



These new public release items for MSA Reading are practice items only. These items do not represent a full MSA Reading test. In addition, these items do not cover all of the eligible VSC objectives, nor do they reflect all possible types of items for any one particular objective.

Continue to page 2 MSA Public Release Items →



MSA

MARYLAND SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

GRADE

4



READING PUBLIC RELEASE

Release Date: March 2009

PEARSON



DIRECTIONS

Read the sentence in the box. Then choose the answer in which the underlined word is used in the same way. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

1

We ran out of gas on the way to the theater, so we were late for the start of the show.

In which sentence does the word show mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Our coach did not show up for practice.
- (B) I always like to have something for show and tell.
- (C) Would you like me to buy tickets for the new show?
- (D) He wanted to show my grandparents where he goes to school.

2

Kim was excited to hit a home run with her brand new baseball bat.

In which sentence does the word bat mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) Mike tried to bat the insect away from his face.
- (B) The dark cave was a great place for a bat to live.
- (C) Shelly went to bat for me when my sister said I had told a lie.
- (D) Would you rather have a bat made of plastic or of wood?

3

She went upstairs to pack her bags for a trip to the beach.

In which sentence does the word pack mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) The hunter saw the pack of wolves in the woods.
- (B) Before Timmy could pack, he had to find his suitcase.
- (C) Mom opened a pack of cards to teach me a new game.
- (D) After his walk, my brother took his water bottle out of his pack.

4

Kara's mother told her to check under the bed for her lost shoes.

In which sentence does the word check mean the same as in the sentence above?

- (A) The city built a dam to check the flow of water on the river.
- (B) After eating at the restaurant, Sam offered to pay the check.
- (C) I always check my work before I turn in my math tests.
- (D) I will check to see if you left your jacket at my house.

DIRECTIONS As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

5

After struggling for days to reach the summit of the mountain, the climbers planted an American flag to prove that they had been there.

What does summit mean?

- (A) peak
- (B) scale
- (C) side
- (D) slope

7

The old house had a barren yard with no trees or shrubs growing anywhere.

What does barren mean?

- (A) large
- (B) empty
- (C) colorful
- (D) dangerous

6

The garden was a complete mess after two large dogs ran through the fence and trampled the flowers.

Trampled means —

- (A) bothered
- (B) crushed
- (C) picked
- (D) watched

8

People often confuse a frog with a toad because the two animals resemble each other.

What does resemble mean?

- (A) avoid
- (B) attack
- (C) wait for
- (D) look like

DIRECTIONS Read each question and choose the best answer. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

9

Read these three words.

misuse miscount misbehave

In these three words, mis means —

badly less never

(A)

(B)

(C)

12

In which word does in mean not?

invite incorrect instead

(A)

(B)

(C)

10

Read these three words.

darkness softness kindness

In these three words, ness means —

- (A) compared to another
- (B) done in a special way
- (C) having a certain quality

13

The y in healthy means the same as the y in —

lucky library nobody

(A)

(B)

(C)

11

The er in teacher means the same as the er in —

her lower speaker

(A)

(B)

(C)



DIRECTIONS

Read this article about a freeze-dried food of Peru. Then answer Numbers 14 through 20.

The First Freeze-Dried Food

by Mary E. Forbes

- When you walk into the freezer section of your local food store, have you ever noticed all the different kinds of frozen potatoes there are to choose from? Did you know that potatoes may have been the first frozen food and came from the Andes Mountains of Peru?

Peru is a South American country that farms more than 200 different kinds of potatoes. The potatoes come in many different colors such as purple, white, black, and red. Potatoes are a big part of the Peruvian diet and have been for a very long time. The Spanish Conqueror Pedro Cieza de León wrote the first known history of the potato in his paper "Chronicle of Peru" in 1553. But early Peruvian art shows the potato in Peruvian life as far back as 400 A.D.

The Aymara (Imärä') Indians, who are native to Peru, were the first people to find out how to freeze-dry potatoes. The Aymara call their freeze-dried potatoes "Chuño." After the farming season, the Aymara Indians pick the potatoes that have been planted high on raised landscapes around Lake Titicaca. The raised landscapes look like long, wide steps that ripple down the mountains. The steps are called "Plateaus" and can reach as high as 12,000 feet. The sunshine here is very strong, and the nights are very cold. To make the Chuño, the Aymara people gather the potatoes like their Inca families did a long time ago. They spread the potatoes on a large cloth during the day and cover them with straw. The straw acts as a block from the hot rays of the sun. The heat from the sunshine dries the potatoes and they shrink in size. At night the potatoes are left in the cold air to freeze.

Map of South America



Before the sun warms the new day, the Aymara break the frozen potatoes into smaller pieces by stomping them with their feet. The stomping also helps to remove extra water that is inside the potato. The potato pieces break into different sizes, but most are about the size of a lime. Once the potatoes are smaller, they are left in the sun and the cold for several more days. When the potatoes are totally dried, the pieces are brought to streams and left in running water for a couple of weeks. The running water “washes” the potatoes and takes away any bad taste and potato skins that may be left behind. Once the potatoes are washed, they are left outside until completely dried. The dried potatoes are very light and the Aymara can easily carry this food with them. Potatoes freeze-dried this way may also be saved for many years without using a freezer or refrigerator.

REFERENCES:

Cieza de León, Pedro – “Chronicle of Peru,” The Illustrated Columbia Encyclopedia. 1969.

Potato, white, The Illustrated Columbia Encyclopedia, 1969, Native to the Andes, cultivated by the Inca. A staple food for the Indians in pre-Columbian times and today.

Aymara – The Illustrated Columbia Encyclopedia, Columbia University Press.

14

The purpose of this article is to —

- (A) provide information about cooking potatoes
- (B) give the history of the Aymara people
- (C) persuade people to eat freeze-dried potatoes
- (D) explain how the Aymara people freeze-dry potatoes

15

The questions in paragraph 1 *most* help a reader to —

- (A) find freeze-dried potatoes
- (B) locate mountains on a map
- (C) predict what the article is about
- (D) understand facts about the author's life



16

What other title would help a reader understand the main idea of this article? In your response, use information from the article that supports your answer. Write your answer in the box below.



17

Which of these sentences would be *most* important to include in a summary of this article?

- (A) The people of Peru farm more than 200 different kinds of potatoes.
- (B) The Aymara Indians were the first people to learn how to freeze-dry potatoes.
- (C) Most of the potato pieces produced during the drying process are the size of limes.
- (D) The vegetable section of the grocery store has different kinds of freeze-dried potatoes.

18

From the information in this article, a reader can tell that —

- (A) limes are a lot like freeze-dried potatoes
- (B) the best tasting potatoes are freeze-dried
- (C) the best way to keep potatoes is to freeze-dry them
- (D) people must follow many steps to freeze-dry potatoes



19

What could be added to help a reader better understand the information in this article? In your response, use information from the article that supports your answer. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

20

The map helps a reader understand this article because it shows —

- (A) where the Aymara Indians live
- (B) where South America is located
- (C) why the Aymara Indians came to Peru
- (D) why Peru has warm days and cold nights





**DO
NOT
WRITE
ON
THIS
PAGE**



DIRECTIONS

Read this play about a king who wishes he could become a cleaner. Then answer Numbers 21 through 29.

The King and the Cleaner

by Diane J. Foley

Cast of Characters

The King

The Cleaner

Scene: The Palace. The king is sitting on the throne.

King: This throne is hard. This cloak is hot. This crown is heavy. I hate being a king.
(Enter Cleaner)

Cleaner: Good morning, Your Majesty.

King: Who are you?

Cleaner: I'm the cleaner, Your Majesty. I clean the palace. It's very hard work.

King: It's not as hard as being a king. This throne is hard. This cloak is hot, and this crown is heavy.

Cleaner: Then I'm lucky to be a cleaner.

King: Yes, you are. I wish I could be a cleaner. But if I were a cleaner, who would sit on my throne?

Cleaner: I don't know, Your Majesty.

King: I know! You can sit on my throne!

Cleaner: Me?

King: Yes, you! Now give me your duster. This is going to be fun. (Cleaner sits on throne. King dusts)



Cleaner: You must clean everywhere, Your Majesty.

King: I will. *(He dusts)* This is hot work. I'm too hot in this cloak.

Cleaner: Take it off, Your Majesty. I'll look after it for you.

King: That's a good idea. *(He takes off the cloak. Cleaner puts it on)*

Cleaner: Being a king is hard work. This throne is hard and this cloak is hot.

King: Yes, but cleaning is fun.

Cleaner: Have you cleaned under the throne, Your Majesty?

King: *(Tries to get under the throne)* My crown is too big.

Cleaner: Take it off, Your Majesty. I'll look after it for you.

King: That's a good idea. *(He takes off the crown. Cleaner puts it on. King cleans under the throne)*

Cleaner: Being a king is such hard work. This throne is hard, this cloak is hot, and this crown is heavy.

King: Yes, but cleaning is easy.

Cleaner: Yes, Your Majesty. But have you cleaned the windows? Have you washed the floor? Have you polished everywhere?

King: What! That's hard work.

Cleaner: Oh, no, Your Majesty. Being a king is hard work.

King: No, it's not. Give me back my crown and my cloak. *(Cleaner gives them back)* Being a king is easy and I like being a king. *(He sits on the throne)*

Cleaner: Yes, Your Majesty. I'll go and clean the palace. *(Bows and exits)*

THE END

Reading Comprehension

21

Read this line from the play.

King: I know! You can sit on my throne!

Which of these phrases *best* describes how the king says this line?

- (A) in a quiet voice
- (B) in an angry voice
- (C) in a teasing voice
- (D) in an excited voice



22

Explain what the Cleaner's words and actions suggest about him. In your response, use details from the play that support your explanation. Write your answer in the box below.



23

What is the purpose of the stage directions in this play?

- (A) to describe the setting
- (B) to describe the narrator
- (C) to explain what the characters do
- (D) to explain how the characters speak

24

The King could *best* be described as —

- (A) brave
- (B) cruel
- (C) foolish
- (D) intelligent



25

Explain how the King changes from the beginning of this play to the end. In your response, use details from the play that help to explain how the King changes. Write your answer in the box below.



26

What does the King learn about the Cleaner's job?

- (A) Being a cleaner is more difficult than it seems.
- (B) Cleaning is best done at the same time each day.
- (C) Learning to be a good cleaner takes lots of practice.
- (D) Cleaning is more important than people think it is.

27

Which of these statements *best* explains why the king hates being king?

- (A) He feels very uncomfortable.
- (B) He has too much work to do.
- (C) He would rather be dusting.
- (D) He has no one to talk to.



28

What other title would help a reader understand an important idea in this play? In your response, use details from the play that support your answer. Write your answer in the box below.



Reading Comprehension

29

What is a lesson that could be learned from this play?

- (A) Work hard to be successful.
- (B) Be satisfied with who you are.
- (C) Never take advice from others.
- (D) Never avoid doing your chores.





Acknowledgements:

Maryland State Department of Education is indebted to the following for permission to use material in this book.

“The First Freeze-Dried Food”: © Mary Forbes. Reprinted by permission of Wee Ones Magazine.

“The King and the Cleaner”: © Diane Foley. Reprinted with permission of the author. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2009 by the Maryland State Department of Education. All rights reserved. This document was developed by Pearson under a contract with the Maryland State Department of Education expressly for use by Maryland educators and citizens. Only Maryland educators and citizens may copy and/or download and print this document located online at <http://www.mdk12.org/>. Any other use or reproduction of this document, in whole or in part, requires prior written approval of the Maryland State Department of Education. Pearson is a trademark, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). Portions of this work were previously published. Printed in the United States of America.

