

PRACTICE EXAM 12: EQAO GRADE 6 LANGUAGE SIMULATION (47 QUESTIONS)

READING SESSION A

Time: Approximately 35 minutes

Passage 1: "The Long Way Around"

A short story by Tomás Beauregard

The track at Carter Park was not a real track.

It was a worn brown loop of dirt around the inside of a public soccer field, just over four hundred metres long if you stayed close to the inside line. The grass in the middle had been chewed up by twenty years of cleats. The lane lines, if they had ever existed, were long gone. In the corner of the park, a single hand-painted sign read Walkers and Runners Please Be Considerate of Each Other.

For Maya, it was the most important place in the city.

She had started running here the previous summer, when she was eleven, because her older brother had told her she could not. He had been training for cross-country tryouts and did not want her tagging along. So Maya had walked to Carter Park by herself one morning in July and run two slow laps around the loop, and at the end of those two laps, breathing hard with her hands on her knees, she had decided two things.

One: running was harder than her brother made it look.

Two: she was going to keep doing it.

That had been fifteen months ago.

Now Maya was twelve, and she ran at Carter Park almost every day. She kept a small notebook in her room with the date, the number of laps, and the time she finished — written in pencil because she liked to be able to erase and update her best times. Three laps in seven minutes. Five laps in twelve. Ten laps in twenty-eight.

She had not told anyone she was doing this.

Her brother still thought she was just trying to imitate him. Her parents knew she ran but assumed it was casual. Her best friend, Yusuf, lived three streets over and did not run at all. Maya liked that no one was watching.

This was hers.

On a Saturday in October, Maya arrived at Carter Park at her usual time — six-thirty in the morning, before the dog-walkers and the weekend joggers arrived. The grass was wet with dew. The air smelled like wood smoke from a chimney somewhere down the block. Maya did her warm-up stretches by the painted sign, the way she had taught herself from a library book.

She started running.

On the second lap, she noticed someone.

A man stood at the edge of the field, near the entrance gate. He was older — maybe sixty — wearing a blue running jacket and carrying a small notebook. He was not running. He was watching her.

Maya kept going.

She finished her usual eight laps. She walked the last quarter of the final lap to cool down. When she finally stopped, the man was still standing where he had been. He walked over to her, slowly, holding the notebook against his chest.

"Excuse me," he said. "I do not mean to interrupt your morning. May I ask how long you have been running here?"

Maya looked at him carefully. He did not seem unkind. But she did not know him.

"A while," she said.

"How often?"

"Most days."

"All seasons?"

"Yes."

The man nodded slowly. He held the notebook up so she could see it, though she could not read what was written inside.

"I coach the cross-country team at Lakeview Public School," he said. "I came here this morning to watch a different student. She didn't show up. I saw you instead."

Maya did not say anything.

"I have been here for forty minutes," the man said. "You ran eight laps. Your second lap was actually faster than your first. Your seventh lap was almost the same time as your third. That kind of pacing is not common in someone your age. It is not common at all."

Maya looked down at her shoes.

"I am not in your school," she said quietly. "I go to Carter Heights."

"I know," the man said. He smiled, a small honest smile. "I am not trying to recruit you. I am just telling you what I noticed."

He paused.

"There is a winter running program at the YMCA on Saturdays. It is free. I help coach it on weekends. If you ever wanted to come and try a few sessions, you would be welcome."

He handed her a small piece of folded paper with the program's information on it.

"You do not have to decide today," he said. "And you do not have to come at all. I just thought you should know it exists."

He walked away.

Maya stood at the edge of the field, holding the piece of paper, the morning quiet around her. She read the address twice. She folded the paper carefully and tucked it into the small pocket of her running shorts.

That afternoon, in her notebook, she wrote a new entry. Eight laps. Twenty-three minutes flat — a new personal best by fourteen seconds.

Underneath the time, in slightly larger letters, she wrote:

Someone saw me today.

Then she closed the notebook.

She thought about the YMCA program for the rest of the weekend.

She did not tell anyone.

On Monday morning, before school, she walked to her mother's office in the kitchen and put the folded piece of paper on her mother's desk.

"What is this?" her mother asked.

"Could we go on Saturday?" Maya said. "Just to see."

Her mother unfolded the paper. She read it. She looked at Maya.

"Sweetheart," she said gently. "Have you been running?"

Maya nodded.

Her mother did not say anything for a long moment.

Then she smiled — the kind of small, surprised smile a parent gives when they realize they have not been paying close enough attention to something important.

"Show me your notebook," she said.

Maya went upstairs and brought it down.

Her mother read every page.

When she was finished, she closed the notebook, set it on the desk, and said quietly:

"We will go on Saturday."

Maya did not say anything.

She did not need to.

She had been running by herself, the long way around, for fifteen months. And now she was going to find out what it was like to run with people who would actually see her.

1. Why does Maya MOST LIKELY find Carter Park "the most important place in the city"?

- A. It is the private space where she has built something meaningful entirely on her own
- B. It has the cleanest air in her city for early-morning weekend training sessions
- C. It is the only place where her older brother is not allowed to follow her on weekends
- D. It is the closest park to her home and does not require a long walk to reach

2. Read this sentence from the passage:

"She kept a small notebook in her room with the date, the number of laps, and the time she finished — written in pencil because she liked to be able to erase and update her best times."

What does this sentence MOST LIKELY suggest about Maya?

- A. Maya does not own any pens and could only afford to use pencils for her training
- B. Maya is disorganized and frequently makes mistakes when she writes in her notebook
- C. Maya tracks her own progress carefully and is constantly working to improve herself
- D. Maya is hoping that her parents will notice the notebook and ask about her running

3. Why did Maya MOST LIKELY start running fifteen months ago?

- A. Her doctor had recommended that she begin a regular exercise program
- B. She wanted to make her parents proud of her athletic achievements
- C. She had been inspired by an Olympic runner she had watched on television
- D. Her brother told her she could not run with him, and she decided to do it anyway

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"She had not told anyone she was doing this."

What does this detail MOST LIKELY suggest about Maya?

- A. Maya is hiding something from her parents that she should not be hiding
- B. Maya values doing something for her own reasons rather than for an audience
- C. Maya is embarrassed about how slow she still is compared to other runners
- D. Maya is hoping someone will eventually discover what she has been doing

5. Why is the man at the park MOST LIKELY able to notice Maya's pacing?

- A. He has experience as a coach and knows what to look for in a young runner
- B. He has been watching Maya run at Carter Park for several weeks already
- C. He happened to be timing every runner who came to the park that morning
- D. He is a former Olympic athlete who lives in the neighbourhood near the park

6. When the man tells Maya, "I am not trying to recruit you. I am just telling you what I noticed," what is he MOST LIKELY trying to communicate?

- A. He thinks Maya should be running for his school's cross-country team
- B. He is too busy with his current school team to take on any new students
- C. He is required to recruit a certain number of athletes from other schools
- D. He wants Maya to know about the opportunity without putting pressure on her

7. What does Maya's note "Someone saw me today" MOST LIKELY mean?

- A. Someone in the neighbourhood spotted her walking home from the park
- B. A photographer at the park took her picture without her permission
- C. After fifteen months of working alone, someone finally recognized her effort
- D. A new neighbour she had not met before noticed her stretching at the park

8. Why does Maya's mother MOST LIKELY give "the kind of small, surprised smile a parent gives when they realize they have not been paying close enough attention to something important"?

- A. She is embarrassed that she has been spending too much time at work lately
- B. She suddenly realizes that her daughter has been pursuing something serious without her noticing

Passage 2: "I Am" — A List Poem

By Damaris Olawale

(A list poem — built almost entirely from a repeated phrase that introduces each line.)

I am the sound of my mother's pots in the morning,
I am the smell of cinnamon when the bread is almost ready.
I am the brother who keeps the secret about the broken vase.
I am the cousin who came in second at the spelling bee in fourth grade.
I am the friend who lends pencils and waits to be paid back in stories.
I am the writer who keeps a small notebook in her schoolbag.
I am the kid who tries one more time after everyone else has stopped.
I am the person who is still learning who she is,
I am the person who is in no hurry to finish the list.

11. What kind of poem is this called, based on its structure?
- A. A concrete poem — a poem shaped like its subject on the page
 - B. An acrostic poem — a poem in which the first letters spell out a hidden word
 - C. A ballad — a song-like poem that tells a long story over many stanzas
 - D. A list poem — a poem built from a repeated phrase that introduces each line

12. What is the MAIN message of this poem?

- A. Children should make a list of their best qualities before they start school
- B. A person is made up of many small parts, and identity is still being formed
- C. Family relationships are the most important part of a young person's identity
- D. Schoolwork is often more important than the relationships in a person's life

13. Read this line from the poem:

"I am the kid who tries one more time after everyone else has stopped."

What does this line MOST LIKELY suggest about the speaker?

- A. The speaker is persistent and willing to keep working when others give up
- B. The speaker is slower than her classmates at finishing schoolwork
- C. The speaker dislikes when other people quit a difficult activity early
- D. The speaker is being criticized by adults for taking too much time

14. What does the final line — "I am the person who is in no hurry to finish the list" — MOST LIKELY mean?

- A. The speaker has not yet been able to think of more lines to add to the poem
- B. The speaker plans to write the rest of the poem at a later date with help
- C. The speaker accepts that her identity will keep growing throughout her life
- D. The speaker is unable to write quickly and needs more time to complete the work

15. (Open-Response)

The short story "The Long Way Around" and the poem "I Am" both involve a young person who is quietly working on becoming who she is. Choose ONE specific way these two pieces are SIMILAR. Use details from BOTH pieces to support your answer.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

If you live anywhere in Canada north of the Great Lakes, you have almost certainly heard a snowmobile in winter. The high whine of its engine across a frozen lake, the buzz of a distant trail rider on a cold afternoon — these are sounds that mark Canadian winters from Whitehorse to St. John's. What many Canadians do not realize is that the snowmobile is, in fact, a Canadian invention. It was designed, built, and patented in Quebec by a young inventor who simply wanted to solve a problem in his own community.

This article tells the story of how it happened.

A Small-Town Beginning

Joseph-Armand Bombardier was born in 1907 in Valcourt, Quebec — a small town in the Eastern Townships, about a hundred and twenty kilometres east of Montreal. Valcourt was a farming community surrounded by forests, with long, snowy winters that often made the roads impassable for weeks at a time. There were no snowploughs in rural Quebec in those days. There were no four-wheel-drive trucks. When snow blocked the roads, communities were largely cut off from each other until spring.

This was the problem Bombardier wanted to solve.

He had been interested in mechanics for as long as anyone could remember. By the age of fifteen, he had taken apart and reassembled several engines. At nineteen, he opened his own mechanic's shop in Valcourt. He spent his evenings and weekends in the workshop, sketching designs for a machine that could move quickly across snow.

The First Prototype

Bombardier's first successful prototype was completed in 1937. It was a small vehicle with skis at the front, a track at the back, and an enclosed cabin for several passengers. He called it the B7 — because it carried seven people. The B7 was not what most modern readers would think of as a snowmobile. It looked more like a small bus on skis.

But it worked.

The B7 could travel across deep snow at speeds the people of Valcourt had never seen before. Doctors in the region began using it to reach patients during winter emergencies. Schools used it to transport students. Within a few years, larger versions were being built — some that could carry twelve passengers, some that could carry small loads of cargo.

For nearly twenty years, Bombardier's vehicles were primarily large, multi-passenger machines.

A Personal Tragedy and a New Idea

In 1934, before he had completed the B7, Bombardier suffered a terrible loss. His young son, Yvon, became seriously ill with appendicitis during a heavy winter snowstorm. The roads to the nearest hospital were closed by snow. Bombardier was unable to transport his son in time. Yvon died.

The tragedy strengthened Bombardier's resolve. He had been working on his snow vehicle for years, but his son's death made the work feel urgent in a way it had not been before. Bombardier continued building larger machines, but he also began thinking about something different: a small, individual snow vehicle. One that a single person could drive. One that could reach places the large vehicles could not.

This idea took twenty more years to come to life.

The Ski-Doo

In 1959, Bombardier introduced the Ski-Doo — the first commercially successful one-person snowmobile. It was small enough to be carried in the back of a pickup truck. It used a simple engine and a track that could carry a single rider across snow at high speeds. The name "Ski-Doo" was originally meant to be "Ski-Dog," referencing the dog teams that had traditionally pulled sleds across the snow. According to popular accounts, a printing error on early marketing materials produced "Ski-Doo" instead, and the name stuck.

The Ski-Doo was an immediate success. By 1962, Bombardier's factory was producing thousands of them every year. Trappers, surveyors, hunters, and rural Canadians of all kinds bought them as practical transportation. Within a decade, the Ski-Doo had transformed how rural Canada — particularly in the North — moved through winter.

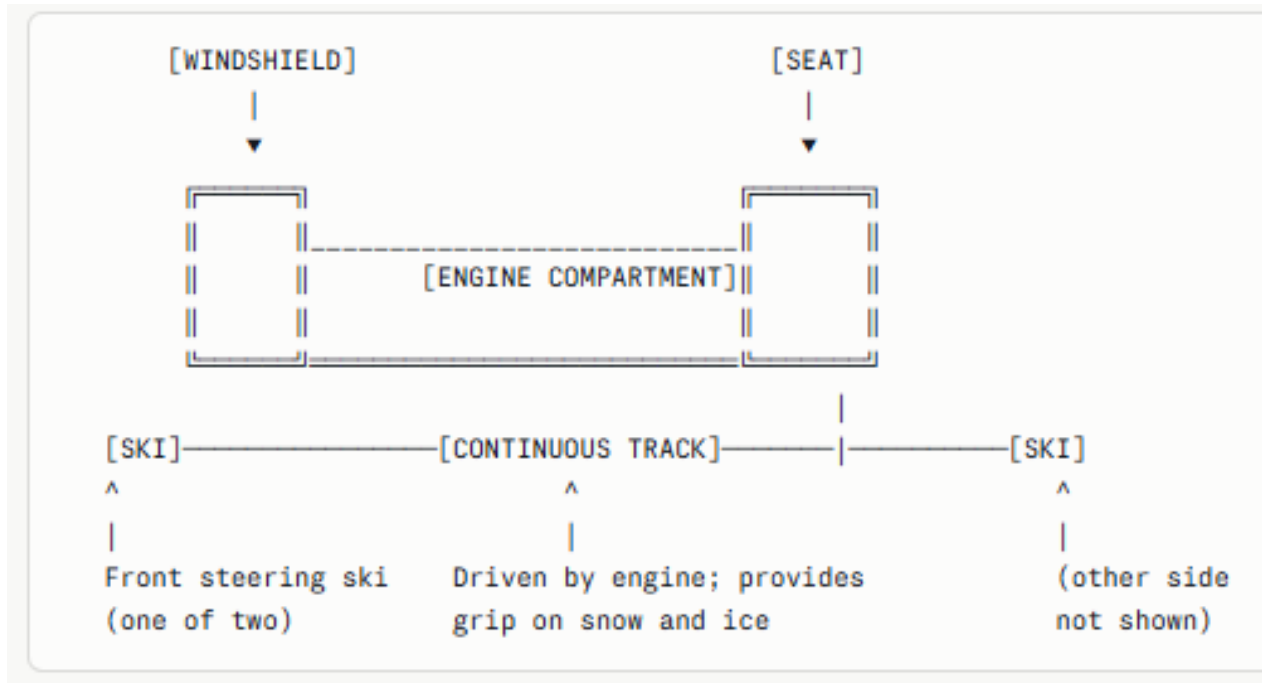
A Lasting Legacy

Today, Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) — the company Joseph-Armand Bombardier founded — manufactures snowmobiles, watercraft, and other vehicles sold around the world. Valcourt, the small Quebec town where Bombardier sketched his first designs, is now home to a museum dedicated to his work.

The snowmobile is not without its critics. Environmentalists have raised concerns about noise, emissions, and the effects of snowmobile trails on wildlife. Some communities have debated where snowmobiles should and should not be allowed. These are real questions, and the article does not pretend to settle them.

But the snowmobile remains a Canadian invention. It was built, in the snow of a small Quebec town, by a young man who refused to accept that winter had to mean isolation. It changed how Canadians move through the longest season of the year — and how the world thinks of Canadian winters.

Graphic Text 1: Bombardier's Snowmobile — Labelled Cross-Section



Graphic Text 2: Bombardier and the Snowmobile — Side-by-Side Timeline

Year	Bombardier's Life	Snowmobile Development
1907	Joseph-Armand Bombardier born in Valcourt, Quebec	—
1926	Opens his own mechanic's shop at age 19	Begins sketching snow vehicle designs
1934	His son Yvon dies during winter snowstorm	Bombardier renews focus on snow travel
1937	—	First B7 prototype completed (7-passenger)
1940s	Larger multi-passenger versions built	Used by doctors, schools, ambulances
1959	—	Ski-Doo introduced (one-person snowmobile)
1962	Factory producing thousands of Ski-Doos per year	Snowmobile use spreads across rural Canada
1964	Joseph-Armand Bombardier dies	Company continues under family leadership

16. What is the MAIN purpose of this article?

- A. To convince Canadians to purchase a snowmobile during the coming winter
- B. To tell the story of how a Canadian inventor created the modern snowmobile
- C. To compare Bombardier's invention to similar inventions in other countries
- D. To argue that snowmobiles should be banned because of their environmental impact

17. Why does the author **MOST LIKELY** begin the article by describing snowmobile sounds across Canada — "from Whitehorse to St. John's"?

- A. To remind readers that snowmobiles are a familiar part of Canadian winter life
- B. To prove that snowmobiles are noisier than most other vehicles ever invented
- C. To suggest that all Canadians live in regions where snowmobiles are useful
- D. To convince readers that other countries have copied the Canadian invention

18. According to the article, what **PROBLEM** was Joseph-Armand Bombardier trying to solve when he began his work?

- A. He wanted to design a vehicle that would replace cars and trucks in cities
- B. He wanted to find a way to make his mechanic's shop more profitable
- C. He wanted to help rural communities that were cut off from each other in winter
- D. He wanted to create a vehicle for racing across frozen lakes in winter

19. Read this sentence from the article:

"There were no snowploughs in rural Quebec in those days."

What does this detail **MOST LIKELY** help the reader understand?

- A. The Bombardier family was unable to afford a snowplough at home
- B. Snowploughs had been invented but not yet brought to Canada at that time
- C. Rural roads in Quebec were sometimes so dangerous that even ploughs avoided them
- D. The communities Bombardier lived in had no way to clear snow from their roads

20. How did the death of Bombardier's son Yvon **MOST LIKELY** affect his work?

- A. The tragedy strengthened his resolve and made his work feel urgent

- B. The tragedy caused him to stop inventing for several years afterwards
- C. The tragedy led him to abandon his small workshop in Valcourt
- D. The tragedy convinced him to switch from snow vehicles to automobiles

21. Read this sentence from the article:

"According to popular accounts, a printing error on early marketing materials produced 'Ski-Doo' instead, and the name stuck."

Why does the author include the phrase "according to popular accounts"?

- A. To prove that the printing error definitely happened during the 1959 launch
- B. To explain that the printing error was a common practice in Quebec at the time
- C. To signal that the story is widely told but may not be fully verified as fact
- D. To suggest that the name "Ski-Doo" was chosen by a printing company employee

22. (Open-Response)

Using information from BOTH the article and Graphic Text 2 (the timeline), explain how Bombardier's work changed between the B7 and the Ski-Doo. Include at least TWO specific details in your answer.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

23. According to Graphic Text 1 (the labelled cross-section), what part of the snowmobile drives the vehicle forward across the snow?

- A. The windshield positioned at the front of the vehicle
- B. The seat located between the front and back of the machine
- C. The front steering skis attached to the bottom of the vehicle
- D. The continuous track running underneath the engine

26. What does the article suggest in its CLOSING paragraph?

- A. Bombardier's invention transformed how Canadians experience winter and how the world sees Canadian winters
- B. Snowmobiles will eventually be replaced by quieter, electric versions in the next twenty years
- C. Joseph-Armand Bombardier should be more widely recognized as one of Canada's greatest scientists
- D. The town of Valcourt has become one of the most-visited tourist destinations in Quebec

27. (Open-Response)

The article describes Joseph-Armand Bombardier as "a young man who refused to accept that winter had to mean isolation." Why is this a meaningful way to describe him? Use details from the article to support your answer.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

28. (Open-Response)

In two or three sentences, summarize the MAIN ideas of this article in your own words. Use at least ONE specific detail from the article or graphic texts in your summary.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

WRITING SESSION A

Time: Approximately 35 minutes

Part 1: Language Conventions (Questions 29-32)

29. Read the sentence:

The hikers brought a tent, a stove, and warm sleeping bags ____ they expected the temperature to drop overnight.

Which word BEST completes the sentence?

- A. unless
- B. although
- C. because
- D. however

30. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. After the long performance ended, the actors gathered backstage to celebrate together
- B. After the long performance ended the actors, gathered backstage to celebrate together
- C. After, the long performance ended the actors gathered, backstage to celebrate together
- D. After the long performance, ended the actors gathered backstage to celebrate, together

31. Which sentence has correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. The collection of old letters and photographs are stored in the attic of our house
- B. The collection of old letters and photographs were stored in the attic of our house
- C. The collection of old letters and photographs have been stored in the attic of our house
- D. The collection of old letters and photographs is stored in the attic of our house

32. Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?

- A. The womens choir performed beautifully at the community centre last weekend
- B. The women's choir performed beautifully at the community centre last weekend
- C. The womens' choir performed beautifully at the community centre last weekend
- D. The women's' choir performed beautifully at the community centre last weekend

Part 2: Short Writing Responses (Questions 33-35)

33. (Open-Response)

Read the paragraph below. It contains THREE errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Rewrite the paragraph correctly.

Last sunday, my older sister and me visited the royal ontario museum. We spent the entire afternoon looking at the dinosaur exhibits and ancient artifacts. It was one of the most fascinating field trips we have taken together.

Part 3: Extended Writing Prompt (Question 36)

36. (Extended Writing — Series of Paragraphs)

Think about a Canadian invention, tradition, place, or person that you find interesting. This could be something well-known (such as basketball, insulin, or the canoe) or something smaller (such as a local landmark, a family tradition, or a person from your community).

Write a piece in which you:

- Introduce the Canadian topic you have chosen and explain why you picked it
- Describe at least TWO specific things that make it interesting or meaningful
- Include specific details that show why it matters
- End with a reflection on what this topic helps you understand about Canada or your community

(Aim for approximately four paragraphs.)

37. Which sentence is a complete sentence (not a fragment or run-on)?

- A. Walking quickly past the empty playground toward the corner store last evening
- B. The librarian arranged the new books on the shelves before the school opened
- C. Although the documentary had been highly recommended by many of my classmates
- D. The kettle whistled the steam rose the cat ran underneath the kitchen table

38. Read the sentence:

By the time the guests had finished dinner, the cook ____ the dessert for almost two hours.

Which phrase BEST completes the sentence?

- A. is preparing
- B. prepares
- C. will prepare
- D. had been preparing

39. Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- A. The students completed their assignments with remarkable speed and accuracy
- B. The chef carefully described every ingredient in the new restaurant menu
- C. The community gathered to celebrate the achievment of their new athletic team
- D. The author signed copies of her novel at the bookstore on Saturday morning

40. Read the sentence:

The runner trained for months, ____ she still felt nervous on the morning of the race.

Which word BEST completes the sentence?

44. Read the sentence:

The package ___ arrived this morning was wrapped in brown paper and tied with twine.

Which word BEST completes the sentence?

- A. who
- B. whom
- C. that
- D. whose

45. Which sentence uses quotation marks correctly?

- A. "I will help you carry the boxes," said Maya, "as soon as I finish my homework."
- B. I will help you carry the boxes "said Maya as soon as I finish my homework"
- C. "I will help you carry the boxes said Maya as soon as I finish my homework"
- D. "I will help you carry the boxes, said Maya as soon as I finish my homework"

Part 4: Extended Writing Prompts (Questions 46-47)

46. (Extended Writing — Opinion)

Some people believe that students in Grade 6 should be required to participate in at least one team or individual sport each year. Other people believe that sports should always be a free choice, never a requirement.

What do you think?

Write a response in which you:

- Clearly state your opinion
- Give at least TWO reasons that support your opinion

47. (Extended Writing — Narrative)

Write a story about a time when someone noticed something good about you that you had not expected anyone to see.

The moment, the person, and the noticed quality can be real or imagined. The noticed quality should be something quiet — not a big achievement, but a smaller habit, attitude, or strength.

Your story should:

- Include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Have at least one main character
- Describe the moment when the noticing happened in specific detail
- Show how the noticing made you feel
- End with a reflection on what the moment meant
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

(Aim for approximately three to five paragraphs.)

Practice Exam 12: Answer Key and Explanations

- 1. A** — Carter Park is the "most important place in the city" to Maya because it is the private space where she has built something meaningful entirely on her own — a fifteen-month running practice that no one else has witnessed. The story emphasizes that "this was hers" and that "Maya liked that no one was watching." The other options misread the value as air quality, sibling avoidance, or convenience.
- 2. C** — The notebook details — the date, lap counts, finish times, and the choice of pencil so she can "erase and update her best times" — show that Maya tracks her own progress carefully and is constantly working to improve. This is the behaviour of a disciplined, self-motivated runner. The other options take the detail too literally as poverty, disorganization, or a hidden hope.
- 3. D** — The passage states plainly that Maya started running because her brother "had told her she could not." Her brother was training for cross-country and did not want her tagging along, so Maya went to Carter Park on her own and ran two slow laps. The other options invent reasons (doctor, parents, Olympic athlete) not supported by the passage.
- 4. B** — Maya's choice to keep her running entirely private reveals a person who values doing something for her own reasons, not for praise or attention. The story explicitly says "Maya liked that no one was watching" and "This was hers." The other options misread the secrecy as wrongdoing, embarrassment, or attention-seeking.
- 5. A** — The man is a cross-country coach with the trained eye to notice that Maya's lap times were unusually consistent — her second lap faster than her first, her seventh nearly matching her third. Only an experienced coach would notice that pacing pattern and recognize it as unusual. The other options invent backstories (weeks of watching, universal timing, Olympic background) not supported by the passage.
- 6. D** — The coach is making clear that his offer of the YMCA program is information, not pressure — Maya can decide for herself whether to come. He even adds, "You do not have to come at all. I just thought you should know it exists." The other options misread his words as recruitment, deflection, or quota-filling.
- 7. C** — After fifteen months of working alone — running every day, tracking laps, improving steadily without anyone noticing — Maya finally has the experience of being seen. The coach's specific observations about her pacing tell her that her quiet work has been recognized. The other options take the line too literally as neighbourhood spotting, photography, or a new neighbour.
- 8. B** — The phrase describes a parent realizing they have not been paying close enough attention to something important — in this case, Maya's serious fifteen-month running practice. The mother reads the entire notebook and sees that a major effort has been quietly happening under her own roof. The other options misread the smile as embarrassment about work hours, anger, or delight about community involvement.
- 9. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *The story shows that Maya is disciplined and self-motivated. She has run at Carter Park "almost every day" for fifteen months — through every season — usually arriving at six-thirty in the morning before other people are at the park. She keeps a small*

notebook with the date, the number of laps, and her finish times "written in pencil because she liked to be able to erase and update her best times." She also taught herself her warm-up stretches from a library book. Maya works hard quietly and improves on her own, without needing anyone to encourage or watch her. (Strong: clear character claim + two specific details.)

10. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *The moment matters because Maya had spent fifteen months running, tracking her laps, and improving — all without anyone noticing what she was doing. When the coach described her pacing in specific detail and said "that kind of pacing is not common in someone your age," he became the first person to truly see the work Maya had been putting in. Writing "Someone saw me today" in her notebook is her way of marking the moment her private effort became visible to someone else. (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)*

11. D — A list poem is built almost entirely from a repeated phrase that introduces each line — in this case, "I am" — followed by a different image, role, or trait each time. This is the defining feature of the list form. The other options describe forms that do not match (no visual shape, no hidden word from first letters, no long story).

12. B — The poem's central message is that a person is made up of many small parts — sounds, smells, family roles, friendships, habits, attitudes — and that identity is still being formed. The closing line "I am the person who is in no hurry to finish the list" confirms that identity-building is ongoing. The other options misread the poem as a list-making instruction, a family argument, or a school comment.

13. A — The line characterizes the speaker as persistent — the kind of person who keeps trying when others have given up. It is a quiet line of pride about a personal work ethic. The other options misread the line as slowness, judgment of others, or criticism received.

14. C — The final line means that the speaker accepts that her identity is still growing and is in no hurry to finish forming. The line celebrates becoming rather than arriving. The other options misread the line as running out of ideas, scheduling, or writing speed.

15. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *Both pieces show a young person quietly working on becoming who she is. In "The Long Way Around," Maya runs at Carter Park every day for fifteen months, keeps a notebook of her times, and improves slowly on her own without telling anyone — building a part of herself that no one else has seen. In "I Am," the speaker lists many quiet pieces of who she is, including being "the kid who tries one more time after everyone else has stopped," and says she is "in no hurry to finish the list." Both pieces honour the slow, private work of growing into yourself. (Strong: clear similarity + evidence from both texts.)*

16. B — The article's central purpose is to tell the story of how Joseph-Armand Bombardier — a young inventor in small-town Quebec — created the modern snowmobile. Every section supports this story, from his childhood in Valcourt to the launch of the Ski-Doo. The other options misread the purpose as a sales pitch, an international comparison, or an environmental argument.

17. A — Naming places "from Whitehorse to St. John's" — the country's far west to far east — reminds the reader that snowmobiles are a familiar sound across all of Canadian winter life. This grounds the article

in shared Canadian experience. The other options misread the opening as a noise complaint, a sweeping geographic claim, or an international copying argument.

18. C — The article states directly that rural Quebec winters often made roads impassable for weeks, and "when snow blocked the roads, communities were largely cut off from each other until spring." This was the problem Bombardier wanted to solve. The other options misread the motivation as a city replacement, a business strategy, or racing.

19. D — The detail emphasizes that rural Quebec communities had no way to clear snow from their roads — there were "no snowploughs," "no four-wheel-drive trucks." This explains why winter isolation was such a serious problem and why Bombardier's invention mattered. The other options misread the detail as personal poverty, technology unavailability, or road danger.

20. A — The article states that Yvon's death "strengthened Bombardier's resolve" and made the work "feel urgent in a way it had not been before." The tragedy did not slow his invention — it pushed it forward. The other options contradict the article.

21. C — The phrase "according to popular accounts" is a hedging signal — the author is presenting a story that is widely told but cannot be fully verified. This shows that the author is being careful about distinguishing fact from popular legend. The other options misread the phrase as confirmation, common practice, or attribution to a specific employee.

22. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *Bombardier's work changed in scale and audience between the B7 and the Ski-Doo. The article and the timeline show that the B7, completed in 1937, was a large multi-passenger vehicle — about the size of a small bus on skis — that could carry seven people and was used by doctors, schools, and ambulances. The Ski-Doo, introduced in 1959, was very different: it was small enough to be carried in the back of a pickup truck and was designed for a single rider. Bombardier moved from large community vehicles to small individual ones that everyday Canadians could afford and use.* (Strong: claim + two specific details from both sources.)

23. D — The labelled diagram identifies the continuous track as the part "driven by engine; provides grip on snow and ice." This is what moves the snowmobile forward. The windshield, seat, and skis perform other roles (protection, seating, steering), but not propulsion. The labels in the diagram match this directly.

24. B — Graphic Text 2 shows clearly that the Ski-Doo was introduced in 1959. The other options confuse the Ski-Doo launch with the B7 prototype (1937), peak production (1962), or Bombardier's death (1964) — all of which appear in the timeline as separate events.

25. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *The author includes the criticism to give a fair and honest picture of the snowmobile rather than only its positive story. The article acknowledges that environmentalists raise concerns about "noise, emissions, and the effects of snowmobile trails on wildlife" and that some communities have debated where snowmobiles should be allowed. By mentioning these concerns, the author shows that celebrating a Canadian invention does not mean ignoring its real impacts — and the author says clearly that "the article does not pretend to settle them."* (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)

26. A — The closing paragraph emphasizes that the snowmobile "changed how Canadians move through the longest season of the year — and how the world thinks of Canadian winters." This frames Bombardier's invention as having transformed both Canadian life and Canada's image. The other options misread the closing as a prediction about electric vehicles, a recognition argument, or tourism commentary.

27. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *The description captures the heart of Bombardier's story — he saw that long Canadian winters cut off rural communities from each other and decided to solve that problem instead of accepting it. After losing his young son Yvon to appendicitis during a snowstorm that blocked the roads to the hospital, his refusal to accept winter isolation became personal. He spent decades inventing — first the B7 in 1937, then the Ski-Doo in 1959 — so that winter no longer meant being stuck. The description captures both his ambition and the personal grief that shaped his work.* (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)

28. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *Joseph-Armand Bombardier invented the snowmobile in small-town Quebec to help rural communities that were cut off from each other during winter. He completed his first large prototype, the B7, in 1937, and later introduced the one-person Ski-Doo in 1959 — an invention that transformed how Canadians move through winter. Bombardier's company still produces snowmobiles today, and his hometown of Valcourt is now home to a museum dedicated to his work.* (Strong: captures main ideas + uses specific detail + own words.)

29. C — "Because" introduces a cause-and-effect relationship — the hikers brought warm gear *because* they expected the temperature to drop. This is the only conjunction that fits the meaning. "Unless" signals condition, "although" signals concession, and "however" signals contrast — none of which match the cause-and-effect relationship.

30. A — Option A correctly places a single comma after the introductory dependent clause ("After the long performance ended,") and uses no unnecessary commas. Option B omits the introductory comma. Option C misplaces the comma after "After." Option D scatters commas incorrectly throughout the sentence.

31. D — The subject is "collection" (singular), not "letters and photographs" (which are part of the prepositional phrase "of old letters and photographs"). The singular verb "is stored" is correct. Options A, B, and C use plural verbs that incorrectly agree with the closer nouns rather than the actual subject. This is the classic subject-verb agreement trap.

32. B — "Women" is already plural without an "s," so the possessive form is "women's" — adding 's after the irregular plural. Option A omits the apostrophe entirely. Option C incorrectly adds an "s" then an apostrophe. Option D adds an extra apostrophe. This follows the same rule as "men's," "children's," and "geese's" — irregular plurals form possessives by adding 's.

33. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: Last Sunday, my older sister and I visited the Royal Ontario Museum. We spent the entire afternoon looking at the dinosaur exhibits and ancient artifacts. It was one of the most fascinating field trips we have taken together.

The three errors corrected are: (1) capitalization — "sunday" should be "Sunday," as days of the week are proper nouns; (2) pronoun case — "my older sister and me" should be "my older sister and I," because the

pronoun functions as the subject of the verb "visited" (test: remove "my older sister and" — you would say "I visited," not "me visited"); and (3) spelling — "exibits" should be "exhibits."

Note: "royal ontario museum" should also be capitalized as "Royal Ontario Museum" in any complete rewrite, as it is the proper name of a specific institution. A strong Grade 6 response will correct all proper nouns when rewriting the paragraph.

34. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *As the lights in the auditorium dimmed slowly and the audience grew silent in their seats, the first dancer stepped onto the wooden stage.* (Strong: combines all three ideas using subordination, flows smoothly, builds toward the dancer's entrance.)

35. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *One small goal I am working toward is being able to draw a full portrait of a person from memory. Right now I can only sketch faces while looking at a photo, but I want to be able to capture the people I love without needing a reference. I have been practising for ten minutes every night before bed, and last week I managed to draw my grandfather's eyes correctly for the first time. It is a small thing, but it makes me feel like I am getting somewhere.* (Strong: specific goal, personal meaning, concrete progress detail.)

36. Extended Writing — Sample Level 3 response benchmark: A strong series-of-paragraphs response opens with a specific Canadian topic (an invention, place, person, food, tradition), explains why the writer chose it, develops at least two aspects with concrete detail in body paragraphs, and closes with a reflection on what the topic reveals about Canada or community. Length: approximately four paragraphs. The strongest responses pick a focused topic (one invention, one tradition, one person) rather than a sweeping subject, and let genuine interest drive the writing.

37. B — Option B has a clear subject ("The librarian"), a verb ("arranged"), and a complete thought. Option A is a fragment (no main subject/verb). Option C is a fragment (a dependent clause alone). Option D is a run-on (three independent clauses fused without proper punctuation).

38. D — The sentence describes an action that had been ongoing for a period before another past event ("By the time the guests had finished dinner"). This requires the past perfect continuous tense, "had been preparing." Options A, B, and C use present, simple present, or future tenses that do not match the past-before-past time relationship signalled by the sentence.

39. C — "Achievment" is misspelled; the correct spelling is "achievement" with an "e" between "achiev" and "ment." The other three sentences contain no spelling errors. This is one of the more commonly misspelled words at the Grade 6 level because the silent "e" is easy to drop.

40. B — The two halves of the sentence describe a contrast — the runner trained for months *but* still felt nervous. "But" is the conjunction that signals this contrast. "So" signals result, "because" signals cause, and "unless" signals condition — none of which match the contrasting meaning.

41. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *Each of the players has been training carefully for their upcoming championship game this weekend.* (Two corrections: "have been" → "has been" because the indefinite pronoun "each" is always singular; "they're" (the contraction "they are") → "their" (the possessive). Both are common errors from Chapter 7.)

42. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *The rain had stopped just before noon. A thin layer of mist was beginning to rise from the garden, and the air smelled fresh and cool.* (Strong: run-on split cleanly into two complete sentences while preserving the full meaning.)

43. D — Option D correctly capitalizes "February" (month) and "Valentine's Day" (proper noun for a holiday), and leaves "family" and "homemade" lowercase (common adjectives). Option A fails to capitalize "Day" and incorrectly capitalizes "Family." Options B and C miss "February" or fail to capitalize "Day" or incorrectly capitalize "Homemade."

44. C — "That" is the correct relative pronoun for referring to things — the package *that* arrived. "Who" and "whom" refer to people. "Whose" indicates possession. "That" is the only correct choice when referring to a non-human noun like a package.

45. A — Option A correctly punctuates split dialogue: opening quotation marks before the first part, a comma inside the closing quotation marks before "said Maya," a comma after "Maya," and properly opened/closed quotation marks around the second half with a period at the end. The other options either omit quotation marks, misplace them, or fail to handle the speaker tag punctuation correctly.

46. Extended Writing — Sample Level 3 response benchmark: A strong opinion response takes a clear stand (required sport participation OR free choice OR a balanced position) in the opening paragraph, develops at least two well-reasoned arguments in body paragraphs with specific examples (fitness benefits, confidence-building, time pressure, personal autonomy, social connection), briefly acknowledges an opposing view, and closes with a thoughtful concluding sentence. Length: approximately four paragraphs. Wandering between both sides without committing loses marks on Ideas.

47. Extended Writing — Sample Level 3 response benchmark: A strong narrative response builds around one specific moment when someone noticed a quiet quality in the writer — patience, kindness, persistence, attentiveness, honesty — that they had not expected anyone to see. Strong responses describe the moment in sensory detail, capture the emotional weight of being noticed, and close with reflection on what the moment meant. Length: approximately three to five paragraphs. The strongest responses pick a small, specific noticing rather than a public achievement, and let the meaning emerge from quiet detail.