



National Center and State Collaborative

NCSC AA-AAS

Directions for Test Administration English Language Arts- Reading Grade 8 Sample Items

(page is intentionally blank)

Table of Contents

	Page
<i>Purpose</i>	1
<i>Directions</i>	1
<i>Guidelines</i>	1
<i>Selected-response Items</i>	2
<i>Sample Items</i>	3
Passage - The Life and Works of Mark Twain	

Purpose

The Directions for Test Administration (DTA) provide the test administrator (TA) of the NCSC AA-AAS specific instructions for administration of a particular test. Each DTA provides the exact wording of the items to be used by the TA.

Directions

1. **Know and follow all directions for test administration** provided in this Directions for Test Administration (DTA).
2. Read the directions, passages, items, and answer option text **exactly as written** using a consistent rate of reading and tone of voice.
3. Alternative Text, describing a graphic or associated with response options, is bracketed and written in italics. Two types of Alternative Text are provided in the DTA:
 - a. Alternative Text for students who are blind or have a visual impairment that requires that graphics be described. (e.g., *[For students with visual impairment, read “This is a picture of a girl standing in the snow.”]*)
 - b. Additional Alternative Text includes standardized descriptive statements for tables, charts, graphs, timelines that is to be read aloud to ALL students. (e.g., *[For all students, read “This is a picture of a book titled ‘My Favorite Pet.’”]*)

Guidelines

1. “Cueing” must be deliberately avoided. Cueing might include **voice, rate of reading, or body language that would suggest a preference or indicate a correct response**. TA must use a consistent voice, rate of reading, and body language during oral presentation. This is difficult to do well and must be practiced as part of standardizing the administration of a standardized test.
2. Passages, alternative text, selected-response items, and answer options may be read again if the student requests.
3. To reread a passage or part of a passage online, TA will need to push the “Previous” button to return to the passage.
4. For two-part or three-part items, student should not be allowed to return to the preceding item or change response based on the information provided in the previous part of the item.
5. The TA may **encourage** the student to respond (e.g., “only one more to go,” “just five minutes until a break,” “keep working,” “I like the way you are listening and following directions”) but not confirm the correctness or incorrectness of the student’s response.

Selected-response Items

Selected-response items are presented to students in a standard format. Every item is presented in the following order:

- Item stimulus (which may include a passage, passage part, picture, graphic, or other illustration)
- Item question
- Answer options are lettered and presented in stacked formation.

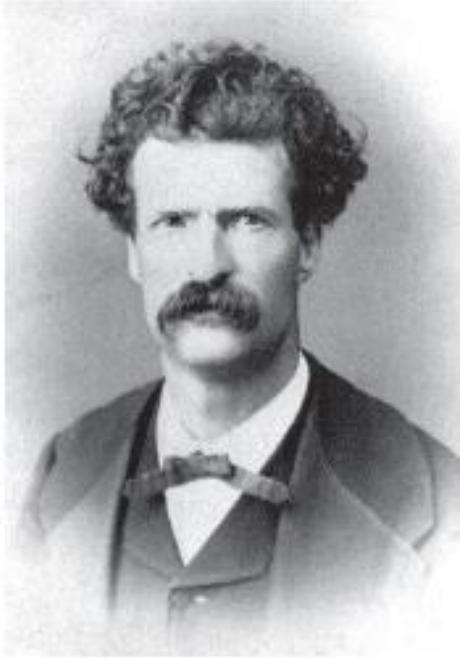


Students independently select a response from the options. Being mindful that students will respond in a variety of ways (e.g., with words, gestures, eye gaze, communication devices, assistive technology, etc.), TAs may enter responses on behalf of the student. Ensure that Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and assistive technology (AT) used routinely for instruction are available to support the student in communicating responses.

Directions

We are going to read informational text about a man named Mark Twain. He lived a long time ago and wrote books. After we read, you will be asked a question about an argument the author makes.

The Life and Works of Mark Twain



Mark Twain was an American writer. He was born in 1835. He wrote many books, but his best known books are “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”. Both books are set in Missouri. This is where Twain lived.

Twain first began by writing articles and drawing sketches for his brother's local newspaper. He became well known after he wrote a short humorous story.

Twain lived his life on the go. He traveled throughout the country and overseas. He gained the attention of presidents and celebrities.



Twain was fascinated by science and technology. He actually created several inventions. His love of science was reflected in his book, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court". In this book, one of the characters is a time traveler. This type of story was one of the first of its kind.

Mark Twain has influenced many people. He is seen as a great American author.

Would you like to read the passage again before you are asked a question?

Sample Item 1

Remember, an author uses an argument, based on facts, to make the reader believe something.

What argument did the author make about Mark Twain?

Point to and read each answer option.



A. Mark Twain was a famous scientist.



B. Mark Twain lived in Missouri.



C. Mark Twain was a talented author.

Would you like to read the text again before you answer the question?

Sample Item 2

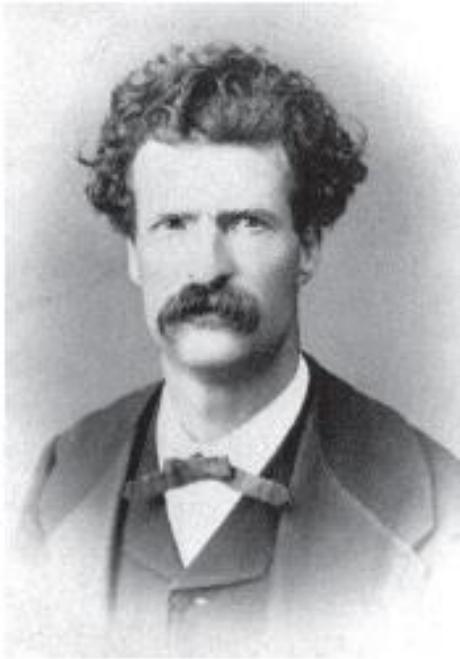
This is a two-part item.

Reference passage part

We read about a man named Mark Twain. We are going to read part of the text again. Then you will be asked a question about an inference.

Read passage part

The Life and Works of Mark Twain



Mark Twain was an American writer. He was born in 1835. He wrote many books, but his best known books are “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”. Both books are set in Missouri. This is where Twain lived.

Twain first began by writing articles and drawing sketches for his brother's local newspaper. He became well known after he wrote a short humorous story.

Twain lived his life on the go. He traveled throughout the country and overseas. He gained the attention of presidents and celebrities.

Mark Twain was a famous writer. Which sentence tells that Mark Twain was famous?

Point to and read each answer option.

What did Ben get?

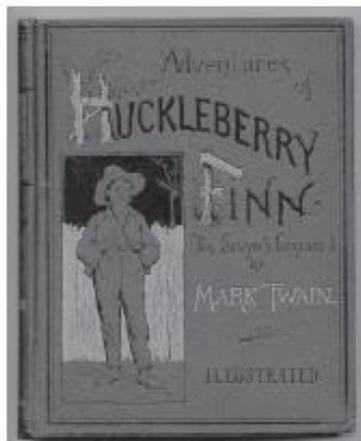
Point to and read each answer option.



A. He was born in 1835.



B. He wrote for his brother's newspaper.



C. He became well known after he wrote a story.

Would you like to read this part again before you answer the question?

Sample Item 3

Remember, an author uses an argument, based on facts, to make the reader believe something.

What argument did the author make about Mark Twain?

Point to and read each answer option.



A. Mark Twain was a famous scientist.



B. Mark Twain lived in Missouri.



C. Mark Twain was a talented author.

Would you like to read the text again before you answer the question?