

External Measurement of Student Achievement

March 2011

English

English Reading Exemplar Items

- For the first time, each test in the EMSA March 2011 series will contain five **Open Response** items.
- This booklet contains exemplar Open Response items, provided to allow teachers and students to experience the style of these items.
- This booklet contains exemplar items for grades 5, 7, 9 and 11.



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم
Abu Dhabi Education Council
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Grade 5

A New Game

Fatima found a book called *Children's Games around the World*. She read the book with interest. She thought the games would be fun to play. She learned about a game that children in Korea call *kongki noli*. The book explained how to play the game.

Kongki Noli: A Game from Korea

This game is for two or more players.

1. Throw five stones on the ground.
2. Pick up one stone and toss it in the air.
3. Try to pick up one more stone from the ground before the stone in the air drops!
4. Quick! Catch the stone in the air.
5. Now toss the stones in your hand up in the air.
6. Pick up one more stone from the ground, and then catch the stones in the air!
7. Repeat these actions until you miss a stone in the air.
8. How many stones do you have in your hand?
9. The player who picks up the most stones wins!

Fatima wanted to play this game. She gathered some friends to tell them about it.

- I. Explain how Fatima feels about the book.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- II. List what you need to play the game *kongki noli*.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- III. Describe what Fatima will probably do next.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.

Note: On the actual test, students answer several multiple-choice questions about a text first, and then answer only one open response question, such as those above, on each text. (In a few instances, students may answer two open response questions on a text.)

Grade 7

The Sunshine Vitamin

Too much exposure to the sun can be dangerous. It can cause health problems. For example, spending too much time under the hot sun can cause dehydration, which is when the body loses water. Some research suggests that too much exposure to the sun can lead to skin cancer. But now scientists believe that not getting enough exposure to sunlight can cause trouble, too. People who don't get enough sun may have low levels of vitamin D.

We get vitamin D from food. Fish and cheese are good sources. In addition, our bodies make vitamin D when we are exposed to sunlight. People who live in far northern parts of the world, where there is not much sunlight for many months in winter, can be low in vitamin D. Some scientists say that such people need a little more sun. The sun will help their bodies make vitamin D.

Vitamin D serves a number of functions in our body, and every part of the body needs it, so it is important to have enough. The sun can help to increase the level of the vitamin in the body, but we must also be cautious and avoid overexposure to sunlight.

- I. Identify the main idea of this text.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- II. Explain why the text mentions fish and cheese.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- III. Explain why the text is titled '*The Sunshine Vitamin*'.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.

Note: On the actual test, students answer several multiple-choice questions about a text first, and then answer only one open response question, such as those above, on each text. (In a few instances, students may answer two open response questions on a text.)

Grade 9

Charles Lindbergh's Journey across the Atlantic

In 1927, people all over the world were talking about Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean between the United States and Europe. Other pilots had flown across the Atlantic by 1927, but Lindbergh was the first to fly alone and without stopping.

Lindbergh had been working as an airmail pilot in the United States. He heard about a prize of 25,000 dollars for the first non-stop flight between New York and Paris. The flight from New York to Paris today takes seven to eight hours. The flight for Lindbergh would be much longer because of the types of aeroplanes in use in 1927. If there were a problem during flight over the ocean, Lindbergh would have no place to land. Despite the risks, there were potential benefits as well, including the prize money. Lindbergh decided to take the chance.

With the support of some businessmen from St. Louis, a city in the central United States, Lindbergh got a plane and supplies for the journey. On the morning of 20 May 1927, he took off from Roosevelt Field just outside of New York City. About 33½ hours later, Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget Airport in Paris. A crowd estimated at 100,000 welcomed him at Le Bourget.

Lindbergh became famous for his journey, and even today people know his story of adventure and success. Lindbergh's flight made people think about new possibilities in air travel, and his fame enabled him to become a spokesperson and advocate for aviation.

- I. Identify the main idea of the second paragraph of this text.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- II. Compare Lindbergh's flight to a flight from New York to Paris today.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- III. Explain how Lindbergh's story shows that adventure can be worth the risks involved.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.

Note: On the actual test, students answer several multiple-choice questions about a text first, and then answer only one open response question, such as those above, on each text. (In a few instances, students may answer two open response questions on a text.)

Grade 11

Fossil Fuels: To Use or Not To Use

Fossil fuels are fuels—specifically, petroleum, natural gas, and coal—that formed over very long periods of time from the remains of plants and other living organisms. Humans began using fossil fuels in large quantities in the 1800s to power machinery in factories and locomotive trains. Since that time, human consumption of fossil fuels has skyrocketed.

We are now dependent on fossil fuels to power our cars, aeroplanes, and other types of transportation, to run our household appliances, to provide heating and cooling in buildings, and to produce plastics, among other things. And, of course, they are still used to power industry. Countries in Europe and North America continue to consume great quantities of fossil fuels, while countries in the Middle East, Asia, and the rest of the world have dramatically increased their consumption in more recent years.

Fossil fuels are a non-renewable energy source. That is, humans cannot replace fossil fuels, because the processes that create them are complex and take millions of years. As such, there is a limited supply of these fuels. No one is certain how long the supply will last, but it is clear that fossil fuels will not last indefinitely.

Given the combination of increased consumption of fossil fuels and limited supply, some people argue that countries must invest more resources to develop renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. Others believe there is no urgency to develop other energy sources, because they believe fossil fuel sources—both known and yet-to-be-discovered sources—will not be depleted any time soon.

There is also disagreement about the impact of use of fossil fuels on the environment. The burning of fossil fuels does cause air pollution. Many scientists believe that some of the gases in fossil fuel pollution are contributing to global warming, which is a general increase of the temperature on earth. Others argue that fossil fuel pollution has not been proven to cause global warming.

We are currently dependent on fossil fuels for many of the comforts and luxuries in our lives. This dependence will necessarily influence our discussions about investment in renewable energy resources and the environmental impact of fossil fuel use.

- I. Explain why the author titled this text '*Fossil Fuels: To Use or Not To Use*'.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- II. Identify the purpose of the second paragraph of the text.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.
- III. Explain how this text can contribute to a discussion about a healthy society.
Support your answer with one detail from the text.

Note: On the actual test, students answer several multiple-choice questions about a text first, and then answer only one open response question, such as those above, on each text. (In a few instances, students may answer two open response questions on a text.)