

# PRACTICE EXAM 15: EQAO GRADE 6 LANGUAGE SIMULATION (47 QUESTIONS)

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## READING SESSION A

**Time: Approximately 35 minutes**

### Passage 1: "Apartment 4B"

#### A short story by Solange Ferreira

There were eight apartments in the building.

Naomi lived in 3A, on the third floor, with her mother. She had lived there since she was four years old. She was now eleven. In those seven years, she had come to know the building the way a person comes to know a place they live in — not by studying it, but by passing through it every day, until its sounds and rhythms become part of the inside of their own head.

She knew which step on the stairwell creaked.

She knew that the family in 1B took out their recycling on Tuesday nights.

She knew that the man in 2A played piano on Sunday mornings, badly but cheerfully, with the window open.

She knew, in the way people in apartment buildings often know, almost everyone — by face, by voice, by the small particular sounds of how they walked down the hallway.

Almost everyone.

The exception was 4B.

The woman in 4B was, by Naomi's count, the quietest person in the building. Her door was almost always closed. She came and went on her own schedule. She never spoke in the elevator. She nodded politely if she passed someone in the hallway, but she did not speak. Naomi could not remember ever hearing the woman's voice.

Naomi did not know her name. She did not know her age. She did not know whether the woman lived alone or with someone else. The hallway outside 4B was always tidy. There were no shoes outside the door. There were no plants in the small space beside it.

In a building where Naomi knew almost everyone, the woman in 4B was simply the person Naomi did not know.

This is the part of the story where I tell you about the November when Naomi began to notice things.

She had been carrying her recycling down to the basement bin on a Tuesday evening when she had passed 4B's door. She had paused for a moment to shift the heavy bag in her arms. And in that moment, she had heard something she had never heard before.

Music.

It was very faint — a soft instrumental piece — and very brief. As soon as Naomi shifted her weight, the floor creaked slightly, and the music was turned down so quickly that Naomi was not even sure she had heard it. The hallway returned to its usual quiet. She carried her recycling down to the basement. She did not say anything to anyone about it.

But she began, after that, to pay closer attention.

She noticed that the lights in 4B were almost always off when she walked past in the evening — but never, ever, on weekends in the late morning. She noticed that the woman in 4B always took her groceries up the back staircase, even though the elevator was working. She noticed that, on quiet nights, if Naomi sat in her own apartment with the window cracked open, she could sometimes hear — very faintly — what might have been singing. Or humming. Or something somewhere in between.

In December, Naomi saw the woman in 4B leave the building carrying a small wooden case shaped like a triangle.

Naomi knew what that case was. She had seen one in her music class at school. It was a case for a violin.

The pieces clicked, gently, in Naomi's head.

That night, Naomi sat at her desk and wrote a small note on a piece of paper. She did not sign her name. She wrote, in careful printing:

To whoever lives in 4B —

I am the kid in 3A. I have been hearing your music sometimes when I walk past. I just wanted to say that I think it sounds beautiful, and that I hope you keep playing. You are not bothering anyone. Some of us are listening.

Naomi folded the note. She walked up to the fourth floor. She slipped the note under the door of 4B.

She walked back to her own apartment.

She did not expect a response.

She did not get one for almost two weeks.

Then, on a Tuesday morning in mid-December, Naomi opened her own door to take out her recycling and found a small folded note pressed under the corner of her welcome mat. The note was on the same kind of paper she had used. The handwriting was careful and small.

It said:

To the kid in 3A —

Thank you. I have been playing the violin in my apartment for almost twelve years. I have always tried to play quietly because I did not want to disturb my neighbours. No one had ever told me they could hear me before. I did not know whether anyone wanted to.

I think I will play a little less quietly now. Not loudly. Just a little less quietly.

Thank you for listening. — H., 4B

Naomi held the note in her hand for a long time.

She did not tell her mother about it.

She tucked it carefully into the back of the small notebook she kept in her desk drawer, where she sometimes pressed dried leaves between the pages.

That weekend, on Sunday morning, Naomi heard the man in 2A playing his piano — and underneath it, very faintly, from the floor above her, the sound of a violin.

She smiled.

She did not say anything to anyone.

But she sat at the small table in her kitchen, and she listened, and for the first time in seven years, all eight apartments in the building felt — to Naomi, at least — a little more like one place.

1. Why does the author MOST LIKELY include the detail that Naomi knows "which step on the stairwell creaked"?

- A. To suggest that the building had not been properly maintained for many years
- B. To show that Naomi has lived in the building long enough to know it deeply
- C. To explain why Naomi prefers to take the elevator rather than the stairwell
- D. To prove that Naomi has been studying the building carefully on purpose

2. What does the phrase "the woman in 4B was simply the person Naomi did not know" MOST LIKELY set up in the story?

- A. The woman in 4B will eventually become a problem for everyone in the building
- B. Naomi will avoid the woman in 4B for the rest of the time she lives there
- C. Naomi will eventually come to know the woman in 4B in some small way
- D. The other neighbours in the building will start to worry about the woman in 4B

3. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The hallway outside 4B was always tidy. There were no shoes outside the door. There were no plants in the small space beside it."

What does the author MOST LIKELY communicate through these short descriptions?

- A. The woman in 4B is unfriendly and dislikes her neighbours in the building
- B. The building's manager has asked the woman in 4B to keep the hallway clear
- C. The woman in 4B does not bring many personal belongings into her apartment
- D. The woman in 4B leaves no signs of her life in shared spaces of the building

4. Why is the moment outside 4B's door — when Naomi hears the brief, faint music — MOST LIKELY important in the story?

- A. It is the first small clue that quietly opens up the story of the woman in 4B
- B. It explains why Naomi has been afraid of the woman in 4B for many years
- C. It proves that the woman in 4B has been playing music too loudly for the building
- D. It convinces Naomi to start practising the violin during her free time after school

5. What does the detail that the woman in 4B "always took her groceries up the back staircase" MOST LIKELY suggest?

- A. The woman in 4B did not trust the building's old elevator system
- B. The back staircase was the closest entrance to the woman's apartment
- C. The woman in 4B preferred not to be seen or noticed by her neighbours
- D. The building's main staircase had been blocked for repairs that month

6. When Naomi writes "Some of us are listening" in her note, what is she MOST LIKELY communicating?

- A. The neighbours in the building have been complaining about the music
- B. Someone in the building has been quietly enjoying the woman's music
- C. Naomi wants the woman in 4B to play music for her every evening
- D. The neighbours have been waiting for the woman in 4B to perform publicly

7. Read this part of the woman's reply:

"I have always tried to play quietly because I did not want to disturb my neighbours. No one had ever told me they could hear me before. I did not know whether anyone wanted to."

What does this reply MOST LIKELY reveal about the woman in 4B?

- A. The woman believed that playing the violin in an apartment building was against the rules
- B. The woman had been practising for almost twelve years without ever performing in public
- C. The woman was unsure how to make her music more appealing to her neighbours
- D. The woman had been careful for years out of consideration, unsure how others felt

8. What is the central THEME of this story?

- A. Quiet attention to others can build small, meaningful connections in everyday places
- B. Children should always introduce themselves to the new neighbours in their building
- C. Apartment buildings are places where most people prefer not to know one another well
- D. People who play musical instruments should practise loudly so they can be heard

9. (Open-Response)

Explain how Naomi's note changes the woman in 4B. Use at least TWO specific details from the passage to support your answer.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

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A: The voice inside, busy from morning to night.

Q: How does the quiet person know they are heard?

A: When someone leans in, instead of speaking over.

Q: What is the kindest thing you can say to a quiet person?

A: I noticed you were there.

Q: What is the kindest thing you can do?

A: Make a small space, and wait.

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 call-and-response poem — built from pairs of question lines and answer lines
- D. A haiku sequence — several short three-line poems connected by a common theme

12. What is the MAIN message of this poem?

- A. Quiet people often carry a great deal that others do not see
- B. Loud people are usually less thoughtful than quiet people
- C. Children should be encouraged to be louder in their classrooms
- D. Asking questions is the most important skill a person can develop

13. Read these lines from the poem:

"Q: What is loud about being quiet? / A: The voice inside, busy from morning to night."

What does this exchange MOST LIKELY suggest?

- A. Quiet people are usually trying to drown out a loud noise they hear nearby
- B. Quiet people have rich inner lives that are full of thought and reflection
- C. Quiet people are always hoping someone will ask them to share their opinions
- D. Quiet people prefer to think out loud because they cannot focus in silence

14. What is the MOST LIKELY meaning of the final exchange:

"Q: What is the kindest thing you can do? / A: Make a small space, and wait."?

- A. The poet is asking the reader to design a quiet room for children at school
- B. The poet is suggesting that quiet people prefer to be left completely alone
- C. The poet wants the reader to wait until a quiet person is finished speaking
- D. The poet is suggesting that giving someone room to speak — without rushing them — is a gift

15. (Open-Response)

The short story "Apartment 4B" and the poem "Question for the Quiet" both involve characters or speakers who carry something quietly without being noticed. 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.)

## **READING SESSION B**

Time: Approximately 35 minutes

### **Passage 3: "Viola Desmond: The Woman on the Ten-Dollar Bill"**

#### **A biographical article**

If you have ever held a Canadian ten-dollar bill, you have looked into the face of Viola Desmond. Her portrait — calm, dignified, and quietly determined — has appeared on Canada's ten-dollar note since 2018. She was the first Canadian-born woman ever to be featured alone on a Canadian banknote.

This article tells the story of how she ended up there — and why it took so long.

#### **A Halifax Story**

Viola Desmond was born in 1914 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was one of ten children. Her parents owned a small barbershop, and her family was part of a strong Black community that had lived in Nova Scotia for many generations. From a young age, Viola was interested in business. She wanted to be a beautician — but in the 1930s, most beauty schools in Canada did not accept Black students.

So Viola travelled to the United States to receive her training. She studied at Black-owned beauty schools in New York City and Atlantic City. She returned to Halifax with a clear plan. She opened her own beauty salon. She founded Canada's first beauty school for Black women — The Desmond School of Beauty Culture. She also developed her own line of beauty products, marketed across the Maritimes.

By 1946, Viola Desmond was a successful businesswoman with her own school, her own salon, and her own product line. She was thirty-two years old.

Then, on the evening of November 8, 1946, her car broke down in the small town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

### **The Movie Theatre**

While she waited for her car to be repaired, Viola decided to go to the movie theatre. She bought a ticket and walked into the Roseland Theatre. The cashier had sold her a ticket for the balcony — but Viola, who had bad eyesight, took a seat on the main floor downstairs, where she could see the screen better.

She did not know that the Roseland Theatre, like many theatres in Nova Scotia at the time, had unwritten rules. Black customers were expected to sit in the balcony. The main floor was reserved for white customers.

When Viola was told to move, she politely refused. She had paid for a ticket. She was prepared to pay the difference for a main-floor seat. She wanted to stay where she could see.

She was arrested.

The police pulled her physically from her seat. She was held overnight in a jail cell. She was charged — not with breaking a segregation rule (which was not technically illegal) but with tax evasion: she had paid the lower balcony price, and the main-floor ticket cost one cent more. The province claimed she owed one cent in unpaid amusement tax.

She was fined twenty dollars and sentenced to thirty days in jail.

She was thirty-two years old, in a town she did not know, for an evening that should have ended with a film and a repaired car.

### **The Fight Afterwards**

Viola Desmond did not let the matter end with her release. She found a lawyer. She appealed her conviction. She was supported by the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Colored People and by a newspaper editor named Carrie Best, who covered the case in her own publication, *The Clarion*.

The legal appeals failed. The Nova Scotia courts upheld her conviction. Officially, Viola Desmond had broken the law.

But her case became one of the most important early moments in the Canadian civil rights movement. It drew national attention to the racism that Black Canadians faced — racism that many white Canadians at the time did not want to acknowledge existed in their country. Her case helped spark organizing across Nova Scotia and beyond. In 1954, segregation in Nova Scotia public spaces was finally outlawed.

Viola Desmond had moved to Montreal by then, and later to New York. She passed away in 1965, at the age of fifty.

She did not live to see the recognition that eventually came.

### **A Long Path to the Ten-Dollar Bill**

In 2010 — sixty-four years after her arrest — the Government of Nova Scotia granted Viola Desmond a posthumous pardon and a formal apology. It was the first apology of its kind ever granted in Canada.

In 2018, the Bank of Canada issued the new ten-dollar bill featuring her portrait. She joined a small group of figures — including Sir John A. Macdonald and Queen Elizabeth II — whose images have appeared on Canadian currency. But she was the first Canadian-born woman to appear alone.

The bill includes a small image of the map of Halifax's historically Black neighbourhood of Africville, an eagle feather, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and a quotation about freedom — symbols connecting Viola Desmond's individual story to a larger story about civil rights in Canada.

### **Why Her Story Matters**

Viola Desmond's story matters because she did not set out to become a symbol. She set out to watch a movie in a small Nova Scotia town. When she was told to give up her seat because of the colour of her skin, she said no. That refusal — quiet, dignified, costly — became one of the moments that helped change Canada.

Her story also matters because of how long it took for Canada to recognize her. For most of the twentieth century, she was not mentioned in school textbooks. Her case was not part of how Canadians understood their own history. It was only in the 1990s and 2000s — through the work of historians, activists, and her own younger sister, Wanda Robson — that Viola Desmond's story became widely known.

Today, her face appears on a banknote that Canadians pass to one another every day. Children ask about her in classrooms. Her name appears in textbooks.

But it took seventy years for that to happen.

That, too, is part of her story.

### **Graphic Text 1: Viola Desmond Achievements Snapshot**

VIOLA DESMOND  
(1914 - 1965)

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Born: Halifax, Nova Scotia

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Founded a beauty school for Black women in Halifax
  - Created her own line of beauty products
  - Refused to leave the main floor of the Roseland Theatre on November 8, 1946
  - Inspired a national civil rights conversation in Canada
  - Posthumously pardoned in 2010
  - Featured on Canada's \$10 bill beginning in 2018
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## Graphic Text 2: Timeline of Key Events

Year	Event
1914	Viola Desmond born in Halifax, Nova Scotia
1930s	Trains as a beautician in the United States
Early 1940s	Opens her own salon and beauty school in Halifax
1946	Arrested at the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow
1947	Legal appeals upheld her conviction
1954	Segregation officially outlawed in Nova Scotia
1965	Viola Desmond passes away in New York
2010	Government of Nova Scotia issues posthumous pardon
2018	Featured on the Canadian ten-dollar banknote

16. What is the MAIN argument or purpose of this article?

- A. To convince Canadians that they should always carry ten-dollar bills with them
- B. To explain how segregation operated in Canadian movie theatres in the 1940s
- C. To compare Viola Desmond's story to similar stories in the United States
- D. To tell the story of Viola Desmond and explain why she belongs on Canada's currency

17. Why does the author MOST LIKELY open the article by mentioning that Viola Desmond's face appears on the Canadian ten-dollar bill?

- A. To begin with a familiar image that grounds the reader before telling the full story
- B. To suggest that most Canadians already know Viola Desmond's full life story well
- C. To prove that the ten-dollar bill is the most important denomination of Canadian money
- D. To explain why the Bank of Canada is responsible for choosing historical figures

18. What does the article say Viola Desmond had to do because beauty schools in Canada did not accept Black students?

- A. She decided not to become a beautician and chose a different career path entirely
- B. She travelled to the United States to study at Black-owned beauty schools
- C. She opened her own beauty school in Halifax before completing her training
- D. She convinced one of the Halifax beauty schools to change its admissions policy

19. What was the OFFICIAL charge that the courts used against Viola Desmond?

- A. Breaking a segregation rule that the Nova Scotia government had passed in 1946
- B. Refusing to follow the directions of a movie theatre cashier in New Glasgow
- C. Tax evasion — owing one cent more for the main-floor ticket she sat in
- D. Causing a public disturbance in a Nova Scotia movie theatre after closing time

20. Read this sentence from the article:

"That refusal — quiet, dignified, costly — became one of the moments that helped change Canada."

What does the word "costly" MOST LIKELY mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A. Expensive in terms of how much money the experience required her to spend
- B. Worth a great deal of money in today's Canadian currency exchange rates
- C. Difficult for the Canadian government to investigate and process at the time
- D. Carrying a serious personal price — including arrest, a jail night, and a fine

21. What does the article say about how Viola Desmond's case became important to the Canadian civil rights movement?

- A. It drew national attention to racism that many Canadians did not want to acknowledge
- B. It led directly to the writing of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- C. It convinced the federal government to pass new laws within the same year
- D. It was used as evidence in courts across multiple Canadian provinces immediately



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23. According to the article, what role did Carrie Best play in Viola Desmond's case?

- A. Carrie Best served as Viola Desmond's lawyer during the appeal process
- B. Carrie Best was the cashier who originally sold Viola Desmond a ticket
- C. Carrie Best was a newspaper editor who covered the case in her publication
- D. Carrie Best was the Nova Scotia government official who issued the pardon

24. According to Graphic Text 2, in what year was segregation officially OUTLAWED in Nova Scotia?

- A. 1946 — the same year Viola Desmond was arrested at the theatre
- B. 1954 — eight years after Viola Desmond's arrest at the theatre
- C. 1965 — the year Viola Desmond passed away in New York
- D. 2010 — the year of the posthumous government pardon

25. (Open-Response)

Use information from the article AND Graphic Text 1 (the achievements snapshot) to explain why Viola Desmond was already an important person BEFORE her arrest in 1946. Include at least TWO specific achievements.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

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## WRITING SESSION A

Time: Approximately 35 minutes

### Part 1: Language Conventions (Questions 29-32)

29. Read the sentence:

The author signed copies of her new novel \_\_\_\_ the eager line of readers stretched around the block.

Which phrase BEST completes the sentence?

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

30. Which sentence has correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. The collection of antique coins on the shelf is worth more than my parents realized
- B. The collection of antique coins on the shelf are worth more than my parents realized
- C. The collection of antique coins on the shelf were worth more than my parents realized
- D. The collection of antique coins on the shelf have been worth more than my parents realized

31. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. Although the sun was shining we still brought, our raincoats umbrellas, and warm sweaters
- B. Although the sun was shining we still brought our raincoats umbrellas and warm sweaters
- C. Although, the sun was shining we still brought, our raincoats umbrellas and warm sweaters
- D. Although the sun was shining, we still brought our raincoats, umbrellas, and warm sweaters

32. Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?

- A. The womens choir performed at the community centre yesterday evening
- B. The womens' choir performed at the community centre yesterday evening
- C. The women's choir performed at the community centre yesterday evening
- D. The women's' choir performed at the community centre yesterday evening

**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 fall, my best friend and me joined a community choir at the local cultural centre. We practised every monday evening for two hours after school. It was one of the most enjoyabe experiences I have ever had outside of my classroom.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

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- A. at
- B. on
- C. in
- D. by

39. Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- A. The community gathered to celebrate the achievment of their local soccer team this season
- B. The students worked diligently on their projects throughout the entire afternoon yesterday
- C. The author signed copies of her novel at the bookstore on Saturday morning
- D. The athletes practised every morning to prepare for the upcoming championship game

40. Read the sentence:

The students prepared carefully for their presentation, \_\_\_ they wanted to demonstrate their full understanding of the topic.

Which word BEST completes the sentence?

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

**Part 2: Short Writing Responses (Questions 41-42)**

41. (Open-Response)

Read the sentence below, which contains an error. Rewrite the sentence correctly, fixing the error.

Neither the librarian or the teachers was prepared for the sudden arrival of the visiting author.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

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**Part 3: Conventions Continued (Questions 43-45)**

43. Which sentence uses capitalization correctly?

- A. Last april, my Family visited halifax and saw the harbour for the first time
- B. Last April, my family visited Halifax and saw the harbour for the first time
- C. Last April, my family visited halifax and saw the Harbour for the first time
- D. Last april, my family visited Halifax and saw the harbour for the first time

44. Read the sentence:

The musician \_\_\_ wrote the symphony last year will be performing it again next month.

Which word BEST completes the sentence?

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

45. Which sentence uses quotation marks correctly?

- A. "Where did you leave the keys, asked Dad from the front hallway"
- B. Where did you leave the keys "asked Dad from the front hallway"
- C. "Where did you leave the keys?" asked Dad from the front hallway.
- D. "Where did you leave the keys asked Dad from the front hallway"

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

46. (Extended Writing — Narrative)

Write a story about a moment when a small act of kindness — from you or to you — changed something quietly.



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47. (Extended Writing — Series of Paragraphs)

Think about a person from your community, your family history, or Canadian history who you believe deserves to be more widely known. This could be a relative, a local figure, or a historical person.

**Write a piece in which you:**

- Introduce the person you have chosen and explain how you learned about them
- Describe at least TWO specific things they did or do that make them important
- Include specific details that show why they matter
- End with a reflection on why more people should know about this person

(Aim for approximately four paragraphs.)

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builds her image as a quiet, private resident. The other options misread the descriptions as unfriendliness, a rule from management, or sparse belongings inside.

**4. A** — The faint music outside 4B's door is the first small clue that opens up the story of the woman in 4B. From that moment, Naomi starts paying closer attention and gathering more details. The other options misread the moment as fear, a complaint, or a personal music decision.

**5. C** — The detail that the woman always takes the back staircase, even when the elevator is working, fits the pattern of someone who prefers not to be seen or noticed. It reinforces her quietness rather than offering a practical explanation. The other options misread the detail as distrust of the elevator, distance, or repairs.

**6. B** — "Some of us are listening" is Naomi's gentle way of telling the woman in 4B that someone has been quietly enjoying her music. It is reassurance, not complaint. The other options misread the line as a complaint, a personal request, or anticipation of public performance.

**7. D** — The woman's reply reveals that for nearly twelve years she has been careful out of consideration for her neighbours — playing quietly, unsure how others would feel about her music. Naomi's note tells her, for the first time, that someone wanted to hear her. The other options misread the reply as a rules concern, a pause from public performance, or a question about appeal.

**8. A** — The story's emotional core is that small, attentive acts — listening through a wall, writing a quiet note, slipping it under a door — can build meaningful connections in everyday places like an apartment building. Naomi's quiet attention is what makes the closing moment possible. The other options misread the message as introduction rules, neighbour avoidance, or a music volume claim.

**9. Open-Response — Sample strong answer:** *Naomi's note changes the woman in 4B by giving her permission to play more freely after almost twelve years of being careful. The woman writes back, "I have always tried to play quietly because I did not want to disturb my neighbours. No one had ever told me they could hear me before. I did not know whether anyone wanted to." After receiving Naomi's note, she decides to play "a little less quietly" — not loudly, just a little less quietly. Naomi's note shows the woman that her music has been appreciated, which gives her the confidence to share it just a little more openly. (Strong: clear change + two specific details.)*

**10. Open-Response — Sample strong answer:** *The line means that, after Naomi's note and the woman's reply, Naomi feels a quiet sense of connection across the whole building. For seven years, Naomi has known the building well — she knew which step creaked, which neighbour played piano on Sunday mornings, when the family in 1B took out their recycling — but the woman in 4B had remained a person she did not know. By the end, Naomi can sit in her kitchen and hear the man in 2A's piano and the woman in 4B's violin playing together. The eight apartments still belong to different people, but for Naomi, they finally feel like a single place where neighbours quietly know one another. (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)*

**11. C** — The poem is built from pairs of lines — a Q (question) line and an A (answer) line — repeated five times. This call-and-response structure is the defining feature. The other options describe forms that do not match (no visual shape, no hidden word from first letters, no 5-7-5 syllable pattern).

**12. A** — The poem's central message is that quiet people often carry a great deal — thoughts, feelings, inner reflection — that other people do not see. Every Q-and-A pair in the poem reinforces this idea. The other options misread the message as a judgement against loud people, a classroom suggestion, or a comment about asking questions.

**13. B** — The lines suggest that quiet people have rich inner lives — "the voice inside, busy from morning to night." The quiet outside hides a busy thinking life. The other options misread the lines as noise-cancelling, opinion-sharing, or out-loud thinking.

**14. D** — "Make a small space, and wait" suggests that the kindest thing you can do for a quiet person is give them room to speak — without rushing or filling the silence. This frames patience and attention as a gift. The other options misread the line as room design, an isolation request, or speech-interrupting etiquette.

**15. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *Both pieces involve characters or speakers who carry something quietly without being noticed. In "Apartment 4B," the woman in 4B has been playing the violin in her apartment for almost twelve years, always quietly, "because I did not want to disturb my neighbours" — and no one had ever told her they could hear her. In "Question for the Quiet," the poem says that the quiet person carries "everything, including the thoughts no one asked them about" and that the voice inside them is "busy from morning to night." Both pieces show that quiet people often have rich lives — and rich talents — that the world barely notices until someone takes the time to pay attention. (Strong: clear similarity + evidence from both texts.)*

**16. D** — The article's central purpose is to tell the story of Viola Desmond and explain why she belongs on Canada's ten-dollar bill. Every section supports this — her business achievements, her arrest, her appeal, her eventual recognition, and her place on the banknote. The other options misread the purpose as a money instruction, a segregation explainer, or an international comparison.

**17. A** — Opening with a familiar image — the ten-dollar bill — grounds the reader before the full story is told. Most Canadians have seen the bill but may not know the story behind the portrait, and the article uses that familiarity as a starting point. The other options assume too much knowledge, overstate the bill's importance, or misread the opening as a comment on the Bank of Canada.

**18. B** — The article states directly that "most beauty schools in Canada did not accept Black students," so Viola "travelled to the United States to receive her training. She studied at Black-owned beauty schools in New York City and Atlantic City." This is the article's clear answer. The other options invent alternative paths.

**19. C** — The article explicitly explains that Viola was charged "not with breaking a segregation rule (which was not technically illegal) but with tax evasion: she had paid the lower balcony price, and the main-floor ticket cost one cent more." This was the official charge used. The other options misread the charge as segregation, disobedience, or disturbance.

**20. D** — In context, "costly" describes the personal price Viola paid — arrest, a night in jail, a court conviction, and a fine. The word captures the seriousness of what her refusal cost her. The other options misread the word as expensive, valuable in modern money, or governmentally difficult.

**21. A** — The article states that her case "drew national attention to the racism that Black Canadians faced — racism that many white Canadians at the time did not want to acknowledge existed in their country." This is its impact on the civil rights movement. The other options invent immediate effects (the Charter, federal legislation, court use) that the article does not claim.

**22. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *It took Canada decades to formally recognize Viola Desmond. According to the article, she was arrested at the Roseland Theatre on November 8, 1946, and her legal appeals to overturn the conviction failed in 1947. The timeline shows that segregation in Nova Scotia public spaces was finally outlawed in 1954, the Nova Scotia government issued her posthumous pardon in 2010 — sixty-four years after her arrest — and her face appeared on Canada's ten-dollar bill in 2018, seventy-two years after her arrest. Recognition came slowly, and most of it came long after Viola Desmond had passed away in 1965. (Strong: claim + two specific events from both sources.)*

**23. C** — The article identifies Carrie Best as "a newspaper editor" who "covered the case in her own publication, *The Clarion*." She was a key supporter through journalism. The other options misread her role as lawyer, cashier, or government official.

**24. B** — Graphic Text 2 shows clearly that "1954 — Segregation officially outlawed in Nova Scotia." This is eight years after Viola Desmond's arrest in 1946. The other options confuse 1954 with her arrest, her death, or the pardon — all of which appear separately in the timeline.

**25. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *Viola Desmond was already an important person before her arrest in 1946. According to the article and the achievements snapshot, she had founded Canada's first beauty school for Black women — "The Desmond School of Beauty Culture" — in Halifax, and she had developed her own line of beauty products marketed across the Maritimes. By 1946, she was a successful businesswoman with her own salon, her own school, and her own product line. Her achievements showed that she had already broken important ground for Black women in Canadian business before she ever walked into the Roseland Theatre. (Strong: claim + two specific achievements from both sources.)*

**26. D** — The article highlights that Viola Desmond's story was missing from school textbooks for most of the twentieth century to show how long it took Canada to acknowledge an important part of its own history. This delay is part of the article's larger argument. The other options misread the point as a textbook accuracy claim, a family decision, or a claim about students.

**27. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *This point matters because it reminds the reader that Viola Desmond was an ordinary person trying to live her life — not a planned activist. The article makes clear that her car had broken down in New Glasgow, she decided to go to a movie while she waited, and she sat on the main floor because she had bad eyesight and wanted to see the screen. When she was told to move because she was Black, she simply said no. Showing her as an ordinary person makes her refusal more powerful — anyone, in any small moment, can be the one to say "no." (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)*

**28. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *Viola Desmond was a successful Halifax businesswoman who, in 1946, was arrested for refusing to leave the main floor of a Nova Scotia movie theatre that was reserved for white customers. Her quiet refusal helped spark the Canadian civil rights movement, but it*

*took decades for Canada to recognize her — she received a posthumous pardon from Nova Scotia in 2010 and was featured on the ten-dollar bill in 2018. Her story matters both because of what she did and because of how long Canada took to acknowledge it.* (Strong: captures main ideas + uses specific detail + own words.)

**29. B** — "While" introduces a clause showing simultaneous action — the author signed copies *while* the line stretched around the block. This time relationship fits the meaning of the sentence. "Unless" signals condition, "however" signals contrast, and "although" signals concession — none of which match the simultaneous action described.

**30. A** — The subject is "collection" (singular), not "coins" (which is part of the prepositional phrase "of antique coins"). The singular verb "is worth" is correct. Options B, C, and D use plural verbs that incorrectly agree with the closer noun rather than the actual subject. This is the classic subject-verb agreement trap.

**31. D** — Option D correctly uses a comma after the introductory dependent clause ("Although the sun was shining,") and commas to separate three items in a list ("raincoats, umbrellas, and warm sweaters"). Options A, B, and C either omit needed commas or scatter them incorrectly throughout the sentence.

**32. C** — "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. Option B incorrectly places the apostrophe after "womens." Option D adds an extra apostrophe. This follows the same rule as "children's," "men's," and "geese's" — irregular plurals form possessives by adding 's.

**33. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *Last fall, my best friend and I joined a community choir at the local cultural centre. We practised every Monday evening for two hours after school. It was one of the most enjoyable experiences I have ever had outside of my classroom.* (Three errors fixed: "my best friend and me" → "my best friend and I"; "monday" → "Monday"; "enjoyabe" → "enjoyable.")

**34. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *As the streetlights flickered on early and the fog rolled in from the harbour, the shopkeepers began closing their doors.* (Strong: combines all three ideas using subordination, flows smoothly, paints a coherent scene.)

**35. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *The man who walks his small grey dog past my house every afternoon at four o'clock always wears the same brown corduroy jacket, even in the warmer weather. He carries his dog's leash loosely in his left hand, but he always seems to be looking at the trees rather than at the dog. I have never spoken to him, but I always know when it is four o'clock because I see him pass.* (Strong: specific observed detail, no name used, captures the quiet rhythm of noticing.)

**36. Extended Writing** — **Sample Level 3 response benchmark:** A strong opinion response takes a clear stand (teach difficult history early OR wait until high school OR a balanced position) in the opening paragraph, develops at least two well-reasoned arguments in body paragraphs with specific examples (truth-telling, age-appropriate teaching, emotional weight, civic understanding, gradual learning), 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.

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

**38. B** — The preposition "on" is the correct choice for specific days of the week — "on Tuesday morning." "At" is used with specific times (at 9:00), "in" is used with broader time periods (in November, in the morning, in 2018), and "by" indicates a deadline rather than the day itself. "On Tuesday morning" is the standard idiomatic phrasing.

**39. A** — "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. C** — "Because" introduces a cause-and-effect relationship — the students prepared carefully *because* they wanted to demonstrate their understanding. 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.

**41. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *Neither the librarian nor the teachers were prepared for the sudden arrival of the visiting author.* (Two corrections: "or" → "nor" (the correct pairing with "neither"); "was" → "were" (in "neither/nor" constructions, the verb agrees with the subject closer to it; "teachers" is plural and closer to the verb, so the verb must be plural).)

**42. Open-Response** — **Sample strong answer:** *The afternoon was unusually warm for early November. The leaves were still falling steadily from the maple trees, and a thin layer of frost had formed only in the deepest shadows of the garden.* (Strong: run-on split cleanly into two complete sentences while preserving the full meaning.)

**43. B** — Option B correctly capitalizes "April" (month) and "Halifax" (proper city name), and leaves "family" and "harbour" lowercase (common nouns). Option A fails to capitalize "April" and "Halifax" and incorrectly capitalizes "Family." Options C and D miss "April" or "Halifax" or incorrectly capitalize "Harbour."

**44. A** — "Who" is used to refer to people doing an action — the musician *who* wrote the symphony. "Which" refers to things, "whom" is the object form (incorrect because the pronoun is the subject of "wrote"), and "whose" indicates possession. "Who" is the only correct relative pronoun here.

**45. C** — Option C correctly punctuates dialogue: opening quotation marks, the question mark inside the closing quotation marks before the speaker tag, and a period at the end of the sentence. Options A, B, and D either omit the question mark, misplace the quotation marks, or fail to handle the punctuation around the speaker tag correctly.

**46. Extended Writing** — **Sample Level 3 response benchmark:** A strong narrative response builds around one small, specific act of kindness — a note, a held door, a noticed detail, a wave, a quiet word — and develops a clear arc: the moment, the small change, and a quiet realization or shift in connection. Strong responses describe the kindness in sensory detail and show what changed *quietly* rather than

dramatically. Length: approximately three to five paragraphs. The strongest responses earn the phrase "changed something" through subtle reflection rather than announcing it.

**47. Extended Writing — Sample Level 3 response benchmark:** A strong series-of-paragraphs response introduces a specific person (a relative, a local figure, a historical Canadian) in the opening paragraph and explains how the writer learned about them, develops at least two of their accomplishments or qualities in separate body paragraphs with concrete detail, and closes with a reflection on why more people should know about them. Length: approximately four paragraphs. The strongest responses pick a focused, specific person rather than a broad category, and let genuine respect and curiosity show through.