

SESSION ONE

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

IN

ENGLISH

SESSION ONE

Wednesday, August 13, 2003 — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., only

The last page of this booklet is the answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions. Fold the last page along the perforations and, slowly and carefully, tear off the answer sheet. Then fill in the heading of your answer sheet. Now circle “Session One” and fill in the heading of each page of your essay booklet.

This session of the examination has two parts. Part A tests listening skills; you are to answer all six multiple-choice questions and write a response, as directed. For Part B, you are to answer all ten multiple-choice questions and write a response, as directed.

When you have completed this session of the examination, you must sign the statement printed at the end of the answer sheet, indicating that you had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the session and that you have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the session. Your answer sheet cannot be accepted if you fail to sign this declaration.

DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION BOOKLET UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN.

Part A

Overview: For this part of the test, you will listen to an account about running a successful business, answer some multiple-choice questions, and write a response based on the situation described below. You will hear the account twice. You may take notes on the next page anytime you wish during the readings.

The Situation: You are in charge of fund-raising for your graduating class. As part of the planning process, you must write a proposal to your faculty class advisor explaining how you would use business strategies to plan a successful fund-raising campaign. In preparation for writing your proposal, listen to an account by businessman Sam Walton about running a successful business. Then use relevant information from the account to write your proposal.

Your Task: Write a proposal to your faculty class advisor in which you explain how Sam Walton's business strategies would contribute to a successful fund-raising campaign.

Guidelines:

Be sure to

- Tell your audience what they need to know about Sam Walton's business strategies and how they would contribute to a successful fund-raising campaign
- Use specific, accurate, and relevant information from the account to support your proposal
- Use a tone and level of language appropriate for a proposal to a faculty class advisor
- Organize your ideas in a logical and coherent manner
- Indicate any words taken directly from the account by using quotation marks or referring to the speaker
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

NOTES

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions (1–6): Use your notes to answer the following questions about the passage read to you. Select the best suggested answer and write its number in the space provided on the answer sheet. The questions may help you think about ideas and information you might use in your writing. You may return to these questions anytime you wish.

- 1 The speaker implies that he values the opinions of people who challenge his rules because they tend to have
 - (1) efficient problem-solving strategies
 - (2) strong work ethics
 - (3) clear ideas for team building
 - (4) different points of view
- 2 The speaker implies that giving employees a stake in a company has the effect of
 - (1) assuring customer loyalty
 - (2) improving job performance
 - (3) removing legal restrictions
 - (4) reducing operating expenses
- 3 The speaker's use of the expression "satisfaction guaranteed" reflects his concern for his
 - (1) customers
 - (2) suppliers
 - (3) employees
 - (4) investors
- 4 According to the speaker, "the competitive advantage" results when a business has the
 - (1) smallest percentage of returns
 - (2) highest level of product safety
 - (3) greatest variety of inventory
 - (4) lowest ratio of expenses to sales
- 5 According to the speaker, what aspect of his rules has changed over time?
 - (1) the methods for explaining them
 - (2) the ways they are carried out
 - (3) the degree to which they are accepted
 - (4) the reasons for using them
- 6 One intended effect of these rules on employees is to encourage them to
 - (1) design new products
 - (2) start a business
 - (3) share a goal
 - (4) solve personal problems

After you have finished these questions, turn to page 2. Review **The Situation** and read **Your Task** and the **Guidelines**. Use scrap paper to plan your response. Then write your response in Part A, beginning on page 1 of your essay booklet. After you finish your response for Part A, go to page 5 of your examination booklet and complete Part B.

Part B

Directions: Read the text and study the table on the following pages, answer the multiple-choice questions, and write a response based on the situation described below. You may use the margins to take notes as you read and scrap paper to plan your response.

The Situation: Your community is planning to build a new playground. As a member of the playground planning committee, you must write a report for the committee in which you recommend a design for the playground which incorporates elements of safety and satisfies the needs of potential users.

Your Task: Using relevant information from *both* documents, write a report for the playground planning committee in which you recommend a design for the playground which incorporates elements of safety and satisfies the needs of potential users.

Guidelines:

Be sure to

- Tell your audience what they need to know about your recommended design for the playground
- Explain how your design incorporates elements of safety and satisfies the needs of potential users
- Use specific, accurate, and relevant information from the text *and* the table to support your recommendations for a design
- Use a tone and level of language appropriate for a report for the playground planning committee
- Organize your ideas in a logical and coherent manner
- Indicate any words taken directly from the text by using quotation marks or referring to the author
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

Text

...Over the years different types of playgrounds have been given unique names to help people identify their special design characteristics. We have seen adventure playgrounds, creative playgrounds, tot lots, mini parks, and theme parks. *Playscape* is a term which has been used in the past but is poorly defined.
5 The term was coined by merging the terms “play” and “landscape” in an effort to emphasize that the total environment can contribute to play value....

[T]he needs of children must be the foremost playscape design criteria. It is necessary that the definition of a playscape start with an acceptance of the standards imposed by parks for safety, maintenance, and budget but the
10 definition can not stop there, the developmental needs of the children must also be included. If a playscape is to meet the needs of park departments, neighborhoods and children, the following elements must be included:

Active Play

The new modular [pipe and plastic] play structures are very successful at providing for the active play needs of children. This is a proven concept that
15 rightfully belongs in any park. The way these systems are configured, however, could be improved. We need to do a better job of including upper body building events, interesting climbers, and dynamic balance events.

Constructive and Manipulative Play

The essence of play is the freedom it provides children. A good playscape would empower children to create and change it. In the “old” days we believed in the
20 value of the “adventure playground” which children could build themselves. Concerns for liability, maintenance and aesthetics destroyed the few experiments that were tried in the U.S. In many other countries the idea is alive and well, and has evolved into a practical program easily included in many park settings.

Perhaps we can't go as far as the adventure playground, but we can and should
25 include, at a minimum, sand and water play. Note that the criteria is sand *and* water. Dry sand under an active play structure may provide a good fall surface, but it does not provide for constructive play. Sand must be moist if it is to be used in the building of sand castles. Just because it is difficult to design a low maintenance water feature doesn't mean that the function should be abandoned.
30 According to Kazuo Abby, of Royston, Hanamoto, Alley and Abby, “Water features within the total play environment are extremely important. The wet sand provides unlimited creativity and it's safe, simple, and fun.”

The first “manipulative” piece of equipment was the steering wheel. Recently we have seen the development of a variety of game boards, like tic-tac-toe panels.
35 Some companies have been adding a variety of controls, levers, binoculars, etc., to their theme play equipment. This greatly expands the play value of what is essentially static equipment.

Social Play

To create social play areas only two basic criteria need to be met. First, there should be a “transaction interface.” This is simply a window, counter, or storefront
40 that creates an “inside” and an “outside.” Such an arrangement literally sets the stage for all sorts of dramatic play.

Second, a sense of enclosure is necessary. It is possible to provide small semi-enclosed spaces which offer a sense of intimacy but also allow for supervision. When properly scaled, such spaces are too small to provide cover for vagrants.

Uniqueness

45 Communities need and value unique features in their parks. Playgrounds with trains, ships, sculpture, and other special features create a sense of identity ... While it was [once] thought that theme equipment would inhibit children's play, it is now known that such equipment can stimulate rich imaginative play. Children are not particularly troubled by playing "Star Wars" on an old fashioned looking ship....

Accessibility and Integration

50 As many advocates have brought to our attention, integrating all citizens is not only ethically correct, it is also the law. There is every indication that the federal government is going to actively enforce the new Americans With Disabilities Act: this means playgrounds will have to be made accessible. While it is not easy, we can design play areas for those who have restricted mobility in order for them to
55 be integrated with the general population. The problem is that there are few really satisfying design solutions to this problem. The manufacturers of equipment have generally offered only ramps. A few provide low horizontal ladders or ground level steering wheels.

60 Only a few manufacturers have addressed the problem of creating transfer stations so that children may play out of their wheelchairs.

Most advocates for accessibility say that ramps have a very small role in providing for the needs of people with various disabilities. Despite what most equipment manufacturers have concluded, wheelchair access is not the only issue to be addressed in creating an integrated environment. Putting a ramp to an active play structure on
65 which there is nothing appropriate for the child who is physically disabled to do is insulting and can even be dangerous when used by skateboarders. On the other hand, providing access to wonderful places for social, constructive, and imaginative play, like the ship at Peacock Gap [a park in San Rafael, California], is right, and realistic....

Multi-cultural

70 California has been a multi-cultural community since its founding. The golden age playgrounds reflected this diversity. The new playgrounds have a post-modern industrial appearance devoid¹ of any cultural connotations. Resistance to celebrating the cultural heritage of particular neighborhoods in park design stems from the political content which has been included in some of these efforts in the past. While a radical La Raza mural may have reflected the cultural identity of the
75 barrio,² it also made a political statement which some members of other communities found offensive. A dragon play structure in the Chinese Community; a ship in the harbor park, or a Spanish-influenced site are all appropriate expressions in public facilities. The playscape concept needs to define what are the proper limitations for ethnic expression and the proper
80 venue³ for particular political points of view.

Age Appropriate

While the modern multi-functional modular play systems are great for kids from six to nine years, they are less appropriate for other children who need more social and constructive play opportunities. Adolescents have been a particularly forgotten age group. While they do, of course, use the ball fields, they are also interested in
85 free play. One need only watch them on their skateboards to confirm this. They are also interested in just "hanging out" in small groups where boys and girls can "check each other out." Adults have concerns about such groups of teens; are they going to

¹ devoid — without

² barrio — Spanish-speaking neighborhood

³ venue — place

do something dangerous to themselves or others? The playscape concept can help reduce these concerns. A playscape, because of its rich array of unique attractions, will be used by more concerned citizens over a longer part of the day. This high-use brings with it increased adult supervision which, in turn, will help reduce inappropriate behaviors. Welcoming in adolescents makes the playscape a place where they feel they belong and removes it as a target for vandalism.

Comfort

It seems obvious that a playground should be a comfortable place for people to visit. But it is surprising how many parks are built without even a bench close to the play area. The issue of a clean, safe, and open bathroom is also central to the comfortable use of the playscape. Park benches can be selected which offer real comfort, but do not encourage people to sleep on them if this is a concern. Shade and shelter from wind should also be considered....

— Jay Beckwith
excerpted from “No More Cookie Cutter Parks,”
www.bpfp.org

Table
Properties of Playground Surface Materials

Material	Uncompressed Depth			Compressed Depth	Advantages	Disadvantages
	6 inches	9 inches	12 inches			
	6 inches	9 inches	12 inches	9 inches		
	This depth of material provides protection from life-threatening head injury in a child who falls from a height of:					
Wood Chips	7 feet	10 feet	11 feet	10 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low initial cost • Ease of installation • Attractive appearance • Readily available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decomposes and compacts • Subject to microbial growth • Conceals sharp objects • Flammable
Double Shredded Bark Mulch	6 feet	10 feet	11 feet	7 feet		
Engineered Wood Fibers	6 feet	7 feet	greater than 12 feet	6 feet		
Fine Sand	5 feet	5 feet	9 feet	5 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low initial cost • Ease of installation • Does not pulverize • Low-microbial growth • Non-flammable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can blow or be thrown into eyes • Can be swallowed • Sand can be tracked out of area • Sand is abrasive • Wet sand is highly compactible
Coarse Sand	5 feet	5 feet	6 feet	4 feet		
Fine Gravel	6 feet	7 feet	10 feet	6 feet		
Medium Gravel	5 feet	5 feet	6 feet	5 feet		
Shredded Tires	10–12 feet	Data Not Available			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-abrasive • Does not compact easily • Low-microbial growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable • May soil clothing • May be swallowed

Falls are the most common type of playground accident. The number and severity of injuries can be reduced by using softer surfaces under playground equipment.

Sources: (adapted) *Handbook for Public Playground Safety*,
United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, www.cpsc.gov
and “Playground Safety – A Guide to Playground Safety,”
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, www.aaos.org

Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions (7–16): Select the best suggested answer to each question and write its number in the space provided on the answer sheet. The questions may help you think about ideas and information you might want to use in your writing. You may return to these questions anytime you wish.

- 7 The author’s use of the word “*Playscape*” (line 4) suggests that playgrounds should be thought of as
- (1) places for children to escape to
 - (2) toys used by everyone
 - (3) fields where children observe nature
 - (4) areas designed for recreation
- 8 The article suggests that modular play structures are especially suitable for meeting children’s developmental need for
- (1) physical exercise
 - (2) social interaction
 - (3) creative expression
 - (4) mental stimulation
- 9 The author’s insistence on “sand *and* water” (lines 25 and 26) suggests the importance of providing children the opportunity to
- (1) swim
 - (2) build
 - (3) fall
 - (4) share
- 10 According to the author, play structures that create an “inside” and an “outside” are desirable because they provide
- (1) shelter from weather
 - (2) encouragement to exercise
 - (3) opportunities for playacting
 - (4) spaces for unsupervised play
- 11 The purpose of a transfer station (lines 59 and 60) is to permit a child who has a physical disability to
- (1) navigate a wheelchair around a playground
 - (2) move from a wheelchair onto a structure
 - (3) observe other children from a safe spot
 - (4) avoid games that require a ramp
- 12 The author implies that one way to make adolescents feel welcome in playgrounds is to provide opportunities for them to
- (1) assist younger children
 - (2) report acts of vandalism
 - (3) engage in social play
 - (4) reduce adult supervision
- 13 The author suggests that one area of concern when planning facilities for comfort is the possibility of
- (1) improper use
 - (2) rising costs
 - (3) diminishing interest
 - (4) unsafe construction
- 14 What element of playground design is the main focus of the table?
- (1) accessibility
 - (2) safety
 - (3) play value
 - (4) comfort
- 15 According to the table, 9 inches of engineered wood fibers, uncompressed, provides the same protection as
- (1) 9 inches of coarse sand, uncompressed
 - (2) 9 inches of fine gravel, uncompressed
 - (3) 12 inches of fine sand, uncompressed
 - (4) 12 inches of medium gravel, uncompressed
- 16 Compared to other surface materials in the table, shredded tires have the disadvantage of
- (1) offering less protection
 - (2) compacting more readily
 - (3) being dirtier
 - (4) being heavier

After you have finished these questions, turn to page 5. Review **The Situation** and read **Your Task** and the **Guidelines**. Use scrap paper to plan your response. Then write your response to Part B, beginning on page 7 of your essay booklet.

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SESSION ONE

Wednesday, August 13, 2003 — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., only

ANSWER SHEET

Session One – Essay A _____
Essay B _____

Session Two – Essay A _____
Essay B _____

Total Essay Score

Session One –
A–Multiple Choice _____
B–Multiple Choice _____

Session Two –
A–Multiple Choice _____

Total Multiple Choice

Final Score

Tear Here

Student Sex: Male Female

School Grade Teacher

Write your answers to the multiple-choice questions for Part A and Part B on this answer sheet.

Part A

Part B

1 _____

7 _____

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13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

16 _____

HAND IN THIS ANSWER SHEET WITH YOUR ESSAY BOOKLET,
SCRAP PAPER, AND EXAMINATION BOOKLET.

Your essay responses for Part A and Part B should be written in the essay booklet.

I do hereby affirm, at the close of this examination, that I had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that I have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination.

Signature

Tear Here

Tear Here

Tear Here