



Texas Assessment Practice

ASSESS

Taking this practice test will help you assess your knowledge of these skills and determine your readiness for the Unit Test.

REVIEW

After you take the practice test, your teacher can help you identify any standards you need to review.



READING 1A Determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words. **1E** Use a dictionary to determine the meanings of words. **5B** Analyze how authors develop complex yet believable characters in works of fiction through a range of literary devices. **7** Explain the role of irony in literary texts. **10A** Analyze the relevance, quality, and credibility of evidence given to support or oppose an argument for a specific audience. **WRITING 13C** Revise drafts. **13D** Edit drafts for grammar, mechanics, and spelling. **ORAL AND WRITTEN CONVENTIONS 17C** Use a variety of correctly structured sentences. **19** Spell correctly.

For more practice, see **Texas Assessment Practice Workbook**.

DIRECTIONS Read the two selections and the viewing and representing piece. Then, answer the questions that follow.

The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind

by Ray Bradbury

- 1 “In the shape of a pig?” cried the Mandarin.¹
- 2 “In the shape of a pig,” said the messenger, and departed.
- 3 “Oh, what an evil day in an evil year,” cried the Mandarin. “The town of Kwan-Si, beyond the hill, was very small in my childhood. Now it has grown so large that at last they are building a wall.”
- 4 “But why should a wall two miles away make my good father sad and angry all within the hour?” asked his daughter quietly.
- 5 “They build their wall,” said the Mandarin, “in the shape of a pig! Do you see? Our own city wall is built in the shape of an orange. That pig will devour us, greedily!”
- 6 “Ah.”
- 7 They both sat thinking.
- 8 Life was full of symbols and omens.² Demons lurked everywhere, Death swam in the wetness of an eye, the turn of a gull’s wing meant rain, a fan held so, the tilt of a roof, and, yes, even a city wall was of immense importance. Travelers and tourists, caravans, musicians, artists, coming upon these two towns, equally judging the portents,³ would say, “The city shaped like an orange? No! I will enter the city shaped like a pig and prosper, eating all, growing fat with good luck and prosperity!”
- 9 The Mandarin wept. “All is lost! These symbols and signs terrify. Our city will come on evil days.”
- 10 “Then,” said the daughter, “call in your stonemasons⁴ and temple builders. I will whisper from behind the silken screen and you will know the words.”
- 11 The old man clapped his hands despairingly. “Ho, stonemasons! Ho, builders of towns and places!”

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1. **Mandarin** (măn’də rĭn) *n.*: high-ranking government official in the Chinese empire.
 2. **omens** (ō’mənz) *n.*: things or events believed to be signs of future occurrences.
 3. **portents** (pôr’tēnts) *n.*: things that warn of events about to occur.
 4. **stonemasons** (stōn mǎ’sənz) *n.*: people who build with stones.

Practice
Test



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KEYWORD: HML9-536

- 12 The men who knew marble and granite and onyx and quartz⁵ came quickly. The Mandarin faced them most uneasily, himself waiting for a whisper from the silken screen behind his throne. At last the whisper came.
- 13 “I have called you here,” said the whisper.
- 14 “I have called you here,” said the Mandarin aloud, “because our city is shaped like an orange, and the vile city of Kwan-Si has this day shaped theirs like a ravenous pig—”
- 15 Here the stonemasons groaned and wept. Death rattled his cane in the outer courtyard. Poverty made a sound like a wet cough in the shadows of the room.
- 16 “And so,” said the whisper, said the Mandarin, “you raisers of walls must go bearing trowels⁶ and rocks and change the shape of *our* city!”
- 17 The architects and masons gasped. The Mandarin himself gasped at what he had said. The whisper whispered. The Mandarin went on: “And you will change our walls into a club which may beat the pig and drive it off!”
- 18 The stonemasons rose up, shouting. Even the Mandarin, delighted at the words from his mouth, applauded, stood down from his throne. “Quick!” he cried. “To work!”
- 19 When his men had gone, smiling and bustling, the Mandarin turned with great love to the silken screen. “Daughter,” he whispered, “I will embrace you.” There was no reply. He stepped around the screen, and she was gone.
- 20 Such modesty, he thought. She has slipped away and left me with a triumph, as if it were mine.
- 21 The news spread through the city; the Mandarin was acclaimed. Everyone carried stone to the walls. Fireworks were set off and the demons of death and poverty did not linger, as all worked together. At the end of the month the wall had been changed. It was now a mighty bludgeon⁷ with which to drive pigs, boars, even lions, far away. The Mandarin slept like a happy fox every night.
- 22 “I would like to see the Mandarin of Kwan-Si when the news is learned. Such pandemonium⁸ and hysteria; he will likely throw himself from a mountain! A little more of that wine, oh Daughter-who-thinks-like-a-son.”
- 23 But the pleasure was like a winter flower; it died swiftly. That very afternoon the messenger rushed into the courtroom. “Oh Mandarin, disease, early sorrow, avalanches, grasshopper plagues, and poisoned well water!”

5. **marble and granite and onyx** (ŏn'ŭks) and **quartz** *n.*: high-quality stones.

6. **trowels** (trou'elz) *n.*: tools for laying plaster or mortar.

7. **bludgeon** (blŭj'en) *n.*: short club.

8. **pandemonium** (păn'de mō'nē əm) *n.*: great confusion; chaos.

- 24 The Mandarin trembled.
- 25 “The town of Kwan-Si,” said the messenger, “which was built like a pig and which animal we drove away by changing our walls to a mighty stick, has now turned triumph to winter ashes. They have built their city’s walls like a great bonfire to burn our stick!”
- 26 The Mandarin’s heart sickened within him, like an autumn fruit upon the ancient tree. “Oh, gods! Travelers will spurn⁹ us. Tradesmen, reading the symbols, will turn from the stick, so easily destroyed, to the fire, which conquers all!”
- 27 “No,” said a whisper like a snowflake from behind the silken screen.
- 28 “No,” said the startled Mandarin.
- 29 “Tell my stonemasons,” said the whisper that was a falling drop of rain, “to build our walls in the shape of a shining lake.”
- 30 The Mandarin said this aloud, his heart warmed.
- 31 “And with this lake of water,” said the whisper and the old man, “we will quench the fire and put it out forever!”
- 32 The city turned out in joy to learn that once again they had been saved by the magnificent Emperor of ideas. They ran to the walls and built them nearer to this new vision, singing, not as loudly as before, of course, for they were tired, and not as quickly, for since it had taken a month to rebuild the wall the first time, they had had to neglect business and crops and therefore were somewhat weaker and poorer.
- 33 There then followed a succession of horrible and wonderful days, one in another like a nest of frightening boxes.
- 34 “Oh, Emperor,” cried the messenger, “Kwan-Si has rebuilt their walls to resemble a mouth with which to drink all our lake!”
- 35 “Then,” said the Emperor, standing very close to his silken screen, “build our walls like a needle to sew up that mouth!”
- 36 “Emperor!” screamed the messenger. “They make their walls like a sword to break your needle!”
- 37 The Emperor held, trembling, to the silken screen. “Then shift the stones to form a scabbard to sheathe that sword!”¹⁰
- 38 “Mercy,” wept the messenger the following morn, “they have worked all night and shaped their walls like lightning which will explode and destroy that sheath!”
- 39 Sickness spread in the city like a pack of evil dogs. Shops closed. The population, working now steadily for endless months upon the changing of

9. **spurn** (spûrn) *v.*: reject someone or something for being unworthy; scorn.

10. **scabbard** . . . **sword** *n.*: a scabbard is a case for a sword’s blade. To sheathe a sword means to put it in a case.

the walls, resembled Death himself, clattering his white bones like musical instruments in the wind. Funerals began to appear in the streets, though it was the middle of summer, a time when all should be tending and harvesting. The Mandarin fell so ill that he had his bed drawn up by the silken screen and there he lay, miserably giving his architectural orders. The voice behind the screen was weak now, too, and faint, like the wind in the eaves.

40 “Kwan-Si is an eagle. Then our walls must be a net for that eagle. They are a sun to burn our net. Then we build a moon to eclipse their sun!”

41 Like a rusted machine, the city ground to a halt.

42 At last the whisper behind the screen cried out:

43 “In the name of the gods, send for Kwan-Si!”

44 Upon the last day of summer the Mandarin Kwan-Si, very ill and withered away, was carried into our Mandarin’s courtroom by four starving footmen.

The two mandarins were propped up, facing each other. Their breaths fluttered like winter winds in their mouths. A voice said:

45 “Let us put an end to this.”

46 The old men nodded.

47 “This cannot go on,” said the faint voice. “Our people do nothing but rebuild our cities to a different shape every day, every hour. They have no time to hunt, to fish, to love, to be good to their ancestors and their ancestors’ children.”

48 “This I admit,” said the mandarins of the towns of the Cage, the Moon, the Spear, the Fire, the Sword, and this, that, and other things.

49 “Carry us into the sunlight,” said the voice.

50 The old men were borne out under the sun and up a little hill. In the late summer breeze a few very thin children were flying dragon kites in all the colors of the sun, and frogs and grass, the color of the sea, and the color of coins and wheat.

51 The first Mandarin’s daughter stood by his bed.

52 “See,” she said.

53 “Those are nothing but kites,” said the two old men.

54 “But what is a kite on the ground?” she said. “It is nothing. What does it need to sustain it and make it beautiful and truly spiritual?”

55 “The wind, of course!” said the others.

56 “And what do the sky and the wind need to make *them* beautiful?”

57 “A kite, of course—many kites, to break the monotony, the sameness of the sky. Colored kites, flying!”

- 58 “So,” said the Mandarin’s daughter. “You, Kwan-Si, will make a last rebuilding of your town to resemble nothing more nor less than the wind. And we shall build like a golden kite. The wind will beautify the kite and carry it to wondrous heights. And the kite will break the sameness of the wind’s existence and give it purpose and meaning. One without the other is nothing. Together, all will be beauty and cooperation and a long and enduring life.”
- 59 Whereupon the two mandarins were so overjoyed that they took their first nourishment in days, momentarily were given strength, embraced, and lavished praise upon each other, called the Mandarin’s daughter a boy, a man, a stone pillar, a warrior, and a true and unforgettable son. Almost immediately they parted and hurried to their towns, calling out and singing, weakly but happily.
- 60 And so, in time, the towns became the Town of the Golden Kite and the Town of the Silver Wind. And harvestings were harvested and business tended again, and the flesh returned, and disease ran off like a frightened jackal. And on every night of the year the inhabitants of the Town of the Kite could hear the good clear wind sustaining them. And those in the Town of the Wind could hear the kite singing, whispering, rising, and beautifying them.
- 61 “So be it,” said the Mandarin in front of his silken screen.

The Arms Race

by Albert Einstein
from Einstein on Peace

Although the United States and the former Soviet Union were allies during World War II, they later became involved in a power struggle known as the Cold War. The two superpowers engaged in an arms race—a competition to develop more and more powerful nuclear weapons. In 1952, the United States successfully tested the first hydrogen bomb, a weapon much more powerful than the atomic bomb. In 1953, the Soviet Union exploded its own hydrogen bomb.

- 1 The belief that it is possible to achieve security through armaments on a national scale is, in the present state of military technology, a disastrous illusion. In the United States, this illusion has been strengthened by the fact that this country was the first to succeed in producing an atomic bomb. This is why people tended to believe that this country would be able to achieve permanent and decisive military superiority which, it was hoped, would deter any potential enemy and thus bring about the security, so intensely sought by us as well as by the rest of the world. The maxim we have followed these last five years has been, in short, security through superior force, whatever the cost.
- 2 This technological as well as psychological orientation in military policy has had its inevitable consequences. Every action related to foreign policy is governed by one single consideration: How should we act in order to achieve the utmost superiority over the enemy in the event of war? The answer has been: Outside the United States, we must establish military bases at every possible, strategically important point of the globe as well as arm and strengthen economically our potential allies. And inside the United States, tremendous financial power is being concentrated in the hands of the military; youth is being militarized; and the loyalty of citizens, particularly civil servants, is carefully supervised by a police force growing more powerful every day. People of independent political thought are harassed. The public is subtly indoctrinated by the radio, the press, the schools. Under the pressure of military secrecy, the range of public information is increasingly restricted.
- 3 The arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, initiated originally as a preventive measure, assumes hysterical proportions. On both sides, means of mass destruction are being perfected with feverish haste and behind walls of secrecy. And now the public has been advised that the production of the hydrogen bomb is the new goal which will probably be accomplished. An accelerated development toward this end has been solemnly proclaimed by the President. If these efforts should prove successful, radioactive poisoning of the atmosphere and, hence, annihilation¹ of all life on earth will have been brought within the range of what is technically

1. **annihilation** (ə nī'ə lā'shən) *n.*: absolute destruction.

possible. The weird aspect of this development lies in its apparently inexorable² character. Each step appears as the inevitable consequence of the one that went before. And at the end, looming ever clearer, lies general annihilation.

4 Is there any way out of this impasse³ created by man himself? All of us, and particularly those who are responsible for the policies of the United States and the Soviet Union, must realize that, although we have vanquished an external enemy,⁴ we have proved unable to free ourselves from the war mentality. We shall never achieve real peace as long as every step is taken with a possible future conflict in view, especially since it becomes ever clearer that such a war would spell universal annihilation. The guiding thought in all political action should therefore be: What can we do in the prevailing situation to bring about peaceful coexistence among all nations? The first goal must be to do away with mutual fear and distrust. Solemn renunciation of the policy of violence, not only with respect to weapons of mass destruction, is without doubt necessary. Such renunciation, however, will be effective only if a supranational judicial and executive agency is established at the same time, with power to settle questions of immediate concern to the security of nations. Even a declaration by a number of nations that they would collaborate loyally in the realization of such a “restricted world government” would considerably reduce the imminent danger of war.

5 In the last analysis the peaceful coexistence of peoples is primarily dependent upon mutual trust and, only secondarily, upon institutions such as courts of justice and the police. This holds true for nations as well as for individuals. And the basis of trust is a loyal relationship of give-and-take.

2. **inexorable** (ĩn  k’s r   b l) *adj.*: unable to be stopped.

3. **impasse** (ĩm’p s) *n.*: difficult situation or problem with no obvious solution.

4. **vanquished** (v ng’kwĩsht) **an external enemy** *v.*: defeated hostile relations. Einstein is referring to Germany, Japan, and their allies in World War II, which were defeated by the United States, Great Britain, and their allies.

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I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know:
the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who
have sought and found how to serve.

- Dr. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

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Reading Comprehension

Use “The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind” (pp. 536–540) to answer questions 1–13.

- 1 In paragraph 5, the author uses the pig-shaped wall to represent —
 A courage C greed
 B danger D wisdom
- 2 Which words from paragraph 8 help the reader understand the meaning of the word *caravan*?
 F travelers and tourists
 G good luck and prosperity
 H immense importance
 J the portents
- 3 What prompts the Mandarin to have the city wall rebuilt?
 A His city wall is crumbling and is in need of repair.
 B He likes the idea of rebuilding it in the shape of a different animal.
 C People in the community are complaining about the wall’s appearance.
 D He views the other city’s wall as more impressive than his city’s wall.
- 4 The word *ravenous* in paragraph 14 means —
 F extremely heavy H very thin
 G really hungry J somewhat birdlike
- 5 How does the Mandarin use his daughter’s advice?
 A He takes the advice but pretends it was his idea.
 B He thanks her but dismisses her advice.
 C He thinks it is good advice but isn’t the right advice.
 D He can’t accept her advice because she is not a man.
- 6 In paragraph 21, the author uses the word *fox* to show that the Mandarin is —
 F clever
 G evil
 H greedy
 J intelligent
- 7 What do the seasons fall and winter symbolize in the story?
 A new beginnings and life
 B sickness and death
 C power
 D immortality and good fortune
- 8 In what way is this story ironic?
 F The people know the shapes of the wall are not the Mandarin’s idea.
 G The people think the other kingdom won’t change the shape of its wall.
 H The Mandarin knows what the next shape of the wall will be.
 J The Mandarin doesn’t think the shape of the wall is important.
- 9 Read the following dictionary entry.

eclipse \ē klīps\ *n* **1.** the blockage of the light of the moon by the sun or the blocking of the light of the sun by the moon **2.** any blockage of light *v* **3.** to cause an eclipse **4.** to overshadow, hide from view

Which definition best fits the word *eclipse* as it is used in paragraph 40?

 A Definition 1
 B Definition 2
 C Definition 3
 D Definition 4

- 10 The author implies that the competition between the two kingdoms —

F will make the kingdoms stronger and more wealthy
G will never end and probably destroy each kingdom
H will unite the kingdoms into one large kingdom
J will have no effect

- 11 Which word from paragraph 57 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *monotony*?

A break
B colored
C flying
D sameness

- 12 The praises the Mandarins give the daughter in paragraph 59 suggest that in ancient China —

F women and men were treated equally
G men were more valued and respected than women
H there weren't any differences in gender roles
J women were more valued and respected than men

- 13 In paragraph 60, the author uses the word *flesh* to refer to —

A the townspeople
B the skin of an animal
C the fruit of the harvest
D renewed life

Use “The Arms Race” from *Einstein on Peace* (pp. 541–542) to answer questions 14–18.

- 14 The word *inevitable* in paragraph 2 means —

F totally defeated
G uncontrolled
H quick
J unavoidable

- 15 Paragraph 3 is mainly about —

A the destructive path both nations are pursuing
B different uses for the hydrogen bomb
C the President's desire to slow down the production of the hydrogen bomb
D the increased need for secrecy while developing the hydrogen bomb

- 16 Which word or phrase from paragraph 4 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word *renunciation*?

F universal annihilation
G peaceful coexistence
H achieve real peace
J do away with

- 17 What sort of tone does Einstein create?

A Fearful
B Humorous
C Mysterious
D Sentimental

- 18 The reader can conclude that Einstein was a —

F political leader
G peacemaker
H revolutionary
J soldier

Use “The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind” and “The Arms Race” to answer questions 19–20.

- 19 Which of the following themes do the selections share?
- A Pride versus patience
 - B Caution versus rashness
 - C Harmony versus discord
 - D Cooperation versus competition
- 20 Both pieces suggest that peaceful coexistence is based on —
- F mutual trust
 - G treaties
 - H alliances
 - J mutual suspicion

Use the visual representation to answer questions 21–22.

- 21 The main or central message of the poster is that —
- A together, you can help your community
 - B work can be fun
 - C you shouldn’t take work too seriously
 - D cooperation leads to peace
- 22 The designer probably chose to spell “you” as “U” in the slogan to —
- F repeat the shape of the recycling symbol
 - G emphasize the concept of service
 - H appeal to a teen audience using text messaging symbols
 - J save space and ink on the poster

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

Write a short response to each question, using text evidence to support your response.

- 23 “The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind” focuses on the conflict between two Mandarins (rulers) from neighboring kingdoms. How do the Mandarins resolve their conflict? Support your response with evidence from the selection.
- 24 Do you agree with Einstein’s views? Support your response with evidence from the selection.

Write a short response to this question, using text evidence from both selections to support your response.

- 25 How does the idea of cooperation apply to “The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind” and “The Arms Race”? Support your response with evidence from **both** selections.

Revising and Editing

DIRECTIONS Read this passage, and answer the questions that follow.

(1) Nadia walked down the street. (2) She heard a noise behind her. (3) She considers her options. (4) But it was dark now. (5) She was in an unfamiliar part of town. (6) She decided to run. (7) Suddenly, she felt hot breathe on the back of her leg. (8) She poised herself to kick. (9) She realized it was just a dog. (10) She wondered if she had really been so afraid of a friendly little beagle. (11) Had something else been behind her too?

- 1 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 1 and 2 into a complex sentence?
 - A Nadia walked down the street, she heard a noise behind her.
 - B Nadia walked down the street and heard a noise behind her.
 - C As Nadia walked down the street, she heard a noise behind her.
 - D Nadia walked down the street; also, she heard a noise behind her.
- 2 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?
 - F Change *considers* to **considered**
 - G Insert *one* after **her**
 - H Change *options* to **opts**
 - J Make no change
- 3 Where is the best place to insert the subordinate clause *because she had been visiting her cousin's new house*?
 - A At the beginning of the paragraph
 - B At the end of sentence 3
 - C At the end of sentence 5
 - D At the end of sentence 7
- 4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
 - F Change *back* to **backs**
 - G Insert comma after *breathe*
 - H Change *breathe* to **breath**
 - J Make no change
- 5 Which transitional word or phrase should be added to the beginning of sentence 9?

A At first,	C In fact,
B Finally,	D Then,
- 6 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 10 and 11 into a complex sentence?
 - F She had been afraid of a friendly little beagle; however, something else had been behind her too.
 - G Although she wondered if she had really been afraid of a friendly little beagle, perhaps something else had been behind her too.
 - H She wondered if she had really been afraid of a friendly little beagle, and if something else had been behind her too.
 - J Wondering if she had been afraid of a friendly little beagle, something else had been behind her too.

