

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

IN

**ENGLISH****SESSION ONE****Tuesday, January 26, 2010 — 1:15 to 4:15 p.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.

The use of any communications device is strictly prohibited when taking this examination. If you use any communications device, no matter how briefly, your examination will be invalidated and no score will be calculated for you.

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

## Part A

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

**The Situation:** Your local officials are planning to develop a parcel of land in your community. You have decided to attend a planning board meeting to present a proposal requesting that a public park be included in the plans. In preparation for your proposal, listen to a speech by Will Rogers, president of the Trust for Public Land, about public parks. Then use relevant information from the speech to prepare your proposal.

**Your Task:** Write a proposal to present at a planning board meeting to request the development of a public park in your community.

### Guidelines:

#### Be sure to

- Tell your audience what they need to know about public parks
- Discuss why you think a public park should be developed in your community
- Use specific, accurate, and relevant information from the speech to support your proposal
- Use a tone and level of language appropriate for a proposal for a planning board meeting
- Organize your ideas in a logical and coherent manner
- Indicate any words taken directly from the speech 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.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 According to the speaker, 19th-century creators of public parks knew that public parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) encourage artistic endeavors</li><li>(2) improve quality of life</li><li>(3) develop conservation skills</li><li>(4) provide educational opportunities</li></ul> <p>2 “Biophilia” refers to a basic human need to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) nurture young children</li><li>(2) relieve stress</li><li>(3) seek shelter</li><li>(4) relate to nature</li></ul> <p>3 According to the speaker, employers may be able to improve worker attendance and satisfaction by designing office buildings that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) admit natural light and air</li><li>(2) expand collaborative work spaces</li><li>(3) increase typical office size</li><li>(4) use natural building materials</li></ul> | <p>4 According to the speaker, one way parks improve “environmental health” is by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) adding to property values</li><li>(2) eliminating heart disease</li><li>(3) providing shelter for wildlife</li><li>(4) offering youth programs</li></ul> <p>5 The speaker’s emphasis on a “park system” in every city focuses on people’s need for parks that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) close to each city neighborhood</li><li>(2) attractive to visiting tourists</li><li>(3) profitable for city taxpayers</li><li>(4) free from federal control</li></ul> <p>6 The question “What’s the extinction of the condor to a child who has never known a wren?” is used to suggest the significance of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) instinct</li><li>(2) intelligence</li><li>(3) experience</li><li>(4) survival</li></ul> |
|--|---|

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 to Part A, beginning on page 1 of your essay booklet. After you finish your response for Part A, go on to page 5 of your examination booklet and complete Part B.

## Part B

**Directions:** Read the text and study the graphic 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 school's guidance office is preparing for its annual Career Day. You have decided to make a presentation about career opportunities in the expanding market of organic foods.

**Your Task:** Using relevant information from *both* documents, write a presentation for your guidance office's Career Day in which you discuss career opportunities in the expanding market of organic foods.

### Guidelines:

#### Be sure to

- Tell your audience what they need to know about the career opportunities in the expanding market of organic foods
- Use specific, accurate, and relevant information from the text *and* the graphic to support your discussion
- Use a tone and level of language appropriate for a presentation for your guidance office's Career Day
- 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

Organic food and materials are ringing up green for grocery stores and other retailers.

Once considered a niche<sup>1</sup> market with questionable economic benefits, organic farming is the fastest-growing and most profitable field in agriculture, and demand for food produced without hormones, pesticides or other chemicals is exploding. ...

“Sales continue to grow, and there are new lines coming on every day,” said Doug Wills, general manager of Buehler’s Parkside grocery store at Dover [Ohio]. “Of course, there’s produce, but we’re starting to see it more in meats, dairy and deli items. More people also are switching to organic soaps and detergents. It’s obviously a market that you just have to look at and take seriously.”

Buehler’s has done that, starting [by] rearranging the store in February to showcase a Nature’s Choice section, which is about 70 percent complete. Wills said that it is about 25 [feet] long, “which is very large for within a store.” It is the fourth largest section at Dover, behind dairy, meat and produce. The renovation was to accommodate growth in organic products and improve traffic flow for customers.

“We get a lot of comments and requests,” Wills said. “The shopper who starts using organic is one we find to be very dedicated to those types of products. For years, I’ve had one particular customer who has kept me informed about new products coming out. We find these customers are a great help because they seek out those products and places that handle them.” ...

“The thing that I’m most excited about is the continued increase in organic dairy products with no fertilizers and no pesticides,” he said. “There are a lot of people out there looking for those products, and I know an area dairy farmer who’s looking into going organic.”

The Organic Trade Assn. [OTA] states the U.S. organic dairy sector racked up \$2.1 billion in sales last year [2005], up 24 percent from 2004. The OTA said organics now make up 3.5 percent of all dairy products sold in the U.S.

Buehler’s corporate spokeswoman Mary McMillen said organic business is growing steadily, with the percentage varying by location of the Wooster-based company’s 11 stores. ...

She said the number of items available varies from thousands to hundreds, depending on demand at individual stores. The largest volume of sales is in produce and dairy, with dairy also the fastest growing category. Buehler’s has carried some organic items — predominately produce — for more than 10 years.

The amount of fresh organic produce changes daily and a sign is posted showing how much is available in Giant Eagle at Dover.

“A whole section of our produce is called Nature’s Basket, and we have frozen, dairy and dry grocery organic products,” said Mike Carrothers, assistant store manager. “It’s a growing area. We have four, double-sized gondolas with products like spices, potato chips and juices.” ...

“I think we carry pretty much everything they offer, so compared to a few years ago, it’s increased a thousand percent,” Carrothers said. “There are a lot more people looking for organics. We’ve had nothing but good response from customers that we have good selection.”

Retailers are expanding organic food sections, driving up demand for people to work in the field. Wal-Mart, the largest buyer of organic foods, is also developing additional organic products, according to the Associated Press.

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<sup>1</sup>niche — specialized market

50 Washington State University created America’s first organic farming degree under soils professor John Reganold. He said organic agriculture is attractive for several reasons — it doesn’t use expensive fertilizers and other chemicals, it is perceived as healthier to eat, and it produces less stress on farmland.

55 A university in Canada and one in Wales are the only ones in the world offering organic degrees. Michigan State University and Colorado State are on the verge of offering organic degrees. But Washington State had a headstart with three decades of pioneering research on organic farming. It owns its [own] organic research farm.

60 Washington state apple growers have been leaders in converting to organic farming, largely to cut down on pesticide use, which is expensive and hazardous to apply for a labor-intensive crop, Reganold said.

The organic farming industry, which has suffered from a lack of trained workers, is cheering the move.

65 “As an organization that hires people with organic agriculture experience, I see it certainly as significant,” said Jake Lewin of the California Certified Organic Farmers.

Made up of 1,300 businesses, the group sees the degree program as helping to legitimize organic farming, Lewin said. Until now, organic farming courses were piecemeal.

70 An organic farming degree is also a natural for Washington [State], where many citizens are interested in protecting the environment. There are 597 organic farms in Washington, and lots of farmers markets and organic food stores.

75 Enrollment in traditional agricultural programs has been declining at Washington State in the past decade, in part because of a declining number of family farms and more farm kids seeking better-paying careers.

Reganold said interest in organic farming has been rising, even among students who were not raised on farms. ...

Graduates in organic farming can also expect to be hired by grocery and restaurant chains.

80 “Large corporations increasingly interested in meeting the nation’s growing appetite for organic foods are seeking employees who understand organic agriculture systems, which are significantly different than conventional agriculture,” Perillo said.

85 Spurred by the widening acceptance of all things organic, many boutique retailers and some mainstream chains are adding new lines of apparel stitched together using cotton that has been grown without genetic modification and without chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. ...

90 Organic cotton advocates say organic farming is better for the soil. Traditional cotton farming can use up to one-third of a pound of chemical pesticides and fertilizers to produce one pound of cotton, according to a recent report by the Sustainable Cotton Project in Davis, Calif.

95 Sales of organic-cotton products reached \$275 million last year, up more than two-fold from 2001, according to a new study by the Oakland-based advocacy group Organic Exchange. That sales number includes apparel, home textiles and personal-care products, but the majority of sales are apparel.

— Lee Morrison  
excerpted and adapted from “Going natural:  
Organic food keeps growing in popularity”  
*The Times Reporter*, August 14, 2006

## GRAPHIC

**Table 1**

### Total Foods and Organic Foods Consumer Sales and Total Market Share

<b>Year</b>	<b>Organic Food Sales (\$Million)</b>	<b>Total Food Sales (\$Million)</b>	<b>Organic Market % of Total Sales</b>
1997	\$ 3,594	\$443,790	0.81%
1998	\$ 4,286	\$454,140	0.94%
1999	\$ 5,039	\$474,790	1.06%
2000	\$ 6,100	\$498,380	1.22%
2001	\$ 7,360	\$521,830	1.41%
2002	\$ 8,635	\$530,612	1.63%
2003	\$10,381	\$535,406	1.94%
2004	\$11,902	\$544,141	2.19%
2005	\$13,831	\$556,791	2.48%

Source: (adapted) *Organic Trade Association's  
2006 Manufacturer Survey, June 2006*

**Table 2**

### Organic Food Category Share, 2005

<b>Organic Food Categories</b>	<b>Sales (\$Million)</b>	<b>% Growth 2005</b>
Dairy	\$2,140	23.6%
Bread & Grains	\$1,360	19.2%
Beverages (incl. non-dairy)	\$1,940	13.2%
Fruit & Vegetables	\$5,369	10.9%
Snack Foods	\$ 667	18.3%
Packaged/Prepared Foods	\$1,758	19.4%
Sauces/Condiments	\$ 341	24.2%
Meat/Fish/Poultry	\$ 256	55.4%
<b>Total Organic Consumer Food Sales</b>	<b>\$13,831</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

Source: (adapted) *Organic Trade Association's  
2006 Manufacturer Survey, June 2006*



## 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 In order for a product to be classified as “organic,” how must the product be grown?
- (1) without mechanical equipment
  - (2) in a laboratory setting
  - (3) without chemical additives
  - (4) on a family farm
- 8 Production of organic soaps and detergents is evidence that the organic product industry is undergoing a period of
- (1) imbalance
  - (2) expansion
  - (3) uncertainty
  - (4) conflict
- 9 According to the article, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) reports that a product segment that experienced explosive growth after 2004 is
- (1) dairy
  - (2) clothing
  - (3) produce
  - (4) beverages
- 10 Growers in Washington State pioneered organic farming of what crop?
- (1) potatoes
  - (2) cotton
  - (3) corn
  - (4) apples
- 11 Jake Lewin expresses the opinion of many in the organic field that there is a need for
- (1) education programs
  - (2) health controls
  - (3) economic management
  - (4) foreign marketing
- 12 Since 2001, the sale of organic cotton has
- (1) declined
  - (2) leveled
  - (3) doubled
  - (4) quadrupled
- 13 According to Table 1, \$6,100 million spent on organic foods was the equivalent of what percent of the total organic market sales for the year?
- (1) 0.81%
  - (2) 1.06%
  - (3) 1.22%
  - (4) 2.48%
- 14 From the information in Table 1, what conclusion may be drawn regarding organic food sales?
- (1) Sales of organic foods have grown steadily.
  - (2) Sales of organic foods have made no progress.
  - (3) Sales of organic foods have declined over time.
  - (4) Sales of organic foods have surpassed nonorganic food sales.
- 15 According to Table 2, in 2005 the organic food category that achieved the greatest percentage of growth was
- (1) dairy
  - (2) beverages
  - (3) packaged/prepared foods
  - (4) meat/fish/poultry
- 16 According to Table 2, in the field of organic food, which segment had the greatest sales in dollars?
- (1) bread and grains
  - (2) fruits and vegetables
  - (3) snack foods
  - (4) sauces/condiments

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.



COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

SESSION ONE

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 — 1:15 to 4:15 p.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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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