

IMAST English/Language Arts Sample Items (Grades 6-8)
(Beginning in Spring 2010)

The purpose of this Item Sampler is to provide examples of the types of questions that will appear on the English/language arts portions of IMAST beginning in the spring of 2010. Each grade-level English/language arts IMAST assessment will consist of multiple-choice items *only*.

This Item Sampler displays assessment items in both an ISTEP+ format and an IMAST format. In creating IMAST, modifications were made to assessment items with the intent of maintaining grade-level standard alignment while providing more accessibility for students.

Possible item modifications in English/language arts are listed below:

- Reduce length of passage/text
- Simplify text
- Bullet text
- Add **bold** font for essential words
- Clarify question or directive
- Use active voice
- Eliminate negative stem, when possible
- Simplify visual(s)
- Eliminate visual(s)
- Eliminate implausible distractor(s)
- Eliminate answer choice(s)
- Change order of choices
- Increase white space
- Increase font size

Example 1

| ISTEP+: Passage and Item (Grade 7) | IMAST: Passage and Item (Grade 7)* |
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| <p>Read this excerpt from a student paper about a summer program that the student attended.</p> <div><p>1.) It was a hot summer morning, and the heat was coming up off the pavement. 2.) You could see it. 3.) I had butterflies in my stomach as I approached the doors of the theater. 4.) I had been in plays before, but I didn't know anyone here, and it felt like I was entering an entirely foreign world. 5.) I pulled the door open slowly and looked around at the faces that greeted me. 6.) I breathed a sign of relief as I saw the familiar nervousness in their eyes. 7.) It seemed I wasn't the only one.</p></div> <p>Which of the following is the BEST way to combine Sentences 1 and 2?</p> | <p>Which of the following is the best way to combine these sentences?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was a hot summer morning, and the heat was coming up off the pavement.• You could see it. <p>A. It was a very hot that day, so hot that I could see it with my own two eyes.</p> <p>B. The hottest day of summer so far, you could see the warmth coming off the pavement.</p> |

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| <p>A. It was a very hot that day, so hot that I could see it with my own two eyes.</p> <p>B. The hottest day of summer so far, you could see the warmth coming off the pavement.</p> <p>C. The heat coming off the pavement that summer morning was so powerful I could see it.</p> <p>D. Summer morning was a hot and warm one and you could see it coming off the pavement all the heat.</p> | <p>C. The heat coming off the pavement that summer morning was so powerful I could see it.</p> |
| Correct Answer: C | Correct Answer: C |

*Modifications: Eliminate answer choice, reduce and simplify text of stem, and increase font size

Example 2

| ISTEP+: Passage (Grade 6) | IMAST: Passage (Grade 6)* |
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| <p>Read “The Greatest Runner of All Time.” Then answer the question that follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Greatest Runner of All Time</p> <p>First one person stood up and then another and another. Someone in the crowd began to applaud, and soon everyone else joined in as Glenn Cunningham made his final lap around the track. He was about to break a world record in the mile. As he made his victory lap around the track, one might wonder how he could walk, much less run.</p> <p>In 1916, when Glenn was seven years old, his legs were so badly burned in a fire that his doctor thought he would never walk again. But Glenn thought otherwise. After spending weeks in bed he got up and started using crutches to get around. When his legs got stronger, he tried walking without the crutches but it was very painful. Glenn would say later, “It hurt like thunder to walk, but it didn’t hurt at all when I ran. So for five or six years, about all I did was run.”</p> <p>With all the practice he had running, it was natural for Glenn to join his school’s track team. While he was in high school, he became a track star and set record times in the mile run. After he graduated high school he went to the University of Kansas. Glenn Cunningham</p> | <p>Read “The Greatest Runner of All Time”. Then answer the question that follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Greatest Runner of All Time</p> <p>First one person stood up and then another and another. Someone in the crowd began to applaud, and soon everyone else joined in as Glenn Cunningham made his final lap around the track. He was about to break a world record in the mile. As he made his victory lap around the track, one might wonder how he could walk, much less run.</p> <p>When Glenn was seven years old, his legs were so badly burned in a fire that his doctor thought he would never walk again. But Glenn thought otherwise. After spending weeks in bed he got up and started using crutches to get around. When his legs got stronger, he tried walking without the crutches but it was very painful. Glenn would say later, “It hurt like thunder to walk, but it didn’t hurt at all when I ran. So for five or</p> |

became known as “The Kansas Flyer,” and he won the National College Amateur Track championships in 1931 and 1932.

Glenn went on to run on the U.S. Olympic Team in 1932, received the Sullivan Award for outstanding amateur athletes in 1933, and won a silver medal in the 1936 Olympic games. The boy who was never supposed to walk again won two National College Amateur Athlete titles in track, was named the most outstanding track performer in the 100-year history of Madison Square Garden in 1978, and was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1979.

It was never easy for Glenn. It took him nearly an hour to prepare for a race. But he never let that stop him or slow him down. He ran just as hard as he could with his bruised lungs and scarred legs and he won. So if determination and spirit lead a runner to greatness, one could say that Glenn Cunningham was the greatest runner of all time.

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ISTEP+: Item (Grade 6)

Read this statement from the passage.

“It hurt like thunder to walk, but it didn’t hurt at all when I ran.”

The phrase “*it hurt like thunder*” MOST LIKELY means

- A. Glenn ran very quickly wherever he went.
- B. Glenn crashed into things when he walked.
- C. Glenn was in great pain when he walked.
- D. Glenn was afraid of walking to places.

IMAST: Item (Grade 6)*

Read this statement from the passage.

It hurt like thunder to walk, but it didn’t hurt at all when I ran.

What does **it hurt like thunder** most likely mean?

- A. Glenn ran quickly wherever he went.
- B. Glenn was in pain when he walked.
- C. Glenn was afraid of walking.

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| Correct Answer: C | Correct Answer: B |
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*Modifications: Eliminate answer choice, reduce length of passage, bold the phrase in both the stimulus and the stem, and reduce length of answer choices