

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS HS)

Reading and Writing

Released Items

November 15, 2007

AIMS Reading Released Items for 2007

As part of Superintendent Tom Horne's ongoing efforts to improve the communication of academic expectations, the Arizona Department of Education is releasing High School reading, writing, and mathematics items to the public. This release is intended to provide students, parents, teachers, and the community with specific examples of the types of skills being assessed on the AIMS tests. The release is divided into a writing/reading form and a mathematics form, similar to the AIMS test.

Included in this release is a previous prompt and directions used in the AIMS assessments. Following the writing prompt are two reading passages, directions, and the items associated with each passage in the form of a mini-test. These passages and items are from the 2002, 2005, and 2007 AIMS administrations. The final section will contain the individual items with the correct answers and statistical information about each item.

The mathematics section consists of a mini-test with thirty items from the 2002 through 2007 AIMS administrations, followed by the individual items and their statistics.

The statistical information provided includes:

- 1) item identification number;
- 2) correct answer;
- 3) response probability (P-Value), which represents the percentage of students who answered the question correctly;
- 4) Rasch difficulty, which measures the difficulty of the item on a scale in which -3 indicates a very easy item and +3 indicates an extremely difficult item; and
- 5) performance objective as the item aligns to the 2003 standards.

The items are reproductions of the actual items as they appeared on the AIMS tests. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Brashear, Director of Test & Item Development, at (602) 542-5031.

WRITING

WRITING

Writing

Directions:

Read the writing prompt below. Use the next page for your prewriting and planning. Then write your draft on pages 3 and 4.

You are responsible for hiring employees for a company. Fifty people have applied for one job opening.

Write an essay describing the qualities you are seeking in an ideal employee. Explain why these qualities are necessary for employment.

Your essay should:

- Include an introduction with a clearly-stated thesis.
- Be supported with details, facts, examples, or descriptions.
- Have an effective conclusion.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

Go On



Write your draft on the following lines. Refer to the writing prompt and your prewriting and planning space as you write your draft.

Draft

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WRITING

Draft

[illegible]

WRITING

Final Copy

DIRECTIONS:

Now you are going to revise your draft. Read your draft, then use the questions in the Writer's Checklist as a guide to make your changes. Check each box if you can answer "yes" to that question.

WRITER'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Does my paper have a specific audience and a specific purpose?
- ☐ Does my paper contain a strong controlling idea?
- ☐ Does my paper stay on topic?
- ☐ Does my paper include specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples?
- ☐ Does my paper have an effective beginning, middle, and end?
- ☐ Does my paper progress in a logical order, and do my ideas flow smoothly?
- ☐ Does my paper contain interesting audience appropriate vocabulary?
- ☐ Does my paper contain sentences that are clear and varied in structure?
- ☐ Does my paper include effective use of paragraphing?
- ☐ Does my paper include correct grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

DIRECTIONS:

For each box you did not check, make a change on your draft. Then write your final version in your answer document.

READING

Directions:

Read the warranty. Then answer Numbers 1 through 6.

R10T019
Warranty

Technical

WARRANTY

Welcome to the world of Masterpiece Video Games. We're sure that you will receive many hours of enjoyment from this CD. If you have any questions about how the game works, simply click on HELP on the menu bar or type ALT F on the keyboard.

If you have trouble starting or running the game, contact our product help line at (305) 555-9000. FAX: (305) 555-8000

Limited Warranty

Masterpiece warrants that the compact disk containing the software is recorded to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use for a period of 90 days from the date of receipt.

Masterpiece will replace your CD under the above conditions if you fill out and return the enclosed registration form. To exchange your CD within 30 days of purchase, return it to the place of purchase. After 30 days, but before the 90-day limit, send your CD to Masterpiece, P.O. Box 1911, Miami, FL 33114.

Masterpiece's liability is limited to either return of price paid or repair/replacement of the CD, which is returned to Masterpiece at your expense along with a copy of your purchase receipt. This Limited Warranty is void if the CD fails due to abuse, misuse, or accident.

A replacement CD will be under warranty for the remainder of the original warranty period or 30 days, whichever is longer.

Copyright

This software is owned by Masterpiece and protected under U.S. copyright laws and international treaty provisions. You are allowed to make one copy of the software for backup or archival purposes or to transfer the software to a hard disk, provided it is used solely for backup or archiving. The written material that comes with the software may not be copied.

Go On 

1. What is the primary purpose of the warranty?

- A** It explains the replacement policy for a defective CD.
- B** It instructs the user on the operation of the video game.
- C** It teaches the user shortcuts to open the video game.
- D** It informs the purchaser of copyright law.

2. What could the author do to make the warranty easier to read and understand?

- A** Include a diagram to illustrate important points.
- B** Use bullets to highlight key information.
- C** Add a picture of the CD.
- D** Delete the information on copyright laws.

3. Which of the following is **not** a step you must take to return a defective CD within the warranty period?

- A** Return the registration form.
- B** Call the product help line.
- C** Include a copy of the purchase receipt.
- D** Pay the postage.

4. If the CD fails 60 days after purchase, what action should you take?


- A** Return the CD to the store where it was purchased.
- B** Send the CD to Masterpiece Video.
- C** Call the product help line.
- D** Take no action; the warranty has lapsed.

5. What information is **not** clearly explained in the warranty?

- A** how to return the CD without a receipt
- B** which items must be included when returning the CD
- C** the address of Masterpiece Video Games
- D** the law regarding copying the CD

6. If you receive a replacement CD 82 days after your original purchase, how many days of warranty does the replacement CD have?

- A** 8 days
- B** 30 days
- C** 82 days
- D** 90 days

Go On 

Directions:

Read the folktale and poem. Then answer Numbers 7 through 11.

How the Birch Tree Came to Be: A Native American Folktale

In a time long ago, before stories and events were written, a winter came upon the people of the North that was more severe than any that had come before. Indeed, even the elders had neither seen nor heard of a season so consistently brutal in its onslaught. The local populations of wild game had almost disappeared, and the tribes were famished. It was decided that Akra, the strongest and wisest of the men, would venture far into the outlying forests in hope of procuring whatever game still existed.

On the morning that Akra began his trek, the sun rose behind a gray blanket of clouds that had been in the sky for months. The faint, yellow disc was the only beacon Akra could discern in the otherwise bleached- white landscape. By late afternoon, Akra had arrived in a distant forest unknown to him. The uniformity of the trees, one- hundred-foot pines rising straight up out of a smooth ocean of snow, disoriented him. Each direction Akra turned looked the same—pine next to pine, dark trunk next to dark trunk. All blended together until Akra realized he was lost and had little hope of navigating home, let alone hunting any food. He could not follow his tracks, as they had all been covered by the continuing snow.

Soon, the last glimmer of gray, winter light abandoned the sky, and Akra was completely isolated in the remote wilderness. He searched the dark sky for the moon, but


even its bright light could not penetrate the layered fortress of winter clouds. It was then that Akra began to remember the stories he had heard as a child. The elders of the tribe had told of others who had been faced with extreme adversity and who had made a prayer, deep within themselves, for help. Although it seemed that nothing short of a miracle would save him, Akra settled down against the trunk of one of the old pines and began to whisper:

*spirit of the forest,
spirit of the sky,
I have wandered beyond where I can see,
please help me, please help me*

Over and over again, Akra chanted these words to himself until he became so fatigued he could no longer stay awake. . . .

When Akra awoke with the first crack of thunder, he wasn't sure how long he had slept. Blinding streaks of lightning now illuminated the dark, winter sky, forking and bolting to the ground. The entire forest came alive with the dancing bolts. Akra had never seen such a storm in the middle of winter; it confused and frightened him. The storm lasted for nearly three hours and was unrelenting in its ferocity.

When it finally abated, Akra found himself in a forest far different from the one he remembered. Bright, white-barked trees now stood among the shadowy pines.

Go On 

Akra moved closer to one of the new trees. It looked like one of the forked bolts of lightning he had just seen streaking down from the sky. Black streaks appeared at various places along the bark, as if marking where the lightning had burned the trunk. It was then that Akra realized the moon had poked its head from behind the clouds and was reflecting its

light off the white trees. Instinctively, Akra followed a path laid out by the new trees. Along the way, he encountered enough wild game to feed all of his people and, by dawn, had followed the last bright tree all the way back to his village. His prayer had been answered.

The Native Land

The land is laid out like a great book.

Withered summer meadow grass,
Shallow granite pool of rain,
Desert dust and crystal sand,
Jagged mountain cliff-face wall.

A wise person can read every page.

Every stone and spear of grass,
Every leaf and drop of rain,
Every grain of crystal sand,
Every shadowed canyon wall


Speaks, to one with wisdom, an ancient story.

For within the land lie the bones of the giant animals that once roamed the Earth.
For within the land lie the fibers of the great plants that once sprouted from the Earth. For within the land lie the solid fires that once blazed forth from the Earth.
For within the land lie the tears that once fell from the sky above the Earth.

One who is wise touches all things like a gentle wind.

Today we may look upon the houses.
Today we may look upon the fences.
Today we may look upon the roads.
Today we may look upon the wires.

The land is wise, and we may look upon it, for it will teach us how to live tomorrow.

Go On 

7. Based on its root word, what is the meaning of ferocity?

- A** duration
- B** frequency
- C** fierceness
- D** brightness

8. The speaker in “The Native Land” compares all of nature to a book. Which of these statements about Nature is implied in this comparison?

- A** It requires a specialized vocabulary.
- B** It can be read by anyone.
- C** It can teach us lessons.
- D** It is closed and hidden.

9. In the first paragraph, what does onslaught mean?

- A** visit
- B** attack
- C** repetition
- D** purpose

10. Which of these lines from the poem **most directly** states its theme?

- A** A wise person can read every page.
- B** For within the land lie the bones of the giant animals that once roamed the earth.
- C** Today we may look upon the houses.
- D** Land is wise, and we may look upon it, for it will teach us how to live tomorrow.

11. Both the folktale and the poem illustrate which of these?

- A** the search for answers in nature
- B** the desire to control nature
- C** the defiance of nature
- D** the fear of nature



AIMS Reading Released Items for 2007

Item	Reading Item Data							
1								
	Item Number	2019565	Correct Answer	A	P-Value	.87	Equated Rasch Value	-0.3019
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 3 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 6							
	<p>What is the primary purpose of the warranty?</p> <p>A It explains the replacement policy for a defective CD.</p> <p>B It instructs the user on the operation of the video game.</p> <p>C It teaches the user shortcuts to open the video game.</p> <p>D It informs the purchaser of copyright law.</p>							
2								
	Item Number	2019567	Correct Answer	B	P-Value	.78	Equated Rasch Value	-0.6753
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 3 – Concept 2 – Performance Objective 3							
	<p>What could the author do to make the warranty easier to read and understand?</p> <p>A Include a diagram to illustrate important points.</p> <p>B Use bullets to highlight key information.</p> <p>C Add a picture of the CD.</p> <p>D Delete the information on copyright laws.</p>							
3								
	Item Number	2019564	Correct Answer	B	P-Value	.43	Equated Rasch Value	1.3721
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 3 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 3							
	<p>Which of the following is not a step you must take to return a defective CD within the warranty period?</p> <p>A Return the registration form.</p> <p>B Call the product help line.</p> <p>C Include a copy of the purchase receipt.</p> <p>D Pay the postage.</p>							

4	Reading Item Data							
	Item Number	2019562	Correct Answer	B	P-Value	.76	Equated Rasch Value	-0.3085
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 3 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 3							
<p>If the CD fails 60 days after purchase, what action should you take?</p> <p>A Return the CD to the store where it was purchased.</p> <p>B Send the CD to Masterpiece Video.</p> <p>C Call the product help line.</p> <p>D Take no action; the warranty has lapsed.</p>								
Item	Reading Item Data							
5	Reading Item Data							
	Item Number	2019566	Correct Answer	A	P-Value	.62	Equated Rasch Value	0.4974
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 3 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 8							
<p>What information is not clearly explained in the warranty?</p> <p>A how to return the CD without a receipt</p> <p>B which items must be included when returning the CD</p> <p>C the address of Masterpiece Video Games</p> <p>D the law regarding copying the CD</p>								
6	Reading Item Data							
	Item Number	2019563	Correct Answer	B	P-Value	.57	Equated Rasch Value	0.6688
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 3 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 3							
<p>If you receive a replacement CD 82 days after your original purchase, how many days of warranty does the replacement CD have?</p> <p>A 8 days</p> <p>B 30 days</p> <p>C 82 days</p> <p>D 90 days</p>								

7

Reading Item Data							
Item Number	3146813	Correct Answer	C	P-Value	.7367	Equated Rasch Value	-0.5977
2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 1 – Concept 4 – Performance Objective 1							

Based on its root word, what is the meaning of ferocity?

A duration

B frequency

C fierceness

D brightness

8

Reading Item Data							
Item Number	3146800	Correct Answer	C	P-Value	.5992	Equated Rasch Value	0.3847
2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 2 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 2							

The speaker in “The Native Land” compares all of nature to a book. Which of these statements about Nature is implied in this comparison?

A It requires a specialized vocabulary.

B It can be read by anyone.

C It can teach us lessons.

D It is closed and hidden.

9

Reading Item Data							
Item Number	3146814	Correct Answer	B	P-Value	.525	Equated Rasch Value	1.2759
2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 1 – Concept 4 – Performance Objective 2							

In the first paragraph, what does onslaught mean?

A visit

B attack

C repetition

D purpose

10	Reading Item Data							
	Item Number	3146805	Correct Answer	D	P-Value	.7856	Equated Rasch Value	-0.8978
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 2 – Concept 1 – Performance Objective 1							
<p>Which of these lines from the poem most directly states its theme?</p> <p>A A wise person can read every page.</p> <p>B For within the land lie the bones of the giant animals that once roamed the earth.</p> <p>C Today we may look upon the houses.</p> <p>D land is wise, and we may look upon it, for it will teach us how to live tomorrow.</p>								
11	Reading Item Data							
	Item Number	3146801	Correct Answer	A	P-Value	.6184	Equated Rasch Value	0.1599
	2003 Reading Standard Alignment is Strand 2 – Concept 2 – Performance Objective 3							
<p>Both the folktale and the poem illustrate which of these?</p> <p>A the search for answers in nature</p> <p>B the desire to control nature</p> <p>C the defiance of nature</p> <p>D the fear of nature</p>								