

Ohio's State Tests

**RELEASED ITEMS
PAPER TEST BOOKLET**

FALL 2017

**GRADE 3
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

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NOTE: The question numbers in this Released Items Paper Test Booklet match the question numbers in the corresponding Item Release Scoring Guide available on the portal and the item numbers in the Item Level Report in the Online Reporting System.

Directions:

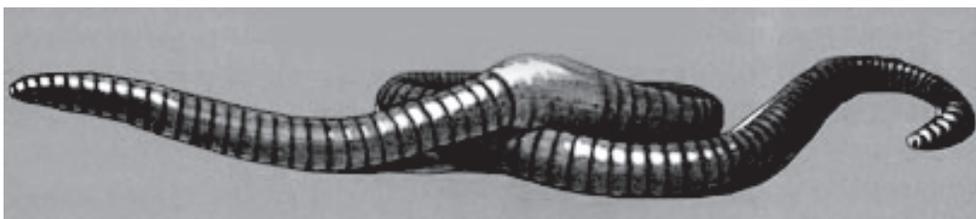
1. Read each question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they will help you understand the question. Then, choose or write the answer you think is best.
2. Use only a #2 pencil to answer questions on this test.
3. For questions with bubbled responses, fill in the circle next to your answer choice. If you change your answer, make sure you erase your old answer completely. Do not cross out or make any marks on the other choices.
4. For questions with response boxes, write your answer neatly, clearly and only in the space provided. Answers written outside of the space provided will not be scored.
5. If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on to the next question. If you have time, go back to the questions you skipped and try to answer them before turning in your Student Test Booklet.
6. Check over your work when you are finished.

Directions: Read the selection.

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!

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- 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

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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!

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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

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Directions: Use the selection to answer questions 7 – 14.

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?

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

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8. Fill in the bubble before 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)
9. Which statement describes the author’s point of view in Passage 2?
- Ⓐ Earthworms are good to have as pets.
- Ⓑ Building an earthworm farm is hard work.
- Ⓒ Keeping earthworms in a jar is dangerous.
- Ⓓ Watching earthworms dig tunnels is interesting.

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10. What information would you expect to find under the heading **What You'll Need** in Passage 2?

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

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

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
The earthworms leave the worm farm.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ
The worm farm goes into a dark place.	Ⓔ	Ⓕ	Ⓖ	Ⓗ
Food and water go into the worm farm.	Ⓘ	Ⓙ	Ⓚ	Ⓛ
Tunnels can be seen inside the worm farm.	Ⓜ	Ⓝ	Ⓞ	Ⓟ



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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?

- Ⓐ 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.

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Part B

Which details support the correct main idea in Part A? Fill in the bubbles before **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)



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13. Fill in the bubbles to show which information about tunnels is found in each passage.

	Passage 1	Both	Passage 2
Tunnels help soil to breathe.	(A)	(B)	(C)
Tunnels help water soak into the ground.	(D)	(E)	(F)
Tunnels make it easier for plants to grow.	(G)	(H)	(I)

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Writing Prompt

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 on the lines provided on the following pages.

**Do not write your answer here.
Go to the next page to write your answer.**

Go to the next page



Lined writing area with 25 horizontal lines.

Go to the next page 

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal lines for writing.

Go to the next page



Lined writing area for student response.

