

AIMS Grade 7 Writing Sample Test and Think-Throughs

Grade 7

Introduction	p. 2
Sample Writing Test	pp. 3-7
Answer Key	p. 8
Think-Throughs	pp. 8-11
Exemplars & Annotations	pp. 12-18



Arizona Department of Education

Assessment Section

Arizona Department of Education

1535 West Jefferson Street, Bin #6

Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment: Roberta Alley

Tel: (602) 542-5031

Fax: (602) 542-5467

Testing Inquiries:

Testing@azed.gov

Introduction

AIMS sample tests are provided to give students experience in taking AIMS. The tests are not meant to be practice tests, but they offer a sample of the kinds of questions students will find on AIMS. The best way to make sure you have the knowledge necessary to Meet and Exceed on AIMS is to be in class, be prepared, and be on time to class each day. Learning in class and through completing homework is the basis of meeting proficiency on AIMS.

It is understandable that sometimes students get nervous when taking tests. They may need some help with test-taking strategies. In this document, you will not only be able to take an AIMS sample test for writing, but you will also find that some of the items have explanations of the process used for answering them. This will help you think through the items, just like you do in class. There are also two AIMS Writing responses with explanations of why they received the scores they have.

As you go through the sample test, please remember a few important facts.

- The AIMS Writing Sample Tests follow the AIMS Writing Blueprint for the 2004 Writing Academic Standards, but only represent one-third the number of items that are on the actual AIMS 3-8 and AIMS HS assessments.
- The best way to study for AIMS is to be sure you know and are able to do the grade-level performance objectives in each content area tested. Your teacher creates your lessons based on all of these grade-level writing standards.
- The activities contained in this document will give you experience in taking AIMS. It is not a practice test. Practice by completing the assignments your teacher gives you.
- Work through the sample test as if you were taking AIMS so you experience answering items in a test-like setting. Don't use support materials that are not allowed when taking AIMS.

When you look at answers for the sample items, you will also see the Strand, Concept, and Performance Objective that is being measured listed on the Answer Key. This is listed so you can see how it connects to the lessons your teacher creates from the Arizona Academic Standards. Read through the sample Think-Throughs and see how your thoughts and answers compare to the examples offered here.

The guide will help you make better response choices based on the knowledge that mastery of the grade-level standard provides.

Good luck and have fun!

AIMS Grade 7 Writing Sample Test

Writing Sample Test

Grade 7

Directions: Read the paragraph and then answer Numbers 1 through 4.

(1) A healthy life is about more than just eating the right foods and exercising. (2) Eating plenty of vegetables and avoiding junk food is good advice. (3) Along with sensible diet and exercise, getting the right amount of sleep is also very important. (4) Many teens do not get this recommended amount of sleep. (5) Depriving the body of sleep will cause health issues. (6) It also makes concentration in school more difficult.

1 Read the sentence.

Teens need at least 9 hours of sleep each night.

What is the **best** place for this sentence?

- A** directly after sentence 2
 - B** directly before sentence 4
 - C** between sentences 4 and 5
 - D** between sentences 5 and 6
- 2** Which word is misspelled in the paragraph?
- A** concentration
 - B** depriving
 - C** exercising
 - D** recommended
- 3** Which sentence **best** provides closure to the paragraph?
- A** To be healthy you must eat all the right foods.
 - B** Eating right and exercising will make you sleepy at school.
 - C** Teens should try to eat right, exercise, and get plenty of sleep.
 - D** Depriving yourself of sleep will cause you to get bad grades in school.

Go On 

4 Which sentence adds clarifying explanation between sentences 2 and 3?

- A Fad diets and fasting will make you lose weight quickly.
- B Participating in sports is one convenient way to exercise.
- C Running to school each day will not make you lose weight.
- D Eating balanced meals with lots of vegetables is important.

Directions: Read the paragraph and answer Numbers 5 and 6.

(1) Playing an instrument results in more than making beautiful music. (2) Learning to read music stimulates the brain. (3) Reading music is a problem-solving activity. (4) Eye-hand coordination improves as the musician becomes more adept at playing the instrument of choice. (5) Solo performing builds confidence. (6) Performing in a group develops the ability to work with others toward a common goal. (7) More than just a hobby, mastering a musical instrument enrich many aspects of life.

5 Read the sentence.

It provides a variety of outcomes while producing melodies for the ears.

What is the **best** place to put this sentence?

- A between sentences 4 and 5
- B between sentences 5 and 6
- C immediately after sentence 1
- D immediately before sentence 4

6 What is the **best** way to correct sentence 7?

- A More than just a hobby, mastering a musical instrument enriching many aspects of life.
- B More than just a hobby, mastering a musical instrument enriched many aspects of life.
- C More than just a hobby, mastering a musical instrument enriches many aspects of life.
- D correct as is

Go On 

Directions: Now read and answer numbers 7 through 9.

7 Read the sentences.

The movies playing this week are all comedies.

Comedies are my least favorite kind of movies.

I plan to go to the movies on Saturday.

What is the **best** way to combine these sentences?

- A** Only my least favorite kind of movies, comedies, is playing this week, I plan to go on Saturday.
- B** Although only my least favorite kind of movie, comedies, is playing this week, I plan to go to the movies Saturday.
- C** The movies playing this week are comedies, they are my least favorite kind of movie, and I plan to go on Saturday.
- D** I plan to go to the movies on Saturday and my least favorite movies are comedies and that is all that is playing this week.

8 Read the sentence.

Chris runs to practice to avoid being late.

What is the **best** replacement for runs?

- A** jogs
- B** meanders
- C** paces
- D** sprints

Go On 

9 You are writing a memo to your boss asking for a vacation day. What is the **best** sentence to include in your memo?

- A** I'm taking next Friday off for a vacation day.
- B** BTW next Friday will be a vacation day for me.
- C** I would like to take next Friday as a vacation day.
- D** My next vacation day will be on Friday of next week.



Grade 7 AIMS Sample Writing Test Answer Key

The Answer Key shows you the Strand, Concept, and Performance Objective that each item is addressing. This will help you and your teacher to identify which Concepts from the Arizona Academic Writing Standard that you may need to study more.

1	2.2.3	B
2	2.6.7	D
3	2.2.6	C
4	2.1.3	B
5	2.2.3	C
6	2.6.13	C
7	2.5.1	B
8	2.4.3	D
9	2.3.1	C

AIMS Grade 7 Writing Think-Throughs

The items on the next few pages are from the sample test you just finished. They have been worked out for you to show the thought process behind finding the answers.

As you go through them, see how your thoughts compare to the ones given. Not every item from the sample test will be shown in this same way.

The number for each item matches the same number that is in the sample test. This way, if you got the item incorrect, you can compare your answers and go back to see what you may have done differently.

Then, after the Think-Through items, you will find an exemplar paper at score point 4 and one at score point 6. Study these papers and the annotations that go with each. If you want to look at more exemplar papers, ask your teacher for the web address where other annotated papers for your grade level are posted.

Selected Items with Think-Throughs

4 Which sentence adds clarifying explanation between sentences 2 and 3?

To choose the sentence that adds “clarifying explanation” between two other sentences, I need to understand how sentences 2 and 3 are related.

Sentence 2 is about eating vegetables and not eating junk food. Sentence 3 is about getting enough sleep. The beginning of sentence 3 is “Along with sensible diet and exercise.” This is a transition, so it should give me a clue to help me choose the right sentence to add.

Answer A is about fad diets and fasting as a quick way to lose weight. This could be related to “junk food” in sentence 2. And this new sentence does fit somewhat with the transition “Along with sensible diet and exercise” in sentence 3, but “Fad diets and fasting” are not sensible. I need to look at the other answers before I make a choice.

Answer B doesn’t seem to relate to sentence 2 because it tells about exercise and doesn’t mention food. But it does fit with the transition “Along with sensible diet and exercise” from sentence 3, so it could be the right answer. Since sleep is a new idea that goes with diet and exercise, I think this is the right answer. Just to be sure, I will read the next two answers.

Answer C is about one type of exercise, running. But it is also about losing weight and the paragraph is not about losing weight, it is about a “sensible diet.” I can eliminate this answer and read on to the last answer.

Answer D is about eating balanced meals with vegetables. It will fit between sentences 2 and 3 and follows sentence 2 really well. But the transition in sentence 3 says “Along with diet and exercise.” This means there has to be at least two ideas before sentence 3. Exercising is introduced in sentence 1, but it isn’t mentioned again until sentence 3. Eating the right foods is in sentence 1, too. Sentence 2 tells more about eating right. Answer D is telling about vegetables again and it isn’t new information. I don’t think this sentence has “clarifying explanation.”

So I think that the new sentence has to be Answer B because it does tell about exercising, and it fits with the transition in sentence 3. **Answer B is the best choice.**

When I chose a correct answer, I had to be sure that I read all the answers first. If I had chosen the first answer that seemed to be true, I may not have chosen the best answer. If D was the first choice, I might have chosen it without reading the other three choices. Then I would have been wrong and missed the right answer because I didn’t read them all.

5 Read the sentence.

It provides a variety of outcomes while producing melodies for the ears.

What is the **best** place to put this sentence?

I read the paragraph and know that it is about how playing a musical instrument helps you with other skills besides just being able to play the instrument. I will read the answers and place the sentence in each of the places to see where it fits the best.

Answer A says to place the new sentence between sentences 4 and 5. I can understand that sentence 4 is an outcome. I read sentence 5 and find that it is also an outcome. Since sentences 4 and 5 are both specific outcomes of playing an instrument, a new sentence introducing a “variety of outcomes” makes more sense if it comes before these two sentences.

Answer B says between sentences 5 and 6. Again, I know that sentence 5 is an outcome and after reading sentence 6, I know that it is an outcome, too. This answer is not correct for the same reason answer A isn’t correct.

Answer C says to put it immediately after sentence 1. This really does look like the right place for it. The new sentence is introducing the idea that playing an instrument has a “variety of outcomes.” I think this is right. But to be safe, I will eliminate the other answers before I choose C.

Answer D says immediately before sentence 4. Sentence 4 is about eye-hand coordination. This is an outcome of playing an instrument. To eliminate this answer, I have to be sure that the new sentence won’t work before sentence 4. If I look at sentence 3, I see that it is also about an outcome. It wouldn’t make sense to list an outcome before the idea of “variety of outcomes” is introduced. I still think C is the right answer.

I was right when I thought **Answer C** was correct. But now I am certain because I eliminated the other 3 choices.

8 Read the sentence.

Chris runs to practice to avoid being late.

What is the **best** replacement for runs?

This question is asking me to replace one word with a different word. When I see the boldfaced word “best,” I know that some of the choices may be correct or partially correct, but not the absolute best replacement for runs. I know that runs is a verb, so I will first check to see if all the answer choices are verbs. Yes, they are all verbs, so I will read the sentence four times, replacing the word runs with a different answer choice each time. That should help me choose the right answer.

Answer A is jogs. “Chris jogs to practice to avoid being late.” The word jogs fits and makes sense, except that if I were late, I think I would go at a faster speed than jogging. While jogging is running, it is a slow way of running.

Answer B is meanders. “Chris meanders to practice to avoid being late.” Again, the word fits in the sentence, but I know that meanders is walking slowly without caring about time. If I don’t want to be late, I will move faster than a meander.

Answer C is paces. “Chris paces to practice to avoid being late.” The word fits, but paces is more like a back and forth type of walking, not rushing so I am not late. You can also run at a certain pace, but nothing tells me if the pace is quick or slow.

Answer D is sprints. “Chris sprints to practice to avoid being late.” If I thought I was going to be late, I would sprint. This verb means to run very quickly for a short period of time. Yes, I am sure that **Answer D is correct.**

Extended AIMS Writing Response

On the next few pages, you will find student writing samples that have been scored with the AIMS Holistic Rubric Based on 6 Traits. There are also annotations, or explanations, that tell why the paper earned the score it has been given. Read the papers and the annotations to understand the qualities that a score point 4 paper (Meets) and a score point 6 paper (Exceeds) have.

Prompt Grade 7

Schools have many rules. Think of three rules at your school.

Write an essay in which you explain the reason these three rules are important.

Read the score point 4 and score point 6 papers on the next pages. The papers are followed with an explanation of the skills that are shown in each.

Grade 7 Student paper scored with the Holistic Rubric Based on 6 Traits

Score Point 4

Final Copy

There are many important rules in order for schools to be safe. Schools would be way out of hand if there weren't any rules. Students wouldn't want to come to school because they wouldn't feel safe. If there were no rules students would be getting into fights, and maybe even bringing weapons to school. Schools have rules to ensure that all students feel and are safe at school. The three most important rules at school are no weapons, no fighting, and no cheating.

First, no cheating is an important rule that all schools have. This rule is important because students should do their own work and if they get caught they could get suspended or even expelled. I don't think getting a good grade is worth taking the chance of getting suspended. Second, no weapons is the most important rule that our school has. This rule is important because it keeps our school safe. Also the officer on campus helps with the problems of weapons. Weapons are the most dangerous thing that anyone can bring on campus because it can injure or even kill the students involved. Finally, no fighting is the next important rule.

Final Copy

When students get into a fight it may be because of their problems, but it is also because of the other kids around them that cause them to fight. It is not worth getting suspended over a fight.

In conclusion, no fighting, no cheating, and no weapons are the three most important rules. The schools enforce these rules to ensure that all students are and feel safe in their school. Without these rules schools would not be as safe as they are today.

Grade 7 Score Point 4, page 3

The writer has organized the ideas very well in this response. From the strong recognizable beginning to the strong conclusion, the reader can follow the ideas easily. The introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs adequately organize the response. Organization is this writer's strength, although the transitions are formulaic (First, Second, Finally) which does affect the score.

The development of the clearly stated ideas is adequate and offers relevant details. "This rule is important because students should do their own work and if they get caught they could get suspended or even expelled." "Also the officer on campus helps with the problems of weapons." "When students get into a fight it may be because of these problems, but it is also because of the other kids around them that cause them to fight." Each of these details supports the ideas, but they are general and limited. It would be better if the reader knew a bit more specific information about cheating, knew how the officer on campus helps with weapons, and knew how other kids cause fights.

Words, phrases, and sentences are effective and do occasionally show interaction between the writer and reader: "I don't think getting a good grade is worth taking the chance of getting suspended." There is good control of sentence structure with a variety of beginnings and lengths to create a smooth flow in the writing. "If there were no rules students would be getting into fights, and maybe even bringing weapons to school. Schools have rules to ensure that all students feel and are safe at school."

This student has control of basic conventions with a few exceptions. Some internal commas are not used correctly (see the sentence above "If there were no . . .") where a comma is placed incorrectly after "fights." Also, the writer uses the incorrect "there" for the pronoun "their." These are minor errors that are easily overlooked when reading the paper.

Grade 7 Student paper scored with the Holistic Rubric Based on 6 Traits

Score Point 6

Final Copy

School Rules

Schools' have many rules, some might say schools have too many rules or not enough. I for one do agree that some schools have too many rules. But I also think that a good school could not work properly without them. In my school we have multiple rules, but I like to remember three that I think are very important and without them school wouldn't run properly. Coming to school on time, respecting school property, and respecting teachers and other students. Without these rules school could be a mess.

When you have a job you are expected to be there at a certain time, when you aren't there it's taken out of your paycheck and if you are tardy a number of times eventually you will get fired. I believe it is the same when attending school. It's important to come to school on time because when you are late you are taking away from your learning time. If you are late to class you could miss out on many things like schoolwork, homework, test or quizzes, and any information that you might need. When you don't do schoolwork or when you are not informed there was homework it could affect your grade drastically. And you might not be ready for a test or pop quiz. Being late to school is probably not a good thing to do because it can hurt your grade and it is also embarrassing when you walk in a classroom and everybody is getting their work except you because you don't know what to do.

At most peoples' houses they don't stick gum on their furniture or write on their walls on purpose. So why would people want that at school if they spend a big part of their day there. It's important to respect school property because other people pay for it so we could have a better learning environment. If we destroy the things help us learn then we are not being thankful. We should also take care of our

Final Copy

property because other students will have to use it too and they probably don't want writing all over their books and gum under their desks. We should take care of our furniture, books, and other school property because this is what will help us have better lives in the future.

When I was in kindergarten they taught me a rule that is important to me because it's something that most people should follow. Treat people the way you want to be treated. To me this means to treat people the way you want to be treated so you should treat them respectfully. In school this means to show respect to teachers and other students. We should respect teachers because without them we couldn't move on to the next grade, so it wouldn't be fair to treat them disrespectfully. We should also respect other students because we have to be around them for a long time and if we don't try to be respectful then everybody would want to get in fights and wouldn't want to be around each other.

Those are the rules that I think are the most important to a school. 1) coming to school on time 2) Respecting school property and 3) Respecting teachers and other students. I believe that without these rules then people would come to school and not to be serious about learning.

Grade 7 Score Point 6, page 3

This writer demonstrates exceptional control of the stated topic: school could not work properly without rules. The ideas are clearly presented and the development is focused throughout and insightful. The writer compares rules with real-life situations outside of school, an effective way to give the reader insight into why these rules are important not only for school but for the reader's future. "When you have a job you are expected to be there at a certain time. When you aren't there it's taken out of your paycheck and if you are tardy a number of times eventually you will get fired. I believe it is the same when attending school."

The specific details continue to offer insight: "At most peoples' houses they don't stick gum on their furniture or write on their walls on purpose. So why would people want that at school if they spend a big part of their day there." And the mention of learning rules in kindergarten gives the reader insight that these rules are nothing more than social rules for life: "Treat people the way you want to be treated."

The organization of this paper is skillfully done. The writer has avoided the formulaic style by using creative transitioning between paragraphs. "When you have a job," "At most peoples' houses," "When I was," and "those are the rules."

Words, phrases, and sentences are carefully chosen and enhance the meaning of the message. "We should take care of our furniture, books, and other school property because this is what will help us have better lives in the future." "I believe that without these rules then people would come to school and not to be serious about learning."

The writer demonstrates control of conventions but does have some problems. These may be because of not paying attention to the sentences when copying from the rough draft to the final draft. "If we destroy the things help us learn then we are not being thankfull." The errors are not distracting, but the writer should take more care in proofreading to eliminate them. Exploring a wider range of convention use will also help this writer to continue to excel in writing.