

Elementary Education Practice Questions



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Practice Test

Practice Questions

1. Before a teacher reads a poem aloud to the class, she asks the students to listen for repetition of the long /e/ sound and to count how many times that sound is used in the poem. The teacher is assessing the students' ability in:
 - a. comprehension.
 - b. fluency.
 - c. phonics.
 - d. phonemic awareness.
2. A fourth-grade teacher assigns a certain short story to be read as homework. Which of the following prereading activities would be most likely to encourage reluctant students to read the story?
 - a. Provide the students with relevant background information about the author's life.
 - b. Outline the main points of the plot.
 - c. Tell students that they will be acting out their favorite scenes in the story.
 - d. Introduce potentially challenging vocabulary.
3. By the end of which grade are children generally expected to read aloud with good expression at a rate of about 90 words per minute?
 - a. first grade
 - b. second grade
 - c. third grade
 - d. fourth grade
4. A student who encounters an unfamiliar word in a story is able to deduce its meaning by associating it with a synonym that appears in the preceding sentence. The strategy the student has employed is called:
 - a. decoding.
 - b. using context clues.
 - c. developing fluency.
 - d. phonological awareness.
5. A basal reading program serves all of the following purposes EXCEPT:
 - a. providing a detailed, daily teaching plan.
 - b. establishing and reinforcing basic vocabulary.
 - c. meeting the individual needs of each child in the class.
 - d. presenting essential skills in a clear and systematic manner.
6. A fifth-grade student who shows competence in most subject areas complains that he is having difficulty reading his science textbook. Which of the following is the most likely explanation?
 - a. The student is deficient in basic comprehension skills.
 - b. The student has an attention disorder.
 - c. The student has poor study habits.
 - d. The student is having difficulty adapting to reading needs in a specific content field.

7. A third-grade student hands in a composition that includes this sentence: *My sister and me went to the movies*. On which topic does the student need additional instruction?

- a. Agreement of pronouns and antecedents
- b. Pronoun forms
- c. Agreement of subject and verb
- d. Verb tenses

8. Which of the following is the most effective way for a first-grade teacher to enhance students' reading proficiency?

- a. Provide effective phonics instruction
- b. Encourage oral storytelling in the classroom
- c. Replace basal texts with real literature
- d. Have students make daily visits to the school library

9. The prewriting process may include all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. brainstorming.
- b. revising.
- c. making lists.
- d. gathering information.

10. A pre-kindergarten teacher reads the following sentences aloud and asks students to complete each of them with a rhyming word:

I saw a goat sailing a ____.

I saw a duck driving a ____.

The teacher is helping students develop:

- a. comprehension skills.
- b. fluency skills.
- c. phonics skills.
- d. phonological awareness.

11. The smallest functional unit of speech is a:

- a. word.
- b. phoneme.
- c. syllable.
- d. letter.

12. A kindergarten teacher administers a paper-and-pencil test to six children to assess their skill in representing phonemes with letters. Two of the children perform poorly on the test. Which of the following is most likely to be true?

- a. The test was poorly designed.
- b. The children who performed poorly need to be checked for learning disabilities.
- c. The children who performed poorly may perform significantly better the next day.
- d. The children who performed well will probably learn to read more quickly than those who performed poorly.

13. In his highly influential book *Why Johnny Can't Read*, Rudolf Flesch advocated:
- a whole language approach to reading.
 - using phonics to teach children to read.
 - combining phonics with whole language instruction.
 - introducing the "look-and-say" method of reading instruction.
14. When students write letters to the local newspaper in response to an issue of local concern, they are practicing:
- functional writing.
 - narrative writing.
 - informational writing.
 - poetic writing.
15. By the end of the first grade, most students will be able to:
- notice and comment on aspects of the writer's craft.
 - use reading as a tool for learning in content areas.
 - sustain interest and understanding over long texts.
 - use letter-sound information along with meaning and language to decode words.
16. A major difference between independent reading and guided reading is that in independent reading:
- students read silently.
 - teachers do not interact with students.
 - students select their own texts.
 - students read together in small groups.
17. The primary purpose of guided reading is to:
- help students develop a deeper understanding of literature.
 - help students develop their oral reading skills.
 - help students improve their phonological awareness.
 - expand students' reading power to increasingly difficult texts.
18. While reading speeds vary depending on the difficulty of the text and the student's purpose for reading, a general oral reading goal for fourth-graders is about:
- 80-100 words per minute.
 - 115-140 words per minute.
 - 160-200 words per minute.
 - 185-225 words per minute.
19. After students have read the first chapter of a book, their teacher asks them to speculate on what the main character is going to do next. The students are being asked to use a comprehension strategy called:
- summarizing.
 - monitoring and correcting.
 - making predictions.
 - drawing conclusions.

20. Which of these statements about guided reading is NOT true?
- a. Guided reading promotes fluency.
 - b. Guided reading fosters social interaction.
 - c. Flexible grouping allows students to progress at their own rates.
 - d. Guided reading is generally a whole-class activity.
21. How many phonemes are in the word *height*?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 6
22. The letters or letter clusters that represent sounds are called:
- a. phonemes.
 - b. graphemes.
 - c. morphemes.
 - d. lexemes.
23. A fluent reader does NOT:
- a. consistently read at a sufficient rate of speed.
 - b. pause frequently to sound out difficult words.
 - c. adjust pitch to reflect punctuation.
 - d. recognize words rapidly and automatically.
24. A student writes this sentence in a composition: *We road the boat across the lake.* To correct the student's error, the teacher should talk about:
- a. synonyms.
 - b. phonograms.
 - c. homographs.
 - d. homophones.
25. Good books for a second-grader who is interested in reading fantasy fiction include:
- a. *The BFG* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
 - b. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *The Golden Compass*.
 - c. *Nate the Great* and *Amelia Bedelia*.
 - d. *Commander Toad in Space* and *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*.
26. Which of the following would be of equal concern whether a teacher were selecting a fiction book or a nonfiction book for use in the classroom?
- a. The year in which the book was written
 - b. The author's style and use of language
 - c. The author's expertise in the subject
 - d. The author's use of symbolism and imagery

27. Writers of informational texts use various structures to organize and present their ideas. Which pattern of organization is suggested by the appearance of such words and phrases as *because*, *therefore*, *as a result*, *for this reason*, and *consequently*?

- a. Comparison and contrast
- b. Problem and solution
- c. Cause and effect
- d. Temporal sequence

28. Which of the following is a simile?

- a. Life is just a bowl of cherries.
- b. The fog comes on little cat feet.
- c. Her smile was like a breath of fresh air.
- d. Time is a thief.

29. A sixth-grade teacher shares with students the following line from Dylan Thomas's poem "Do not go gentle into that good night":

Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray

After reading the line aloud, the teacher points to the words *curse*, *bless*, *fierce*, and *tears* to illustrate which poetic sound device?

- a. Alliteration
- b. Assonance
- c. Consonance
- d. Onomatopoeia

30. Which of the following is a compound-complex sentence?

- a. When the teacher arrived, the students sat and the class began.
- b. The boys and girls entered the room, took their seats, and opened their books.
- c. The teacher entered the room and the students took their seats, but no one spoke.
- d. The students took their seats as soon as the teacher entered the room.

31. A student who is a non-native speaker of English hands in a composition that includes the following sentences:

Yesterday I go to the park. I have a good time swimming on the pool.

Which kinds of errors did the student make?

- a. subject/verb agreement and word order
- b. verb tense and preposition use
- c. misplaced modifier and sentence fragment
- d. pronoun error and dangling modifier

32. A third-grader who is interested in historical fiction is most likely to enjoy:

- a. *Sarah, Plain and Tall*.
- b. *Summer of My German Soldier*.
- c. *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- d. *Treasure Island*.

33. The equation $4(7+5) = 4 \times 7 + 4 \times 5$ demonstrates the:
- distributive property of multiplication over addition.
 - commutative property of multiplication.
 - associative property of multiplication.
 - inverse property of multiplication.
34. Four classes have raised money for charity. The amounts raised were \$65, \$88, \$94, and \$110. What is the median amount raised by the four classes?
- \$89.50
 - \$91
 - \$110
 - \$358
35. In a class of 24 students, 18 completed their projects on time. What fraction of the students failed to complete their projects on time?
- $\frac{1}{4}$
 - $\frac{2}{3}$
 - $\frac{3}{4}$
 - $\frac{5}{8}$
36. Two coins are tossed. The probability of both coins landing as tails is 1 in:
- 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 8.
37. Given the following statements, which conclusion is logically valid?
- If Tom is a good teacher, then Tom cares about his students.
Tom does not care about his students.
- Tom is a good teacher.
 - Tom is not a good teacher.
 - Tom may or may not be a good teacher.
 - Not all good teachers care about their students.
38. Given the sequence $[(0,3), (1,6), (2,9) \dots (7,x)]$, what is the value of x ?
- 12
 - 15
 - 18
 - 24
39. A parallelogram has sides measuring 8 inches, 3 inches, 8 inches, and 3 inches. What is the area of the parallelogram in square inches?
- 22
 - 24
 - 64
 - Not enough information is given.

40. Which of these is true of all quadrilaterals?
- a. The opposite sides are parallel.
 - b. The opposite sides are of equal length.
 - c. The sum of the measures of the interior angles is 360 degrees.
 - d. The opposite angles are equal in measure.
41. Of 120 students who took an exam, 72 received a passing grade. What percent of the students failed the exam?
- a. 12%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 50%
 - d. 60%
42. Which of the following is most important for a second-grade teacher to consider when evaluating a student's math ability on the basis of standardized test results?
- a. Standardized tests have proved to be consistently reliable in gauging students' mathematical abilities.
 - b. Standardized tests have proved to be consistently unreliable in gauging students' mathematical abilities.
 - c. Children of primary school age change rapidly and may test differently from one day to another.
 - d. Standardized tests are generally based on insufficient or unreliable research.
43. The first thing students should be encouraged to do when attempting to solve a mathematical word problem is to:
- a. write the appropriate equation.
 - b. list the steps needed to solve the problem.
 - c. think about what information the problem is asking them to find.
 - d. compare the problem to similar problems they have solved in the past.
44. The most effective way to structure a math session for the benefit of primary students is to:
- a. check all homework assignments and be sure that all workbook pages are completed.
 - b. focus almost entirely on computation skills.
 - c. focus almost entirely on the application of math skills to real-life situations.
 - d. divide class time evenly between computation skills and real-life applications.
45. The best time to introduce a student to subtraction with two-digit numerals is:
- a. before the student reaches the fourth grade.
 - b. when the student has proved proficient in adding long columns of numbers.
 - c. when the student has achieved automatic response to subtraction facts.
 - d. when the student expresses an interest in advancing his or her subtraction skills.
46. Which of these approaches to mathematics instruction is generally recognized as being the most effective?
- a. Students need to memorize formulas and follow standard procedures for problem solving.
 - b. The use of mental math to solve complex problems should be discouraged.
 - c. Pencil-and-paper drills should be the primary focus of math class.
 - d. Students should be encouraged to solve problems in ways that make sense to them.

47. At Whiteley Elementary School, 60 percent of the 720 students are entering a nationwide essay contest. Which of the following computations can be used to determine how many students will be entering the contest?
- a. $720 \div 0.60$
 - b. $3/5 \times 720$
 - c. $1/60 \times 720$
 - d. $720 - 40/100$
48. Sara and her sister Kate are standing next to one another on the beach. Kate casts a shadow that is 32 inches long. Sara's shadow is 16 inches longer than her sister's. If Kate is 40 inches tall, how tall is Sara?
- a. 48 inches
 - b. 52 inches
 - c. 60 inches
 - d. Not enough information is given.
49. What is the probability of drawing two consecutive aces from a deck of 52 cards?
- a. $2/52$
 - b. $1/104$
 - c. $3/104$
 - d. $1/221$
50. A fifth-grade teacher assigns her students a new math problem to be solved by the end of the day. Which of these is the most effective method of assessing students' work?
- a. Administering a standardized test
 - b. Classroom observation
 - c. Portfolio assessment
 - d. Small group discussion
51. When a teacher explains that the order of the addends or factors does not affect the sum or product, he is teaching a lesson about:
- a. comparing and ordering fractions.
 - b. the properties of real numbers.
 - c. using ratios and proportions.
 - d. inductive reasoning.
52. Which of the following is a true statement about the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845?
- a. It helped stem the spread of slavery west of the Mississippi.
 - b. It was part of an effort to fulfill Manifest Destiny.
 - c. It was an expression of principles set forth in the Monroe Doctrine.
 - d. It served to improve relations between the United States and Mexico.

53. The power of Congress to override a Presidential veto is an example of:
- checks and balances.
 - separation of powers.
 - judicial review.
 - advice and consent.
54. The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 marked the beginning of the:
- temperance movement.
 - Republican Party.
 - abolitionist movement.
 - women's rights movement.
55. Which biome is NOT found in the Torrid Zone?
- Desert
 - Savanna
 - Rainforest
 - Taiga
56. The power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce was the main issue argued in:
- Marbury v. Madison*.
 - Dartmouth College v. Woodward*.
 - McCulloch v. Maryland*.
 - Gibbons v. Ogden*.
57. Which of these is a true statement about the Tropic of Capricorn?
- It separates the northern and southern hemispheres.
 - It separates the eastern and western hemispheres.
 - It is the southernmost latitude at which the sun can appear directly overhead at noon.
 - It is the northernmost latitude at which the sun can appear directly overhead at noon.
58. Which Supreme Court decision would be most relevant to a discussion of the limitations of free speech?
- Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
 - Schenck v. United States* (1919)
 - Engel v. Vitale* (1962)
 - Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)
59. A unit on the three branches of the federal government would be LEAST likely to cover:
- the implications of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.
 - the expansion of presidential power in the twentieth century.
 - the limitations imposed on Congress by the Constitution.
 - the implications of *Marbury vs. Madison*.
60. Which amendment to the Constitution guarantees protection from unreasonable search and seizure?
- the First Amendment
 - the Second Amendment
 - the Third Amendment
 - the Fourth Amendment

61. The social scientists who are concerned primarily with the ways in which societies use resources and distribute goods are:
- a. anthropologists.
 - b. economists.
 - c. historians.
 - d. psychologists.
62. Which of the following events brought the Reconstruction era to an end?
- a. The assassination of President Lincoln
 - b. Ratification of the 15th Amendment
 - c. The withdrawal of federal troops from the South
 - d. The impeachment of Andrew Johnson
63. When the Federal Reserve Board lowers interest rates, its main goal is to:
- a. reduce prices paid by consumers.
 - b. stimulate consumer spending.
 - c. regulate international trade.
 - d. control inflation.
64. Under the United States Constitution, the power to tax and borrow is:
- a. implied.
 - b. shared.
 - c. expressed.
 - d. reserved.
65. The reforms set in motion by the Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev played an important role in:
- a. the breakup of the Soviet Union.
 - b. creating economic prosperity in Russia.
 - c. prolonging the Cold War.
 - d. the construction of the Berlin Wall.
66. The Declaration of Independence would most likely be used in the classroom to teach which of these principles?
- a. Governments may not seize private property for public use without just compensation.
 - B. Governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed.
 - C. Governments should not abridge freedom of speech or of the press.
 - D. Governments should not infringe on the right of people to keep and bear arms.
67. Which of the following does NOT represent a major threat to the Amazon rainforest?
- a. Industrial development
 - b. Highway construction
 - c. Scientific research
 - d. Logging interests

68. A teacher tells the class that gasoline prices rose sharply in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina wiped out more than a quarter of crude oil production in the United States. The economic principle being taught in this lesson is the effect of:
- inflation.
 - deflation.
 - deficit spending.
 - supply and demand.
69. The Maasai people of Kenya live in small villages but spend much of their time traveling great distances across the Serengeti Plains, following the cattle upon which they rely for sustenance. The Maasai are best described as:
- sedentary.
 - agricultural.
 - semi-nomadic pastoralists.
 - hunter-gatherers.
70. The atomic number of an element is determined by:
- the number of neutrons in the nucleus of an atom.
 - the number of protons in the nucleus of an atom.
 - the number of protons plus the number of neutrons in an atom.
 - the number of protons plus the number of electrons in an atom.
71. The layer of Earth's atmosphere that is closest to our planet is the:
- troposphere.
 - ionosphere.
 - stratosphere.
 - mesosphere.
72. An important difference between plant cells and animal cells is that:
- only animal cells have nuclei.
 - only animal cells have mitochondria.
 - only plant cells have organelles.
 - only plant cells have rigid cellulose walls.
73. The first step in conducting a scientific investigation is to:
- formulate a hypothesis.
 - perform an experiment.
 - analyze all available data.
 - state the problem to be solved.
74. A teacher tells the class about a new drug that is being tested on 200 volunteer subjects. Half the volunteers are given the new drug while the other half are given a harmless sugar pill. The volunteers who are given the sugar pill serve as the:
- control group.
 - experimental group.
 - variable.
 - indicator.

75. Remoras are fish that attach themselves to sharks and feed on the food particles left over by the larger fish. The shark is neither harmed nor helped by the remora's actions. This type of symbiotic relationship is best described as:
- a. parasitism.
 - b. commensalism.
 - c. mutualism.
 - d. passive transport.
76. The part of the human excretory system most responsible for maintaining normal body temperature is the:
- a. kidney.
 - b. bladder.
 - c. liver.
 - d. sweat glands.
77. Rocks are classified as *igneous*, *metamorphic*, or *sedimentary* based on:
- a. how they were formed.
 - b. their texture.
 - c. the minerals they contain.
 - d. their age.
78. On a trip to the planetarium, the class views a chunk of rock that has fallen from the sky and landed on Earth. The object they are looking at is a:
- a. comet.
 - b. meteor.
 - c. meteoroid.
 - d. meteorite.
79. A teacher takes her class on a walk through the woods to study local flora and fauna. This activity is likely to appeal most to students who favor which learning style?
- a. Visual
 - b. Auditory
 - c. Tactile
 - d. Kinesthetic
80. Which of the following best describes Earth's atmosphere?
- a. 25% nitrogen, 55% oxygen, 20% water vapor and other gases
 - b. 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 1% water vapor and other gases
 - c. 38% nitrogen, 60% oxygen, 2% water vapor and other gases
 - d. 90% nitrogen, 5% oxygen, 5% water vapor and other gases
81. The principal cause of acid precipitation is:
- a. nuclear power production.
 - b. soil erosion.
 - c. the burning of coal and petroleum products.
 - d. water pollution.

82. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
- a. The Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours.
 - b. A solar eclipse can only occur during a new moon.
 - c. The Moon rotates on its axis as it revolves around the Earth.
 - d. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun.
83. Chemistry students are always told to add acid to water rather than adding water to acid. The reason for this is that:
- a. students need to learn to follow directions precisely to ensure accurate results.
 - b. adding water to acid can cause the acid to boil violently.
 - c. adding acid to water tends to slow down the chemical reaction.
 - d. adding water to acid produces toxic gases.
84. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of scientific inquiry?
- a. Continual posing of questions and testing of hypotheses
 - b. Objective analysis of experimental data
 - c. Ongoing peer review of shared information
 - d. The assumption that published literature is accurate and unbiased
85. The condition of balance and dynamic stability that characterizes living systems under normal conditions is called:
- a. homeostasis.
 - b. metabolism.
 - c. respiration.
 - d. symbiosis.
86. A spoon that is placed in a bowl of hot soup becomes warm as a result of:
- a. convection.
 - b. conduction.
 - c. radiation.
 - d. advection.
87. Botanists, zoologists, physiologists, and ecologists are all specialists in the field of:
- a. chemistry.
 - b. biology.
 - c. physics.
 - d. social science.
88. Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel are called:
- a. primary colors.
 - b. secondary colors.
 - c. complementary colors.
 - d. analogous colors.

89. To create the illusion of three dimensions on a two-dimensional surface, painters use a system of representation called:

- a. perspective.
- b. abstraction.
- c. naturalism.
- d. bas-relief.

90. A teacher shows the class several paintings by Claude Monet. The class observes that the paintings look blurry and indistinct up close but more realistic from a distance. The teacher explains that Monet and other painters of the late 19th century tended to use short brushstrokes and unmixed primary colors to depict a scene as they saw it at a given moment. The class is learning about a style of art called:

- a. Expressionism.
- b. Impressionism.
- c. Romanticism
- d. Surrealism.

91. A beginning music student who wishes to play in the brass section of the school orchestra would be advised NOT to take up the:

- a. french horn.
- b. trumpet.
- c. trombone.
- d. saxophone.

92. A key signature that has no sharps or flats is:

- a. A major.
- b. B major.
- c. C major.
- d. D major.

93. When students are taught how to form chords by sounding different notes together, they are getting a lesson in:

- a. melody.
- b. harmony.
- c. rhythm.
- d. dynamics.

94. Health professionals who are qualified to diagnose mental disorders and prescribe medication include:

- a. licensed psychologists and mental health counselors.
- b. clinical social workers and family therapists.
- c. psychiatric nurses and licensed professional counselors.
- d. psychiatrists and pediatricians.

95. A teacher who suspects that a student is being physically abused by a parent should:

- a. talk to the student and try to uncover the facts of the situation.
- b. talk to the parents before risking an unfounded accusation.
- c. consult with trusted colleagues to decide upon an appropriate course of action.
- d. immediately report their suspicions to police or child protective services.

96. By the time they complete Grade 1, students are generally expected to acquire all of the following health skills EXCEPT:
- a. identifying safety rules that help to prevent poisoning.
 - b. explaining the harmful effects of, and how to avoid, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
 - c. examining issues related to death and grieving.
 - d. describing ways in which health is affected by weather and pollution.
97. In treating cases of child abuse or neglect, the primary objective is to:
- a. teach the child how to cope with living in an abusive environment.
 - b. identify and punish all parties involved in the abuse.
 - c. find a suitable foster home for the abused or neglected child.
 - d. return the child to a safe, healthy family environment.
98. Which of these is likely to decrease in response to regular physical activity?
- a. Thyroid function
 - b. Arterial elasticity
 - c. Blood volume
 - d. Resting heart rate
99. Which of the following would NOT be included among the social skills and values acquired through participation in physical activities?
- a. Reducing the risk of musculoskeletal injuries.
 - b. Learning to communicate and cooperate with others.
 - c. Developing respect for school rules and property.
 - d. Identifying constructive uses for leisure time.

Answer Key

1. D. Phonemic awareness refers to the students' consciousness of sounds within words. This exercise does not assess understanding (comprehension), reading ability (fluency), or the ability to relate sounds to letters (phonics).
2. C. Students will be more eager to read the story if they anticipate a creative and entertaining activity upon completion of the reading. Background information, plot description, and vocabulary preparation will contribute to students' comprehension and appreciation of the story, but they are unlikely to stimulate their interest in reading it.
3. B. Children who are not reading with a reasonable level of fluency by the end of second grade may require remedial help. A child who enters third grade without mastering basic reading skills will be unable to keep up with required classwork.
4. B. Context clues are words or phrases that appear in proximity to an unfamiliar word and can be used to deduce its meaning. Context clues include synonyms, antonyms, illustrations and definitions.
5. C. A basal program is designed to be useful to as many students as possible, but it cannot readily be tailored to meet individual needs. Basal programs are effective for meeting the instructional needs of typical students but may require supplementation in the classroom.
6. D. As the student is doing well in other areas, it may be assumed that his overall comprehension skills and study habits are not at fault. It is most likely that he needs help in applying his reading skills to the context of science.
7. B. The student does not understand the difference between the subjective and objective form of pronouns. In this case, the subjective I is required where the objective form me was used. The sentence shows no errors in agreement or tense.
8. A. Phonics instruction in the early grades has proved most beneficial in developing reading proficiency. Storytelling teaches important speaking and listening skills, but these are different from reading skills. While real literature may increase students' interest in reading, basal texts are well-designed to teach the essential skills.
9. B. Revising cannot take place until a first draft has been written. Brainstorming ideas, making lists, and gathering relevant information are all useful prewriting techniques.
10. D. Phonological awareness is the ability to hear and work with spoken language. Rhyming helps children recognize patterns of sounds. Phonics refers to the use of symbols to represent sounds. Neither comprehension nor fluency skills are developed in this activity.
11. B. Phonemes comprise the syllables that make up words. While phonemes correspond to the letters of an alphabetic writing system, letters themselves are not units of speech.
12. C. Young children frequently have trouble focusing attention and following directions. On any given day, a child may perform poorly on a test for reasons that are wholly unrelated to the test's content or purpose. Individual retesting should be considered before reaching a conclusion about

the child's level of understanding.

13. B. Flesch was an outspoken advocate of phonics. He argued that whole language instruction, also known as "look-and-say," was not a useful teaching method and was the primary reason many children were having difficulty learning to read.

14. A. Functional writing is writing that serves a practical purpose. Writing such things as letters, instructions, recipes, advertisements, and journal entries helps students understand that writing has an important role to play in everyday life.

15. D. Most early readers will have achieved phonemic awareness and mastered the alphabetic principle by the end of first grade. The reading skills described in the other choices are characteristic of advanced readers in grades four, five, and six.

16. C. Although teachers may offer guidance in book selection, independent reading allows students to choose texts that have special appeal to them. Silent reading and teacher interaction are features of both independent and guided reading. Guided reading is characterized by small groups and a shared text.

17. D. By choosing texts for students and leading them in discussion, teachers are able to introduce young readers to increasingly complex reading material. The primary focus of guided reading is not specifically on literature study, fluency, or phonological awareness.

18. B. All students should be able to read aloud fluently by fourth grade. A general silent reading goal for fourth-graders is about 130-175 words per minute. A reasonable silent reading rate for sixth-graders is about 185-225 words per minute.

19. C. Predicting events in a story builds anticipation and helps propel the reading forward. Students activate prior knowledge from life and literature to understand characters and anticipate their thoughts and actions.

20. D. The ideal group for guided reading consists of five or six students. Because students' needs and abilities vary, small and flexible groupings allow students to interact most effectively with the teacher and with each other. Reading aloud and developing fluency are major components of the guided reading experience.

21. C. Phonemes are the basic distinctive units of sound by which words are represented. The word height comprises the three phonemes /h/, /I/, and /t/. The word contains one syllable, two vowels, and six letters.

22. B. Graphemes are the written letters that correspond to oral phonemes. The grapheme c, for example, can represent the phoneme /k/ in cat or the phoneme /s/ in cent. Morphemes are the linguistic units that make up the root words, or lexemes, in a language.

23. B. Fluency requires good decoding skills. Fluent readers do not frequently stumble when encountering unfamiliar words; rather, they use their decoding skills and phonemic awareness to effectively associate letters and sounds. The other choices describe some of the defining characteristics of fluency.

24. D. Homophones are words such as rowed and road that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Synonyms are words that have similar meanings. A phonogram is a letter or combination of letters that represent a sound, and homographs are words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.

25. D. These books by Jane Yolen and Beverly Cleary are fantasies that are written for children who read at a typical second-grade level. The books included in choices A and B are too difficult for second-grade students. The titles in choice C are good examples of realistic fiction.

26. B. Every good book, whether fiction or nonfiction, is written in a style that makes the text understandable and appealing to the reader. Fiction does not go out of date as readily as informational texts. In weaving their imaginative tales, fiction writers do not need to cleave quite as closely to the facts as nonfiction writers. Nonfiction writers rarely employ extensive symbolism or imagery in presenting information.

27. C. Writers use a cause-and-effect structure to show how one event or idea is caused by or leads to another. Words such as because and consequently are useful in expressing a cause-and-effect relationship. Comparison and contrast is used to show how things are similar or different. In a problem and solution structure, the writer identifies a problem and then poses solutions. Writers may also arrange events in temporal sequence; that is, in the order in which they happen.

28. C. A simile uses like or as to suggest a comparison between dissimilar things. In this case, a smile is being compared to a breath of fresh air. The other choices are metaphors that compare dissimilar things without using like or as.

29. C. Consonance is the repetition of internal or ending consonants. In this example, the final /s/ sound is repeated throughout the line. Alliteration is the repetition of the initial consonant of a group of words. Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds. Onomatopoeia refers to a word that imitates the sound with which it is associated.

30. A. A compound-complex sentence has two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. Choice B is a simple sentence with a compound subject and a compound predicate. Choice C is a compound sentence containing three independent clauses. Choice D is a complex sentence that contains one independent and one dependent clause.

31. B. The student used the present-tense verb forms go instead of went and have instead of had in describing actions that took place in the past. The student also used the idiomatically incorrect preposition on instead of in. The student did not make any other errors.

32. A. Set on a farm in the midwest in the 19th century Sarah, Plain and Tall can be read independently by most third-graders. The titles mentioned in the other choices are too difficult for most third-graders to read on their own.

33. A. The distributive property states that $a(b + c) = a \times b + b \times c$. The cumulative property allows real numbers to be added or multiplied in any order. The associative property states that the order in which real numbers are added or multiplied together makes no difference. The inverse property states that every real number has a multiplicative inverse, or reciprocal, such that $n \times 1/n = 1$.

34. B. If there is an even number of values, the median is the mean, or arithmetic average, of the two middle values. $\$88 + \$94 = \$182$. $\$182 \div 2 = \91 . If the problem had asked for the mean of the four values, choice A would have been correct.
35. A. If 18 of 24 students completed their projects, then 6 of 24 failed to do so. $6/24 = 1/4$.
36. C. Each coin has an equal probability of coming up heads or tails, so the probability of tails for each coin is $\frac{1}{2}$. For two coins, the probability is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$, or 1 in 4.
37. B. Let p = 'Tom is a good teacher.' Let q = 'Tom cares about his students.' The given statement says: If p, then q. The contrapositive, which is also true, says: If not q, then not p. Thus, if Tom does not care about his students, Tom is not a good teacher.
38. D. (7,x) represents the eighth point in this sequence. Thus, the corresponding x value equals 3×8 , or 24.
39. D. The area of a parallelogram is equal to Base \times Height. The height cannot be determined just by measuring the length of the four sides. More information is required.
40. C. The interior angles of any quadrilateral add up to 360 degrees. The other choices are only true of certain quadrilaterals.
41. B. $48/120$ of the students failed. $48/120 = 0.40$, or 40%.
42. C. Children in the primary grades are in a rapid stage of development, and their test score on any individual test on a given day may not be a reliable indication of their mathematical skills. This is not to suggest that standardized tests are based on inadequate research or that their results are not a valid reflection of the test-taker's level of skill on the day the test was taken.
43. C. The student needs to determine what she is being asked to find out before she can decide what equations or steps are needed to solve the problem. Comparing the problem to others like it may be useful, but it is not the first step in solving the problem.
44. D. Students need to learn and practice computation skills, but they also need to learn that the mathematical skills they acquire in the classroom have practical value in their lives outside of school.
45. C. A student is not ready to solve more complex subtraction problems until he or she has mastered all the single-digit subtraction facts. Grade level, proficiency in addition, and the desire to move ahead are not sufficient indications of the student's readiness.
46. D. Each student is a unique individual, and different students may have different ways of conceptualizing the same problem. In the long run, allowing students to find their own ways of thinking about mathematics will make them better problem solvers. Mental math has an important role to play in everyday life. Memorization and drills also have their place, but they should not be the central focus in the classroom.

47. B. The formula states that $\text{Part} = \text{Percent} \times \text{Whole}$. Sixty percent equals .60, or $60/100$, which can be reduced to $3/5$. Thus the correct answer is $3/5 \times 720$.

48. C. The relationship between Kate and her shadow is the same as the relationship between Sara and her shadow; that is, $\text{Kate}/\text{Kate's shadow} = \text{Sara}/\text{Sara's shadow}$. If Sara's shadow is 16 inches longer than Kate's, it is 48 inches long.

$$\frac{40}{32} = \frac{x}{48} ; \quad 32x = 1920 ; \quad x = 1920 \div 32 ; \quad x = 60$$

49. D. The chance of picking one of the four aces from a deck of 52 cards is $4/52$. After the first ace has been picked, the chance of picking one of the three remaining aces from the remaining 51 cards in the deck is $3/51$. The chances of both events occurring is $4/52 \times 3/51$ which equals $12/2652$ or $1/221$.

50. C. Students should submit written samples of their work for the teacher to review on a daily basis. Standardized tests would not be appropriate for assessing the student's understanding of the given task. As students are likely to work on the problems at different times, classroom observation would not be practical, and group discussions would not necessarily be useful for assessment purposes.

51. B. The teacher has explained the commutative property, which is one of the properties of real numbers.

52. B. The annexation of Texas spurred Americans to envision a nation that spread from coast to coast. By entering the union as a slave state, Texas contributed to the westward expansion of slavery. The Monroe Doctrine concerned European intervention in the Western Hemisphere. Mexican resentment of the Texas annexation was a major contributing factor in the Mexican War, which began the following year.

53. A. Checks and balances prevent any branch of the government from running roughshod over the other two. Separation of powers refers to the distribution of specific powers among the three branches of government. Judicial review is the power of the courts to overturn legislative or executive acts that are deemed unconstitutional. Advice and consent is the power granted to the Senate to advise the President, ratify treaties, and confirm nominations.

54. D. Organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Seneca Falls Convention approved a Declaration of Sentiments that proclaimed the equality of men and women. The American Temperance Society was established in Boston in 1826. The Republican Party had its first official meeting in Jackson, Michigan, in 1854. The first antislavery society in America was founded in Philadelphia in 1775.

55. D. The taiga, or boreal forest, is found only in the North Temperate Zone between the tundra and the steppes. The largest biome on land, it is characterized by coniferous forests and stretches across the northern regions of North America and Eurasia. Deserts, savannas, and tropical rainforests are all found at lower latitudes within the Torrid Zone.

56. D. In *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824), the Supreme Court concluded that the power to regulate interstate commerce was granted to Congress by the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The decision went on to say that federal law took precedence over any contrary state laws in regard to

interstate trade. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) addressed the issue of judicial review. *Dartmouth College v. Woodward* (1819) concerned the power of the federal court to overturn state law. *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) bolstered the doctrine of implied powers.

57. C. Lying at a little more than 23° south of the equator, the Tropic of Capricorn is the border between the Southern Temperate Zone to the south and the Tropical Zone to the north. The southern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun to its maximum extent each year at the winter solstice in December. The northernmost latitude at which the sun can appear directly overhead is at the Tropic of Cancer during the summer solstice. The northern and southern hemispheres are separated by the equator at 0° degrees latitude. The eastern and western hemispheres are separated by the prime meridian at 0° longitude.

58. B. *Schenck v. United States* established the principle that freedom of speech can be restricted when the exercise of that freedom creates “a clear and present danger.” *Plessy v. Ferguson* supported the “separate but equal” doctrine. *Engel v. Vitale* decided that school prayer was unconstitutional. *Miranda v. Arizona* required police to advise criminal suspects of their rights.

59. A. The Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees due process and equal protection, does not address the separation of powers. The distinct powers granted to and limitations imposed upon the executive, legislative, and judicial branches would be the main topic of the unit. *Marbury vs. Madison* concluded that the Supreme Court has the authority to overturn federal and state laws that it deems unconstitutional.

60. D. The Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable search and seizure of persons and property and forbids the use of general warrants for search or arrest.

61. B. Economics is the study of how goods and services are produced and distributed. Anthropologists and historians are also concerned with economic issues, but such issues are not necessarily the focal point of their studies. Psychologists focus on the mental activity and behavioral patterns of individuals within a society.

62. C. The effort to reunify the country and restore functioning state governments in the South after the Civil War came to an end with the withdrawal of federal troops from South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida in 1877.

63. B. Lower interest rates encourage banks to lend more money, which generally leads to an increase in consumer spending. Lower interest rates tend to raise, not lower, prices. International trade is not regulated by the Federal Reserve Board. A fear of inflation generally results in the raising of interest rates.

64. B. Shared, or concurrent, powers are those powers held by both the states and the federal government. These include taxation, borrowing money, establishing courts, and making and enforcing laws. Implied powers are those assumed by the federal government based on the “elastic clause” in Article I of the Constitution. Expressed, or enumerated, powers are those specifically granted to the federal government in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution—e.g., the right to coin money, declare war, and regulate interstate and foreign commerce. Reserved powers are reserved exclusively to the states.

65. A. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev's programs of glasnost, or openness, and perestroika, or economic restructuring, led to an increase in free speech and free enterprise throughout the Soviet Union. By 1991, these reforms had led to the collapse of Communist power in Russia and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Russia and the other newly independent states that comprised the former Soviet Union suffered great economic hardship following the breakup. With the collapse of the Soviet Union as a world power, the Cold War that began after World War II came to an end. The Berlin Wall, which began construction in 1961, began to be torn down in 1989.

66. B. The Declaration of Independence asserts the principle that governments exist to serve the people who establish them and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish any government that deprives them of their inalienable rights. The limitations upon government mentioned in the other choices were subsequently proclaimed in the Constitution's Bill of Rights.

67. C. The rainforest is endangered by unsustainable agricultural, ranching, mining, and logging practices. Scientific researchers, on the other hand, have generally been successful in studying the rich diversity of rainforest flora and fauna without damaging the ecosystem.

68. D. The hurricane decreased the supply of gasoline while demand remained constant. When demand is greater than supply, prices tend to go up.

69. C. The Maasai are semi-nomadic because they move from place to place while establishing temporary settlements. They are pastoralists because they depend upon cattle for their livelihood.

70. B. The atomic number is equal to the number of protons in the nucleus, which is equal to the number of electrons. The number of protons plus the number of neutrons is equal to the mass number of the atom.

71. A. The troposphere contains three-quarters of the atmosphere's mass and almost all of its water vapor. It is followed by the stratosphere, which is separated from the outermost ionosphere by the mesosphere.

72. D. Cellulose is a structural carbohydrate that protects and supports plant cells. Nuclei, mitochondria, and organelles are found in both plant and animal cells.

73. D. If the question to be answered is not clearly stated at the outset, time and resources may be wasted in studying irrelevant data. Once the problem to be solved has been determined, a hypothesis can be formulated and an experiment can be designed to test it.

74. A. The control in an experiment is not subject to the variable being tested—in this case, the new drug. The volunteers who are given the drug comprise the experimental group.

75. B. Commensalism is a relationship between two organisms in which one organism is benefited and the other is neither harmed nor helped. Parasitism is a relationship in which one organism benefits but the other is harmed. Mutualism is a relationship in which both organisms benefit. Passive transport is a process such as osmosis by which materials are absorbed into cells.

76. D. Blood is cooled as it passes through capillaries surrounding the sweat glands. Heat is absorbed along with excess salt and water and transferred to the glands as sweat. Droplets of sweat then evaporate from the skin surface to dissipate heat and cool the body. The kidney, bladder, and

liver are not involved in regulating body temperature.

77. A. Igneous rocks form from the solidification of molten rock; metamorphic rocks form from changes in heat, pressure, or chemical activity; and sedimentary rocks are formed mainly by the compaction of rock fragments and other materials. All three types of rock may vary in texture, age, and mineral content.

78. D. A meteoroid is an object smaller than an asteroid that revolves around any interplanetary body. The visible path of a meteoroid as it crosses the sky is called a meteor or, more commonly, a shooting star. A meteoroid that reaches the surface of the Earth without being completely vaporized is called a meteorite. A comet is a small chunk of matter that orbits the sun in an elliptical path, and is often composed of ice.

79. D. Kinesthetic learners are most receptive to new information when they can use body movement to explore the world around them. Like tactile learners, they profit most from a hands-on approach to education. Visual learners learn best when they are shown pictures or written materials, while auditory learners absorb information most effectively when it is presented verbally.

80. B. The abundant nitrogen in Earth's atmosphere is left over from the time billions of years ago when volcanoes hurled it into the air. Nitrogen tends to be unreactive and does not readily bond with other elements. Oxygen and hydrogen bond together to make the water that covers much of our planet's surface.

81. C. Acid rain results from the release of nitrogen and sulfur oxides into the atmosphere. The generation of electricity, especially by coal power plants and gasoline-powered motor vehicles, are the main sources of these destructive pollutants. Although the production of nuclear power may carry other risks, it does not contribute to the problem of acid precipitation.

82. D. A lunar eclipse occurs when the full moon moves through the Earth's shadow. A solar eclipse occurs when a new moon passes between the Earth and the Sun.

83. B. The combination of water and acid is exothermic. The addition of water to acid results in a solution that is initially highly concentrated, and enough heat may be produced to cause the acid to boil and splash out of the container.

84. D. Not all scientific literature is reliable. Students must learn to distinguish between sources that are consistent with experimental evidence and those that are biased or misleading in their conclusions. Scientists study one another's work to direct and support original research, but they recognize that interpretations of data may vary and that existing theories are always subject to testing and revision.

85. A. Homeostasis is the process whereby an organism maintains the constant internal conditions necessary for life. Dynamic equilibrium must be maintained even as external conditions continually change. Metabolism refers to the combined chemical processes within a living cell or organism that are necessary for maintaining life. Respiration refers to the process by which cells derive energy from organic molecules. Symbiosis refers to a close association of two dissimilar species that is usually beneficial to one or both of the organisms.

86. B. Conduction is the transfer and distribution of heat energy from one molecule to the next within a substance. The spoon becomes warmer because the heat from the soup is conducted along the spoon. Convection is the transfer of heat energy in a gas or liquid through the movement of currents. Radiation is the transfer of heat through empty space in the form of rays or waves. Advection is the transfer of heat or other atmospheric properties by the horizontal movement of air.

87. B. Biologists examine the structure, function, growth, origin, and classification of living organisms. Botanists specialize in the study of plant life; zoologists specialize in animal species; physiologists focus on mechanical, physical, and biochemical functions of organisms; and ecologists study the relationship between living things and their environment. Physicists study the interaction of matter and energy in the physical world while chemists focus on the chemical structure of matter. Social scientists, including anthropologists, economists, and psychologists focus on human behavior and social interactions.

88. C. When placed together, complementary colors make each other look brighter and more intense. The complement of a primary color (red, blue, or yellow) is the color you get by mixing the other two primary colors; thus, the complement of red is green, which is made by mixing blue and yellow. The colors you get from mixing any two primary colors are called secondary colors. Analogous colors are adjacent to each other on the color wheel and share a color in common.

89. A. Over the centuries, artists have developed several systems of perspective that can be used to create the illusion of depth in their drawings and paintings. As they do in real life, objects drawn in perspective appear to get smaller and closer together as they get further away from the viewer. Abstraction and naturalism refer to painting styles. Bas-relief is a sculpture that projects from a flat surface.

90. B. Impressionists such as Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, Cassatt, and many others, created their new style of painting partly in reaction to the new medium of photography. They wanted to show a way of looking at the world that was distinct from the mirror-image captured in photographs. Expressionism was an artistic movement of the early 20th century that sought to express the artist's emotions rather than depicting objective reality. Romanticism was a movement of the early 19th century that stressed emotional responses over an excessively rational view of the world. Surrealism arose in the 1920s to explore the imagery emerging from the artist's subconscious mind.

91. D. Although saxophones are made of brass, they are classified as woodwind instruments because they produce their sound by causing a wooden reed to vibrate. The student might also be advised that saxophones are not generally included in a traditional symphony orchestra.

92. C. The absence of flats or sharps in the key signature indicates that the music is written in either C major or A minor. Key signatures generally appear immediately after the clef at the beginning of a line of musical notation. The key of A major has three sharps, B major has five sharps, and D major has two sharps.

93. B. Harmony refers to the relationship between notes that are sung or played simultaneously with the melody. When three or more notes are sounded together, a chord is formed. Melody is the sequence of notes that define a musical tune. Rhythm refers to the pattern of musical movement through time. Dynamics refers to the loudness or softness with which music is played.

94. D. Psychiatrists and pediatricians are medical doctors who can legally prescribe drugs to their patients. Psychologists, counselors, social workers, and nurses may recommend medication, but they cannot write prescriptions.

95. D. Teachers in all 50 states are legally required to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse to the proper authorities. Abused children often deny abuse to protect an abusive parent.

96. C. The health skills described in choices A, B, and D are generally expected of students in Grade 1. Issues related to death and grieving are generally not mentioned in curriculum guidelines until later.

97. D. The child's welfare is always of primary importance. It is often possible to take corrective measures that allow a child to be safely returned to his or her family. Punishment of the guilty parties is generally less constructive than finding and eliminating the causes of neglect or abuse.

98. D. A healthy, efficient heart pumps more blood with each beat and can therefore beat at a slower rate. Physical activity contributes to good health by increasing arterial elasticity, blood volume, and thyroid function.

99. A. While all of the choices reflect the benefits of physical activity, reducing the risk of bodily injury is not directly related to the development of social skills and values.