph 6)
- “After a couple of weeks, bid your slimy friends goodbye and set them free in a garden area.” (paragraph 7)

**Notes on Scoring**

This response receives no credit (0 points). The main idea is incorrectly identified as Option C in Part A. In Part B, Options B and D are identified as supporting details. While Option D is correct, Option B does not support the main idea. To receive full credit, the main idea must be correctly identified in Part A and both supporting details must be identified in Part B.
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 13

Question and Scoring Guidelines
Question 13

Complete the table to show which information about tunnels is found in each passage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Passage 1</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Passage 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels help soil to breathe.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels help water soak into the ground.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels make it easier for plants to grow.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points Possible: 1

Topic: Informational

Content Standard: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

Scoring Guidelines

For this item, a full-credit response includes:

• “Passage 2” selected for “Tunnels help soil to breathe.”

AND

• “Passage 1” selected for “Tunnels help water soak into the ground.”

AND

• “Both” selected for “Tunnels make it easier for plants to grow.” (1 point)
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 13

Sample Responses
Sample Response: 1 point

Complete the table to show which information about tunnels is found in each passage.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Passage 1</th>
<th>Both</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels make it easier for plants to grow.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on Scoring

This response receives full credit (1 point). The table is correctly completed to show which passage includes the three pieces of information about the tunnels earthworms make. To receive full credit, the information in each row must be correctly connected to the passage or passages in which it is found.
Sample Response: 0 points

Complete the table to show which information about tunnels is found in each passage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Passage 1</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Passage 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels help soil to breathe.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels help water soak into the ground.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels make it easier for plants to grow.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). The information in Row 1 is from Passage 2, the information in Row 2 is from Passage 1 and the information in Row 3 is found in both. To receive full credit, the information in each row must be correctly connected to the passage or passages in which it is found.
Sample Response: 0 points

Complete the table to show which information about tunnels is found in each passage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Passage 1</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Passage 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels help soil to breathe.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tunnels help water soak into the ground.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnels make it easier for plants to grow.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points). The information in Row 1 is correctly identified as coming from Passage 2. However, the information in Row 2 is from Passage 1, and the information in Row 3 is found in both. To receive full credit, the information in each row must be correctly connected to the passage or passages in which it is found.
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 14

Question and Scoring Guidelines
Question 14

Write a multi-paragraph response that explains why earthworms are important. Include information about how they help the Earth in your response. Use information from both passages to support your response.

As you write your response, be sure to:
- Review the passages
- Create clear, organized paragraphs
- Draw information from both passages
- Use evidence from the passages to support your points
- Pay attention to the grammar, structure and mechanics of your sentences

Be sure to include
- An introduction
- Information from the passages to support your explanation
- A conclusion

Write your multi-paragraph response in the space provided.
Points Possible: 10

Topic: Expository

Content Standard: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction and conclusion</th>
<th>Evidence and Explanation</th>
<th>Purpose, Focus, and Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoring Guidelines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3 (points)**

**Score**

48 (2017)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary and Usage</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>Grammar errors in usage, but no patterns of omission or usage. The response may include the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Formation and Structure</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>The response demonstrates a lack of command of standard English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence and Explanation</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>The response demonstrates a lack of coherent thought and a weak connection between ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization, Focus, and Coherence</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>The response demonstrates an unclear organization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The response has no transformational strategies. It consists of random and repetitive sentences. It lacks cohesion, and its structure is unclear. The response does not address the question. There is no control of ideas, and the display of knowledge of the topic is minimal.
Grade 3
English Language Arts
Fall 2017 Item Release

Question 14

Sample Responses
Sample Response: 10 points

In my opinion, worms are important. I think this because they make plants grow easier. Also, they recycle trash into nutrients for plants.

First of all, they can make plants grow easier. In the text it said: "These tiny burrows help water soak into the ground making it easier for plants to grow." This means that the worm's tunnels allow more water to soak into the roots so the plants will grow faster with more water. The text also stated: "They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients to that help plants grow." This means that earthworms take the trash, eat it, then turn it into nutrients and food for the plant. As a result, the plant grows faster. That is why earthworms are good for making plants grow easier.

Next, earthworms are nature's recyclers. In the text it said: "Worms are nature's recyclers." This means worms are important because they do all the recycling for nature. The text also stated: "They change (or recycle) the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow." This means they basically recycle the trash and bad stuff into food that makes the plant grow faster. So that is why worms are important because they are nature's recyclers.

As you can clearly see, worms are important for nature. They help plants grow and recycle trash into nutrients for plants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Evidence and Elaboration (4-point Rubric)</th>
<th>Conventions of Standard English (2-point Rubric begins at score point 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** – This response receives full credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4 points). The response focuses on the controlling idea that earthworms are important. The response includes transitions that help the reader progress from one idea to another. There is a strong organizational pattern that uses signal words to group similar ideas (first, next, as you can clearly see). The response includes an opening and concluding paragraph that identify the purpose of the task.

**Evidence and Elaboration** – This response receives full credit for Evidence and Elaboration (4 points). There is a clear explanation of why earthworms are important. The explanation is supported by details and quotes taken directly from the passages. Domain specific vocabulary (nutrients, recyclers) is used throughout the response. Sentence structure varies throughout the response.

**Conventions** – This response receives full credit for Conventions (2 points). The response shows a grade appropriate understanding of the basic conventions of standard English. Quotation marks are used to indicate direct quotes and there is effective use of end punctuation and commas.
Sample Response: 10 points

Earthworms are important to Earth in many ways. They help our environment grow and stay healthy. Worms are nature's recyclers.

Earthworms are important to Earth because they leave behind droppings called castings. Castings help plants grow because they create a rich topsoil. Therefore earthworms help the Earth because their droppings help plants grow. Another way earthworms help the Earth is because they eat dead and decaying things like leaves, grass, and garbage and turn them into nutrients for the plants. Therefore they are helping the Earth and the environment at the same time because eat thing like dead leaves and garbage will help our Earth stay clean. Another way that earthworms are important to the Earth is because they eat debris around the top of the top of the soil. Then they dig tunnels that help the Earth breath. Therefore they help the Earth breath and it helps water soak into the ground.

Earthworms play an important role in the cycle of our environment. They help the Earth stay healthy and clean. Worms are nature's recyclers.

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</table>

54 (2017)
Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** – This response receives full credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4 points). There is a clear understanding of purpose and task. The response has an introduction and conclusion that include the controlling idea (earthworms “help our environment grow and stay healthy”). While there are not transitions from one paragraph to another, there are clear transition signal words within the body paragraph (Therefore, Then).

**Evidence and Elaboration** – This response receives full credit for Evidence and Elaboration (4 points). A variety of sentence structures are used to support the controlling idea. The response integrates information from both passages to support the purpose of the task. Domain specific vocabulary is used throughout the response. While the elaboration is weak, it does not diminish the clarity of the evidence presented.

**Conventions** – This response receives full credit for Conventions (2 points). While there are several misspellings (tunal/tunnel, breath/breathe) and some agreement issues, the response shows an adequate understanding of the conventions of standard English.
**Sample Response: 9 points**

Earth worms can do a lot of things that are very interesting. Worms do things such as eating, helping the environment, and help plants grow. Here are some things that can help you learn more about earth worms. Earth worms can help the environment by digging tunnels. When the worms dig tunnels, it helps the soil breath. Worms have that interesting feature that helps our environment. The soil in the ground has to breath so we can grow crops. Another thing that earth worms do is eat. You may not know but worms have a mouth. They eat things such as dead leaves, grass, and garbage. Another thing that worms do is help the environment. Worms help the environment by taking care of the soil and getting rid of dead leaves and dead grass by eating it. Worms do an important part of keeping our world nice and clean. So if you ever see a worm, don’t smash it! Let it do it’s part at keeping our world nice and clean. Do you think worms are interesting and important?

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<td>3</td>
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</table>
Notes on Scoring

Purpose, Focus, and Organization - This response receives partial credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (3 points). There is a clearly stated controlling idea in the second sentence. The response remains focused on this idea throughout. This single paragraph shows an adequate organizational structure and includes a few sentences that introduce and conclude the response. Transitions are weakly incorporated; however, the ideas do progress within the paragraph.

Evidence and Elaboration - This response receives full credit for Evidence and Elaboration (4 points). Evidence to support the controlling idea is effectively integrated in this response. Information from both passages has been integrated to support the purpose. Sentences are varied and there is evidence of writer's craft in the closing 3 sentences. Domain specific vocabulary appropriate for the purpose is used in the response.

Conventions - This response receives full credit for Conventions (2 points). While there are a few misspellings (environment/environment; earth worms/earthworms), they do not impede the meaning of the response. There is an effective use of punctuation that includes the correct use of commas in a series.
Sample Response: 8 points

I think worms are very important to the Earth. First, worms are nature's recyclers. For example, they eat the litter we throw on the ground, dead leaves, and grass. Second, worms are a great source of food. For example, they are used for bait to tempt fish to eat it so the people can eat fish. Third, worms help the soil to be fertile. For example, they dig tunnels to help the soil "breathe" and change dead materials into nutrients and compost. In conclusion, worms have a noble purpose and job.

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<td>2</td>
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Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** - This response receives partial credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (3 points). There is a partially focused controlling idea that restates the prompt. Transition words are used (first, second, third) to move from one idea to another and help to organize this brief response. There is an introductory and concluding statement that frame the response. Some loosely related material is included.

**Evidence and Elaboration** - This response receives partial credit for Evidence and Elaboration (3 points). Information in the response is integrated from both passages. While there is some extraneous information (they eat the litter we throw on the ground/tempt fish to eat it so the people can eat fish) the evidence clearly supports the controlling idea. Ideas are adequately expressed; however, there is little elaboration present. There is minimal variation in sentence structure (worms are, worms are, worms help, worms have).

**Conventions** - This response receives full credit for Conventions (2 points). There are no patterns of errors in the response. Capitalization and punctuation are used adequately.
Sample Response: 7 points

In my opinion I think worms are gross ether way but I never realise how helpfull they are to the earth.

First, earthworms have a more importnt job then hanging on the end of a fishing line trying to catch fish. They shoud be out eating stuff like garbege and grass so that the can do there job. worms are nature's recyclers. They turn there own poop into recycle. Earthworms also have mouths. You can't tell when you look at them because you don't really even know wich end you are looking at but trust me it is there.

Next, earthworms should kept in the dark because it is kind of like they are nockerale but there not. Sometimes you can find earthworms in parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands. There can be up to as many as 6 million worms per acre. That could be as many acres as a big backyard.

Last, earthworms make it easier for theplantes to grow. Earthworms make it easier for the plants to grow because there little burrows halpwater go into the ground easier so the water can get to the plants a lot easier. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground.

Well all I have to say is that you can be scared of worms but if you see one then you shouldn't smash or kill it you should just leave it alone so that it can do it's job and help the earth.

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<td>1</td>
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Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** – This response receives partial credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (3 points). There is a clear controlling idea (how helpfull they are to the earth) that is maintained throughout. The response includes an introduction and a conclusion as well as transitions that help the reader progress from one idea to another. There is a significant amount of extraneous passage-based information that is unrelated to the purpose or task.

**Evidence and Elaboration** – This response receives partial credit for Evidence and Elaboration (3 points). Evidence is selected from both passages to support the controlling idea. Some elaborative techniques are used to expand on the evidence that is provided. Ideas are adequately expressed and there is evidence of some sentence variation. The response includes some references that are imprecise with relationship to the topic.

**Conventions** – This response receives partial credit for Conventions (1 point). There are a significant number of misspellings that can, at times, make meaning difficult (reelisde/realized; impontant/important; nockterale/nocturnal; plantes/plants). The response includes several run-on sentences (Will all I have to say is that you can be scared of worms but if you see one then you souldn’t smash it our kill it you should just leave it alone so that it can do it’s job and help the earth).
Sample Response: 6 points

Earthworms are very important to the world because they dig tunnels, which help water go in to soil and lets soil breathe. They eat debris that is lying on the ground. Their droppings create rich soil that plants enjoy. They change dead material such as plants and animals into nutrients. Just remember that earthworms are more than a fishing hook toy!

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Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** - This response receives partial credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (2 points). The controlling idea (Earthworms are very important to the world…) is adequately sustained. There are no transitions between ideas within the short response. While there appears to be an introductory sentence, there is no other indication of an organizational structure. The response does not have a concluding sentence or idea.

**Evidence and Elaboration** - This response receives partial credit for Evidence and Elaboration (2 points). The student has supported the controlling idea with details from the passages; however, there is no elaboration on any of those ideas. The response includes simple sentence constructions.

**Conventions** - This response receives full credit for Conventions (2 points). The brief response shows an understanding of the conventions of standard English. Sentences begin with a capital letter, end punctuation is used correctly and there are few misspellings.
Sample Response: 5 points

This passage will tell you about earthworms and why they are important. Earthworms are important because they help plants grow and make the healthy like trees and without trees we couldt breath and we could not survive. Also earthworms make holes in the soil so the soil can breath. You can also do cool things with earthworms like see them dig through the soil and even watch them grow! So if you ever see a earth worm outside dont smash it try to watch it do cool things or even do a experement like put it in a jar and watch it dig through tunles. That is some important things about earthworms cool right.

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<tbody>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** – This response receives partial credit in Purpose, Focus and Organization (2 points). The response includes a controlling idea (…tell you about Earth worms and why they are important) but includes a significant amount of extraneous information. There is a weak introduction and conclusion but no other evidence of an organizational structure.

**Evidence and Elaboration** – This response receives partial credit in Evidence and Elaboration (2 points). Evidence has been selected from the text but there is little elaboration on the details that are presented. The response includes evidence from Passage 2 that is unrelated to the task and purpose. There is some variety of sentence constructions, but only minimal inclusion of domain specific vocabulary.

**Conventions** – This response receives partial credit for Conventions (1 point). 2 of the 6 sentences in this brief response are run-on sentences. The response includes awkward grammatical constructions (…help plants grow and make the heathy like trees). Multiple misspellings are evident (passege/passage; coultd/couldn’t; survie/survive). However, meaning is not obstructed by these issues.
Sample Response: 3 points

Hello and I'm here to tell you about Earthworms! When these magic creatures do their business it all so helps the earth! Ok but let's start from the beginning. Ok but first did you know that worms have a mouth? Yes! You can't see it but it's there! And they LOVE to eat like me, ok let's get started now! These kind of worms like to eat debris yes! It listed as leaves, grass, garbage, dead stuff! Weird right! But cool! And when these little me's I mean worms are full they go find a good spot [like dirt] to poo at. Then they go in to your house and use your bathroom! No I'm kidding they help boost the soil to grow the grass. Well I got to go but remember DO NOT kill worms ok well my time's up bye!!

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Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** - This response receives partial credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (1 point). There is a controlling idea (im here to tell you about Earthworms) that is limited in its focus. There is minimal evidence of organization with a weak introduction and conclusion. The few transitions (but first, then) do not help the ideas progress through the response.

**Evidence and Elaboration** - This response receives partial credit for Evidence and Elaboration (1 point). The limited response includes minimal information from the first passage (These kind of worms like to eat debris yes!...they help boost the soil to grow the grass). Elaboration, when included, is weak and unfocused. Sentence structure is varied, but inconsistent.

**Conventions** - This response receives partial credit for Conventions (1 point). There are multiple instances of grammatical errors in the response (and they LOVE to eat like me ok lets get started now!). There is little understanding of capitalization; many of the sentences begin with lower case letters. Apostrophes are missing from possessives and contractions (im/lets/times). Multiple misspellings occur (being/beginning; crechers/creatures; there/their; all so/also) throughout the response.
Sample Response: 0 points

I think that worms are different skin and Some dig under the grandand have different home and sometime pepel go fishing

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Notes on Scoring

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** - This response receives no credit for Purpose, Focus, and Organization (0 points). This response has a vague controlling idea. While information about earthworms is included, it is unrelated to the purpose and the task. There is no evidence of organization in the limited response.

**Evidence and Elaboration** - This response receives no credit for Evidence and Elaboration (0 points). There is an attempted inclusion of evidence from the selection; however, it is unrelated to the task. The response includes no domain specific vocabulary and no elaboration.

**Conventions** - This response receives no credit for Conventions (0 points). There is no punctuation in the brief response. Multiple spelling errors of grade appropriate words are evident (different/different; grand/ground; pepel/people). The severe errors obstruct the meaning of the response.
Sample Response: 0 points

Earthworms are important because they help change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrients that help plants grow. Worms also dig tunnels in the ground, which helps the soil breathe. Worms also leave behind droppings called castings. Castings help plants to grow by creating a rich topsoil that plants like. Worms are nature’s recyclers. It’s hard to tell by looking at them, but worms have mouths. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage, and they love to eat. Worms are also a source of food for many other animals, birds, and reptiles.

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Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points) because there was not enough original student work in comparison to text directly copied from the prompt/passages.
Sample Response: 0 points

Earthworms look creepy and crawly but they are not. Worms help you catch fish when you are fishing. The worms tiny burrows help water to soak into the ground, making it easier for plants to grow. Worms also leave behind droppings called castings. Worms have more noble purpose than snagging some fish off the end of the dock. Worms are also a source of food for many other animals, birds, and reptiles. Anywhere food and moisture are in the ground, earthworms can be found. In some places, like parts of New Zealand and the Netherlands.

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Notes on Scoring

This response receives no credit (0 points) because there was not enough original student work in comparison to text directly copied from the prompt/passages.
Sample Response: 0 points

SLITHER, SQUIRM, EWW! A worm is here. Did you know worms are not just great dancers—they help the environment too. They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrient that helps the plant grow. Worms also dig tunnels in the ground, which helps the soil breathe. Worms are nature's recyclers. It's hard to tell by looking at them, but earthworms have mouths and love to eat. Earthworms eat dead and decaying matter like leaves, grass, and even garbage. Earthworms eat the debris lying near the top of the ground, then they dig into the dirt making small tunnels. These tiny burrows help water soak into the ground making it easier for plants to grow. This is actually what the purpose for worms.

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<tr>
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Notes on Scoring

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Earthworms are important because they help plants grow. They also make compost. They eat debris lying near the top of the ground. Anywhere food and moisture are in the ground, earthworms can be found. Worms dig tunnels in the ground. Worms leave behind droppings called castings. Castings help plants grow by creating a rich top soil that plants like. Worms are also a source of food for many other animals, birds, and reptiles.

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Earth worms are not only great dancers they are also important to the environment. They change the dead material from plants and animals into nutrient that help plants grow. Worms also dig tunnels in the ground, which help the soil breathe. Watch them shimmy through their tunnels by creating your very own worm world. Even creatures that seem scary or yucky play an important role in the natural cycle of our environment.

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