Table of Contents

Guide Content 1

Grade Seven Practice Test Items 2
Guide Content

The California Alternate Assessment English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Test Scoring Guides provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for the California Alternate Assessment Practice Test items. The items selected for the Practice Test are designed to reflect

- a broad coverage of claims and targets that closely mirror the summative blueprint.
- a range of student response types.
- a breadth of difficulty levels across the items, ranging from easier to more difficult items.

It is important to note that all student response types are not fully represented on every practice test, but a distribution can be observed across all the practice tests. The items presented are reflective of refinements and adjustments to language based on pilot test results and expert recommendations from both content and accessibility perspectives.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Grade: Grade level for the item
- Category: a broad content area that contains related targets and standards (i.e., Writing)
- Core Content Connector (Connector): Alternative achievement standard linked to a Common Core State Standard (CCSS)
- Tier: Level that identifies the complexity of an item. Tier levels are 1, 2, and 3.
- Static presentation of the item: static presentation of item from test administration system
- Static presentation of student response field(s): static presentation of response field from test administration system
- Answer key or exemplar: expected student response or example response from score point value
- Rubric and applicable score points for each item: score point representations for student responses

The following items are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking California Alternative ELA Assessment.
Grade Seven Practice Test Items

Read the passage and answer questions 1-3.

**Bus Safety**

Some students ride the bus to school every day. Bus safety is important. Here are some ideas to stay safe while riding on the bus.

All students need to remain seated until the bus arrives at school. Students are required to wear a seat belt.

They should listen to the bus driver at all times. Students should get off the bus carefully.
### Which sentence could be an ending for what we read?

- **A**
  - Wave to your friends.

- **B**
  - That is how to stay safe on the bus.

- **C**
  - You can walk to school.

**Key:** B  
**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>7.RI.k4 Evaluate the claim or argument to determine if they are supported by evidence.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Which picture shows an idea from what we read?**

**Key:** C
**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
## Grade Seven Practice Test Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Tier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Production and Distribution of Writing</td>
<td>7.WI.jo1 Produce a clear coherent permanent product that is appropriate to the specific task (e.g., topic), purpose (e.g., to inform), and audience (e.g., reader).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Which sentences tell us how to be safe on a bus? Pick **two** answers.

- Listen to the bus driver.
- Make your bed.
- Sit in your seat.

**Key:** Listen to the bus driver. Sit in your seat.

**Rubric:**

- (2 points) The student chooses the two correct responses.
- (1 point) The student chooses one of the correct responses, but not both.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>7.RL.i2 Use two or more pieces of textual evidence to support inferences, conclusions, or summaries of text.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mornings

James does not like mornings. He likes to stay in bed as long as he can. Sometimes he is late to school. If James has help waking up, he can get to school on time. James also needs energy to have a good day at school. He needs time to get some food before he leaves for school.

Part A

What could James do to wake up earlier?

A set the alarm

B brush his teeth
Part B

What could James do to have more energy?

- A finish homework
- B eat breakfast

Part A
Key: A
Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct response.

Part B
Key: B
Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Jamie Makes a Decision

Jamie likes many sports. However, Jamie has time for only one sport this school year. She cannot decide what to play. Jamie asks her mom for help.

Her mom asks what Jamie most enjoys. Jamie picks soccer. It is her favorite sport.
What does Jamie learn?

A

Having pets is fun.

B

Asking for advice helps you.

C

Studying helps improve grades.

Key: B
Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Read the passage and answer questions 6-7.

Henry and Armatron

Henry walks into Fairfield Middle School’s “Metal Match.” At the Metal Match, students will use remote controls to move their robots. The students will try to make their robots knock down other robots. The robot still standing at the end of the match is the winner.

Henry

Last month, Henry made his robot with parts from the hardware store.
Henry’s robot has long, powerful robot arms. For this reason, Henry named the robot Armatron. Henry has been practicing some moves with Armatron for the Metal Match.

The students use remote controls to move their robots. The students try to make one robot knock down another robot.

The robot still standing at the end of the match is the winner.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Text Types and Purposes (Narrative)</td>
<td>7.WL.o1 Select or provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Which sentence could end the story?**

A

Henry’s sister is too young to play with robots.

B

Henry thinks Armatron can win the match.

C

Henry built Armatron with plastic parts.

**Key:** B  
**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
<table>
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<th>Tier</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>7.RL.i2 Use two or more pieces of textual evidence to support inferences, conclusions, or summaries of text.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the Metal Match, students

use **remote controls** and **paintbrushes**.

The students try to knock down other **plants** and **robots**.

**Key:** remote controls, robots

**Rubric:**
(2 points) The student chooses the correct response for both targets.
(1 point) The student chooses the correct response for one of the two targets, but not both.
Read the passage and answer questions 8-10.

Vocabulary Preview

Channel Islands

Treasure Off the Coast

Channel Islands National Park is off the coast of California. Five islands make up the Channel Islands. The islands were made into a national park in 1980 to protect the plants and history of the area.

Santa Cruz

*Santa Cruz* has tall peaks, giant caves, and large beaches.
San Miguel

San Miguel has harsh weather and stormy seas. It is often covered by a dense fog.

Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa includes grasslands, beaches, canyons, and hills.

Anacapa

Anacapa has many kelp forests and tide pools.

Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara has an endangered plant species that lives on the island.

Channel Islands National Park is a treasure. It is in a remote location which allows unusual plants to thrive. The unique features of each island make Channel Islands National Park feel like another world.
Why did the Channel Islands become a national park?

A  to make a profit
B  to attract visitors
C  to protect the plants

Key: C
Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Item 9
Grade 7
Category Language
Connector 7.RWL.g1 Use context as a clue to determine the meaning of a grade appropriate word or phrase.
Tier 2

Read the sentences.

San Miguel has harsh weather and stormy seas. It is often covered by a dense fog.

Which words help us understand what “harsh” means? Pick two answers.

- stormy seas
- often covered
- dense fog

Key: stormy seas, dense fog

Exemplar:

- stormy seas
- often covered
- dense fog

Rubric:
(2 points) The student chooses the two correct responses.
(1 point) The student chooses one of the correct responses, but not both.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>7.RI.k4 Evaluate the claim or argument to determine if they are supported by evidence.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The writer thinks that the Channel Islands are ____________.

A  
- a treasure

B  
- too far away

C  
- crowded

Key: A  
Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Read the passage and answer questions 11-13.

Vocabulary Preview

Congress

President

Supreme Court
Our Government

Governments give communities their laws. Sometimes laws are changed.

Our government has three branches. All three branches of the government are equally important.

Members of Congress are in charge of writing laws. They vote on ideas for new laws.

The president can agree to or reject new laws. The president is also in charge of carrying out the laws of the country.
The Supreme Court makes sure laws are fair. They review the laws of the country.

The three branches of our government have the same amount of power. The government works for the people.

**Government**

- **President**: carries out laws
- **Congress**: writes laws
- **Supreme Court**: reviews laws
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<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>7.RI.k4 Evaluate the claim or argument to determine if they are supported by evidence.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The branches of our government try to treat people fairly.

Which sentence does the writer use to show this idea?

A)

Sometimes laws are changed.

B)

The president can agree to or reject new laws.

C)

The Supreme Court makes sure laws are fair.

**Key:** C

**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
<table>
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<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Informational</td>
<td>7.RI.1 Compare/contrast how two or more authors write about the same topic.</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

The United States capital is Washington, D.C. The president lives in this city. The three parts of the government are there. They work for the people.

Which words from the sentences have the same idea as what we read? Pick two answers.

- capital is Washington, D.C.
- three parts of the government
- work for the people

**Key:** three parts of the government, work for the people

**Rubric:**

(2 points) The student chooses the two correct responses.

(1 point) The student chooses one of the correct responses, but not both.
### Item 13

#### Grade: 7

#### Category: Informational

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.RI.5 Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Why is there more than one branch of our government?

- **A**
  - ![Image](image_url) to give all branches equal power

- **B**
  - ![Image](image_url) to have more jobs in government

- **C**
  - ![Image](image_url) to give leaders more meetings

**Key:** A

**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
A group of women used their math skills to help the first astronauts go into space. They helped figure out how fast spaceships needed to fly when heading into space and when returning to Earth.
Which sentence can be an ending for what we read?

A

Space ships were able to land on other planets.

B

They helped make space travel possible.

C

Men also worked on the space program.

Key: B
Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Nick is checking on his garden. He is excited to see his flowers bloom. They are getting bigger and opening up.

**Which words help us know what “bloom” means in the story? Pick two answers.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key:</th>
<th>getting bigger, opening up</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rubric:</td>
<td>(2 points) The student chooses the two correct responses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1 point) The student chooses one of the correct responses, but not both.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Item 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Tier</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Production and Distribution of Writing (Informative/Explanatory)</td>
<td>7.WI.jo1 Produce a clear coherent permanent product that is appropriate to the specific task (e.g., topic), purpose (e.g., to inform), and audience (e.g., reader).</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Rocks**

Rocks are found all over the world. Some rocks are smooth and some are rough. Water can smooth out the edges in some rocks. That is why some rocks are more jagged than others.

**Which words complete the sentences?**

Rocks can feel [ ].

[ ] can change a rock’s shape.

- smooth
- prickly
- Moonlight
- Water
Key: smooth, Water

Exemplar:

Rocks can feel smooth.

Water can change a rock’s shape.

Rubric:

(2 points) The student chooses the correct response for both targets.

(1 point) The student chooses the correct response for one of the two targets, but not both.
Read the passage and answer questions 17-19.

Vocabulary Preview

Flat tire

Fixing the Flat

Shane is meeting his friends at the park. Shane puts on his helmet and gets out his big green bike.
Shane looks at his bike. The back tire is flat! He does not want to miss seeing his friends.

Shane remembers his bike had a flat tire last summer. His Uncle Mike used a pump to help him add air to his flat tire. Shane finds the pump. He uses the pump to add air to his bike tire. Shane puts away the pump. Now he can go to the park.

He is glad he saw how his Uncle Mike fixed his tire for him. Shane is excited that he was able to fix his bike by himself!
Why is Shane excited that he could fix his bike by himself? Pick two answers.

- because now he can see his friends
- because he read a book on repairing a flat tire
- because he did not need help

**Key:** because now he can see his friends, because he did not need help

**Rubric:**

(2 points) The student chooses the two correct responses.

(1 point) The student chooses one of the correct responses, but not both.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Connector</th>
<th>Tier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Text Types and Purposes (Narrative)</td>
<td>7.WL.11 Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Which words tell about Shane’s bike?**

- A short and striped
- B big and green
- C tall and red

**Key:** B  
**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Shane knows that he can learn by watching others.

**How do we know that this is true?**

A. He likes getting a chance to wear his helmet.

B. He looks in the garage and finds the pump.

C. He is glad he saw his Uncle Mike fix the tire last time.

**Key:** C

**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
People in the Americas were the first to grow some very important crops. For example, they discovered corn and learned to farm it. Corn is used in food, medicine, fuel, and glue.

**Which sentence shows that early people in the Americas grew important crops?**

- A  Corn can be farmed and can also grow wild.
- B  Corn is used in many ways around the world.
- C  Corn can be carried in large baskets.

**Key:** B

**Rubric:** (1 point) The student selects the correct response.
Imagine running, biking, or skiing across Alaska. That is what happens in a trail race each year in Alaska. Racers spend a month travelling over snowy mountains and frozen lakes. Some people even ride on a dog sled!

**Racers travel by _________ and _________ .**

A  See rubric in DFA.

B  See rubric in DFA.

C  See rubric in DFA.

**Key:** The student provides two ways that the racers travel.

**Exemplar:** running, biking, cycling, dog sledding, skiing, and walking

**Rubric:**

(2 points) The student provides 2 words correctly.

(1 point) The student provides 1 word correctly.