

# GED Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What motivated the author's brother to seek a deeper understanding of Stein's work?**
  - A. A desire to critique the work**
  - B. His dissatisfaction with initial explanations**
  - C. A lack of interest in literature**
  - D. His belief in simplicity over complexity**
- 2. Which of the following was not mentioned in the sequence of events in the passage?**
  - A. Ponies disappearing**
  - B. Discussion about an island**
  - C. A cry being heard**
  - D. Looking for treasure**
- 3. In "Sonny's Blues," what is suggested about the artistic journey?**
  - A. It is without influence from life struggles**
  - B. It is solely for entertainment purposes**
  - C. It is often shaped by personal suffering**
  - D. It tends to result in fame**
- 4. What lesson can be inferred from the couple's discussion about the circus?**
  - A. Communication is key to resolving differences**
  - B. Hiding feelings is a safer option**
  - C. Children should always follow their parents' wishes**
  - D. Couples should avoid difficult conversations**
- 5. What can be inferred about Bobby from his interaction with Jamie?**
  - A. Bobby is shy and withdrawn**
  - B. Bobby is def because he understands Jamie through facial expressions**
  - C. Bobby speaks very little**
  - D. Bobby often misunderstands Jamie's words**

- 6. What is a primary function of an email memorandum?**
- A. To formally announce decisions**
  - B. To express personal opinions**
  - C. To entertain the audience**
  - D. To serve as a marketing tool**
- 7. Which statement about the use of ocean wave energy is supported by the text?**
- A. It is completely free of negative effects**
  - B. It has not been widely implemented**
  - C. It is the fastest growing energy sector**
  - D. It has both challenges and opportunities**
- 8. In "Musician's Daughter," what is the difference if "grand" is replaced with "large" in the description of the room?**
- A. The meaning of size changes**
  - B. The sense of magnificence is lost**
  - C. The elegance of the room is emphasized**
  - D. The overall impression remains the same**
- 9. In discussing the influence of Jefferson, what is highlighted as a fundamental aspect of his political philosophy?**
- A. Liberty and freedom**
  - B. Monarchical governance**
  - C. Isolationism in policy**
  - D. Economic independence**
- 10. Which piece of evidence supports the concept of language acquisition in young children?**
- A. Children learn primarily through formal education**
  - B. Young children can communicate effectively without formal training**
  - C. Parental guidance is essential for language development**
  - D. Children respond better to visual aids than verbal instructions**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What motivated the author's brother to seek a deeper understanding of Stein's work?**

- A. A desire to critique the work**
- B. His dissatisfaction with initial explanations**
- C. A lack of interest in literature**
- D. His belief in simplicity over complexity**

The author's brother was motivated to seek a deeper understanding of Stein's work due to his dissatisfaction with initial explanations. This suggests that the brother found the initial interpretations or discussions inadequate or lacking in clarity, prompting him to dive deeper into the text. By feeling that these early explanations did not sufficiently illuminate Stein's writing, he was inspired to explore the work more thoroughly, seeking to grasp the nuances and complexities on his own terms. This motivation highlights an intellectual curiosity and a desire for a more comprehensive comprehension of the material, ultimately indicating that a meaningful understanding of literature can require more profound engagement than superficial explanations offer.

**2. Which of the following was not mentioned in the sequence of events in the passage?**

- A. Ponies disappearing**
- B. Discussion about an island**
- C. A cry being heard**
- D. Looking for treasure**

The answer is appropriate because the passage does not include any reference to searching for treasure as part of the narrative's events. In the context of the passage, the sequence of events typically revolves around specific actions and occurrences that are explicitly mentioned. In contrast, the other choices package relevant details that align with the story's focus, such as the ponies vanishing, a discussion about an island that could provide context about the setting or destination, and a cry being heard, which all contribute meaningfully to the buildup or climax of the narrative. This emphasizes the need to look closely at the wording and events provided in the passage to determine which elements are directly presented and which are absent from the storyline.

**3. In "Sonny's Blues," what is suggested about the artistic journey?**

- A. It is without influence from life struggles**
- B. It is solely for entertainment purposes**
- C. It is often shaped by personal suffering**
- D. It tends to result in fame**

The correct answer highlights that the artistic journey is often shaped by personal suffering. In "Sonny's Blues," the narrative emphasizes how the characters' experiences, particularly those of Sonny, are intertwined with their struggles and hardships. These personal challenges contribute significantly to their artistic expression and understanding of life. Throughout the story, Sonny's tumultuous background and the pain of his brother serve as key influences that inform his music, illustrating how art can emerge from and be a response to suffering. This connection showcases the profound impact that life experiences have on creativity, suggesting that art often reflects the complexity of human emotions and struggles rather than being a mere source of entertainment or devoid of life's realities.

**4. What lesson can be inferred from the couple's discussion about the circus?**

- A. Communication is key to resolving differences**
- B. Hiding feelings is a safer option**
- C. Children should always follow their parents' wishes**
- D. Couples should avoid difficult conversations**

The discussion about the circus likely highlights the importance of communication in addressing differing viewpoints within a relationship. When a couple engages in dialogue about their perspectives, they are actively working to understand each other and find common ground. This process emphasizes that clear communication can lead to productive outcomes and help resolve conflicts. By sharing their feelings and thoughts openly, they demonstrate how discussing differences can strengthen their relationship rather than weaken it, supporting the idea that effective communication is crucial for navigating disagreements.

**5. What can be inferred about Bobby from his interaction with Jamie?**

- A. Bobby is shy and withdrawn**
- B. Bobby is deaf because he understands Jamie through facial expressions**
- C. Bobby speaks very little**
- D. Bobby often misunderstands Jamie's words**

The inference that Bobby is deaf and understands Jamie through facial expressions is supported by the context of their interaction. This suggests that Bobby relies on non-verbal communication cues to engage with Jamie, indicating a level of adaptability and awareness of others' expressions. Understanding someone through facial expressions implies that Bobby has developed skills to interpret emotions and intentions without needing verbal communication, which further emphasizes his ability to remain involved in the conversation despite a potential hearing impairment. This choice reflects a deeper insight into Bobby's character, showcasing his ability to connect with Jamie uniquely and effectively, highlighting his social awareness and capacity to communicate in alternative ways.

**6. What is a primary function of an email memorandum?**

- A. To formally announce decisions**
- B. To express personal opinions**
- C. To entertain the audience**
- D. To serve as a marketing tool**

A primary function of an email memorandum is to formally announce decisions. Memos are typically used in professional or organizational settings to communicate important information, updates, or directives in a concise and clear manner. They are designed to convey factual content and are often utilized to inform members of a group about decisions that affect the organization, such as policy changes, project updates, or meeting notes. This direct approach helps ensure that all relevant parties are informed and can act accordingly. On the other hand, expressing personal opinions lacks the formal tone and purpose typical of memorandums. Entertainment is not a goal of memo writing; rather, the focus is on delivering information efficiently. Memos are also not primarily designed for marketing purposes, which involve persuasive language and strategies intended to promote products or services.

**7. Which statement about the use of ocean wave energy is supported by the text?**

- A. It is completely free of negative effects**
- B. It has not been widely implemented**
- C. It is the fastest growing energy sector**
- D. It has both challenges and opportunities**

The statement that ocean wave energy has both challenges and opportunities is supported by the text because it likely discusses the complexities involved in harnessing energy from ocean waves. While ocean wave energy is considered a renewable source with great potential, it also faces significant hurdles, such as technological limitations, environmental impacts, and the need for infrastructure development. These factors encompass both the challenges that must be addressed and the opportunities for innovation and sustainable energy solutions that can arise from advancements in this field. This balance between difficulties and possibilities is a crucial aspect of evaluating any emerging energy sector, underscoring why this statement provides a comprehensive view of ocean wave energy utilization.

**8. In "Musician's Daughter," what is the difference if "grand" is replaced with "large" in the description of the room?**

- A. The meaning of size changes**
- B. The sense of magnificence is lost**
- C. The elegance of the room is emphasized**
- D. The overall impression remains the same**

When "grand" is replaced with "large" in the description of the room, the sense of magnificence is indeed lost. The term "grand" conveys not just size but also an aura of splendor, majesty, and sophistication, evoking an emotional response associated with grandeur and beauty. In contrast, "large" simply conveys the physical size of the room without any additional connotations related to elegance or splendor. Therefore, the replacement alters the perception of the room from one that suggests beauty and impressiveness to one that merely describes it as big, thereby diminishing the overall impact of the description.

**9. In discussing the influence of Jefferson, what is highlighted as a fundamental aspect of his political philosophy?**

- A. Liberty and freedom**
- B. Monarchical governance**
- C. Isolationism in policy**
- D. Economic independence**

The choice of liberty and freedom as a fundamental aspect of Thomas Jefferson's political philosophy accurately reflects his core beliefs and contributions to the development of American democracy. Jefferson is widely recognized for advocating individual rights and the importance of a government that derives its power from the consent of the governed. His authorship of the Declaration of Independence famously underscores the principle that all men are created equal and are endowed with unalienable rights, which include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. By prioritizing liberty and freedom, Jefferson emphasized the importance of civil liberties and the protection of individual rights within a democratic society. This focus on personal freedoms has had a lasting influence on American political thought and continues to be a cornerstone of discussions around democracy, governance, and human rights. Other options such as monarchical governance, isolationism in policy, and economic independence do not represent the main tenets of Jefferson's political views. In fact, his philosophy directly opposed strong centralized power and monarchy, favoring a democratic approach. While economic independence was a part of his vision, it was the advocacy for liberty and the essential role of individual freedoms that defined his political philosophy most profoundly.

**10. Which piece of evidence supports the concept of language acquisition in young children?**

- A. Children learn primarily through formal education**
- B. Young children can communicate effectively without formal training**
- C. Parental guidance is essential for language development**
- D. Children respond better to visual aids than verbal instructions**

The choice that supports the concept of language acquisition in young children is that young children can communicate effectively without formal training. This highlights an essential aspect of language acquisition: it is a natural process that occurs as children interact with their environment and the people around them. Language development occurs through everyday experiences, exposure to language, and social interactions, rather than solely through structured educational methods. This evidence demonstrates that children possess an innate ability or a strong inclination to acquire language through observation and engagement, regardless of formal instruction. Their ability to learn and communicate in their native language in familiar settings underscores the dynamic process of language acquisition as a fundamental aspect of human development.