

PRACTICE EXAM 16: EQAO GRADE 3 SIMULATION (60 QUESTIONS)

LANGUAGE COMPONENT — SESSION 1: READING

Read the following story, then answer questions 1 through 5.

The Garage Sale

by T. Voss

Mia had been planning her garage sale for three weeks. She had walked through her bedroom and the basement with a small notebook. She had written down every toy and book she no longer used. The list was twenty-two items long.

Her mother had given her a card table and a few plastic bins to display her things. Her father had helped her tape a colourful sign to the front lamp post. The sign said MIA'S BIG SALE — SATURDAY 9 TO 12. Mia had drawn a small smiling face beside her name.

On Saturday morning, she was up at seven o'clock. She set the table at the end of the driveway. She arranged her books in one bin, her toys in another, and her old stuffed animals in a third. She put a small price tag on every item. The most expensive thing — her old wooden train set — was four dollars. The cheapest thing — a small green eraser — was twenty-five cents.

At nine o'clock sharp, Mia sat on a lawn chair behind the table. She waited.

The first hour was slow. A woman pushing a stroller stopped and looked at the books but did not buy anything. A man walking his dog smiled and waved as he passed. Mia began to worry that no one was going to come.

Then, at about ten thirty, two girls about her own age stopped at the table. They picked up the stuffed animals one by one. They asked Mia how much each one cost. They counted out their coins on the corner of the card table. By the time they walked away, they had bought three stuffed animals and a small puzzle. Mia had earned six dollars and fifty cents.

After that, more people came. An older man bought the wooden train set. A grandmother bought a stack of books for her grandson. A teenage boy bought all the comic books for two dollars. By noon, Mia had sold almost everything. Only the small green eraser and a tiny plastic dinosaur were left.

Her father helped her carry the empty bins back inside. Her mother had baked a cherry pie for lunch. Mia spread her money on the kitchen table and counted it slowly. She had made twenty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents.

She had been saving for a new pair of roller skates. The skates cost thirty dollars. She was very close. She would only need to do one more small thing — maybe sell lemonade next Saturday — to have just enough.

Mia smiled at her pile of coins. The garage sale had worked.

1. How many items did Mia list in her notebook?

- A. Twenty-two items
- B. Thirty-five items
- C. Fifteen items
- D. Fifty items

2. What was the MOST expensive thing Mia sold at her sale?

- A. A small green eraser at twenty-five cents
- B. A stack of three stuffed animals together
- C. A book she had bought last summer at school
- D. Her old wooden train set at four dollars

3. What did the two girls of Mia's age buy at the sale?

- A. Two books and one small green eraser
- B. Three stuffed animals and a small puzzle
- C. The wooden train set and a comic book
- D. Four toys but no books or animals

4. How much money did Mia make in total from her garage sale?

- A. Six dollars and fifty cents
- B. Fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents
- C. Twenty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents
- D. Thirty-five dollars even from the customers

5. What was Mia saving up to buy with her money?

- A. A new pair of roller skates
- B. A new red bicycle for the summer
- C. A doll for her birthday in June
- D. A skateboard with bright colour wheels

Read the following poem, then answer questions 6 through 10.

My Pencil Case

by E. Mariani

It is purple with a zipper
And a small white tag inside.
My grandmother bought it for me
When I was four years high.

It has been with me to junior K,
Senior K, and Grade One.
It has come with me to every class.
It has seen homework being done.

Inside there are five pencils.
There is a yellow eraser, soft and worn.
There is a stub of a blue crayon
And a ruler with one corner torn.

There is a small folded note
From my best friend in Grade Two —
She wrote, Have a good test today
And drew a smiling face in blue.

The zipper sticks a little now.
The purple is more pink than purple.
But every morning I tuck it in my bag
And carry it back to school.

When the year is finished
I hope the case comes too.
I will fit new pencils in

And keep the note from you.

6. What colour is the pencil case in the poem?

- A. Yellow
- B. Pink
- C. Green
- D. Purple

7. When did the speaker's grandmother buy the pencil case?

- A. When the speaker started Grade One
- B. When the speaker was three years old
- C. When the speaker was four years old
- D. When the speaker was five years old

8. What is inside the small folded note?

- A. A message from the speaker's grandmother
- B. A message from the speaker's best friend in Grade Two
- C. A list of homework for the school year ahead
- D. A drawing of the speaker's school building

9. What has happened to the colour of the pencil case over time?

- A. The colour has stayed exactly the same
- B. The case has lost most of its bright colour
- C. The case has become darker purple
- D. The purple has become more pink

10. Read these lines from the poem: I will fit new pencils in / And keep the note from you. What do these lines MEAN?

- A. The speaker wants to keep using the pencil case for years to come
- B. The speaker plans to buy a brand-new pencil case next year
- C. The speaker is giving the pencil case to a younger friend
- D. The speaker will throw out the old note inside the case

LANGUAGE COMPONENT — SESSION 2: READING

Read the following article, then answer questions 11 through 16.

Beluga Whales

If you visit the cold waters of the Saint Lawrence River in Quebec, or the icy seas around Hudson Bay, you may be lucky enough to see a beluga whale. Beluga whales are one of Canada's most beloved sea animals. They are also among the most unusual whales in the world.

Pure White Whales

The name beluga comes from a Russian word that means "white." Adult belugas are pure white from head to tail. Baby belugas, called calves, are born dark grey. As they grow up, their colour slowly turns white. A beluga is fully white by about six years of age.

Round-Headed Singers

Belugas have a round, bulging forehead called a melon. The melon helps the whale send and receive sounds underwater. Belugas make many different sounds — clicks, whistles, and high squeaks. Sailors hundreds of years ago called them the canaries of the sea because their songs sound like birds. A beluga can make over 50 different sounds.

Cold-Water Hunters

Belugas live in the Arctic and in cold waters just below the Arctic. They eat fish, squid, crabs, and shrimp. They hunt by diving deep — sometimes more than 600 metres below the surface — and using their sounds to find food in the dark water. This use of sound to find things underwater is called echolocation.

A Difficult Future

Belugas are not in danger everywhere they live. But the small group of belugas that lives in the Saint Lawrence River is endangered. Pollution from cities along the river has made the water harder for them to live in. Scientists in Quebec are working hard to protect them. They study the whales, clean up the water, and teach others why the belugas matter.

When you see a beluga at an aquarium or in a photograph, look closely at its round white head and gentle face. You are looking at one of the most special whales on the planet.

11. Where does the name beluga come from?

- A. From a French word that means "round"
- B. From a Russian word that means "white"
- C. From an Inuit word that means "singer"
- D. From a Spanish word that means "small"

12. What colour are baby belugas, called calves, when they are born?

- A. Pure white
- B. Light blue
- C. Dark grey
- D. Black

13. What is the melon on a beluga's head used for?

- A. To swim faster through the cold water
- B. To help the beluga stay warm in winter
- C. To balance the beluga while it swims
- D. To send and receive sounds underwater

14. Why did sailors call belugas the canaries of the sea?

- A. Their songs sound like the songs of birds
- B. They have a bright yellow patch under one eye
- C. They follow ships across the cold open sea
- D. They are about the size of a small singing canary

15. What is echolocation?

- A. The use of bright lights to find food at night
- B. The use of sound to find things underwater
- C. The pattern of bubbles a beluga blows out
- D. The dive a beluga makes to deeper waters

16. Which sentence BEST describes the main idea of the article?

- A. Belugas live in cold waters and hunt fish, squid, and shrimp
- B. The belugas of the Saint Lawrence River are endangered
- C. Beluga whales are special animals with many unusual features
- D. Belugas can make over 50 different sounds underwater

Read the following two short passages. Then answer questions 17 through 20.

Passage 1: Helping at the Recycling Bin

Every Tuesday night, it is my job to take the recycling out to the curb. I have been doing this every week since I turned eight. My father used to do it before that, but he says I am old enough now to help.

The recycling bin in our kitchen is a big blue plastic tub. By Tuesday night, it is usually full. There are old newspapers from the weekend. There are flattened cereal boxes. There are empty milk jugs that I have rinsed out and let dry. There are juice boxes and yogurt containers. My family puts almost no garbage in the trash. We recycle almost everything.

I carry the bin out to the back porch first, where the big blue curbside container waits. The big container is taller than I am and has wheels. I have to drag it down the small ramp at the side of the house and out to the curb in front. The wheels make a loud rumbling sound on the rough cement. My father usually opens the door and watches to make sure I do not fall.

It is not a fun job. Sometimes my arms are tired. Sometimes the wind blows the newspapers around. But I like that I am helping. And I like that my parents trust me with the job.

Passage 2: How Recycling Works

When you put a paper cup or a glass bottle in the recycling bin, that is just the beginning of its journey. Recycling is the process of turning old materials into new ones. Most communities in Canada have a recycling program that picks up items every one or two weeks.

A big truck takes the recycling from the curb to a special centre called a Materials Recovery Facility. At the centre, the items move along on a wide conveyor belt. Workers and big machines sort the materials. Paper goes one way, plastic goes another, and glass and metal each go into their own bins.

After the sorting is done, the materials are sent to factories. At a paper factory, old paper is washed, broken into small pieces, and turned into new paper. At a plastic factory, old plastic is melted down and shaped into new bottles, containers, or even park benches. Glass is melted and shaped into new bottles. Metal cans are melted into sheets that can be used again.

Recycling saves trees, oil, and energy. It also keeps a lot of materials out of the garbage dump. Every Canadian who recycles helps the planet.

17. What is one topic both passages discuss?

A. Recycling at home or in the community

- B. The kinds of trucks used by Canadian cities
- C. Different ways to clean a kitchen container
- D. The cost of recycling for an average family

18. What is the main purpose of Passage 1?

- A. To explain how recycling materials are sorted at a centre
- B. To list all the kinds of containers that can be recycled at home
- C. To convince readers to recycle more in their own homes
- D. To share a personal memory of helping with the family recycling

19. According to Passage 2, what is a Materials Recovery Facility?

- A. A factory that turns old paper into new paper
- B. A special centre where recycling is sorted by machines and workers
- C. A big truck that picks up recycling from the curb
- D. A bin where families separate paper from plastic

20. Which idea is found in Passage 1 but NOT in Passage 2?

- A. Recycling helps keep materials out of the garbage dump
- B. Old plastic can be melted and shaped into new objects
- C. A personal memory of dragging a big bin out to the curb
- D. Glass bottles can be melted down and shaped into new bottles

LANGUAGE COMPONENT — SESSION 3: WRITING

For questions 21 through 30, read each item carefully and choose the best answer.

21. Which group of words is a COMPLETE SENTENCE?

- A. Walking through the wet park toward the small bridge
- B. Because the lights flickered during the heavy storm
- C. Two boys from the apartment across the busy hall
- D. The girl finished her homework before dinner.

22. Which sentence uses CAPITAL LETTERS correctly?

- A. On Monday, we will visit my aunt in Calgary.
- B. on monday, we will visit my aunt in calgary
- C. on Monday, we Will Visit my aunt in Calgary
- D. On monday, We Will Visit my aunt in calgary

23. Choose the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

- A. Did the snow finally stop falling
- B. The school bus arrived early this morning.
- C. What a beautiful butterfly that is,
- D. Be careful on the slippery floor,

24. Read this sentence: The quick brown rabbit nibbled the small green carrot. Which word is a VERB?

- A. Quick
- B. Small
- C. Carrot
- D. Nibbled

25. Which sentence shows correct SUBJECT-VERB agreement?

- A. The four ducks swims across the pond every morning.
- B. The four duck swim across the pond every morning.
- C. The four ducks swim across the pond every morning.
- D. The four ducks swimming across the pond every morning.

26. Read this sentence: Yesterday evening, my older brother ____ a tall sandcastle on the beach. Which word BEST fills in the blank?

- A. Built
- B. Builds
- C. Will build
- D. Is building

27. Which word means about the SAME as sad?

- A. Happy
- B. Loud
- C. Unhappy
- D. Bright

28. Which sentence correctly shows that ONE cat owns the toy?

- A. The cats toy was on the windowsill.
- B. The cats' toy was on the windowsill.
- C. The cat' toy was on the windowsill.

D. The cat's toy was on the windowsill.

29. Which sentence uses a COMMA correctly?

- A. Before the parade began, we found our seats by the road.
- B. Before the parade began we found our seats by the road
- C. We packed sandwiches juice and apples for the long picnic
- D. The dog, sat on the porch, and barked, at the visitor

30. Which of the following sentences is in the FUTURE tense?

- A. We played soccer at the park last Saturday afternoon.
- B. We will play soccer at the park next Saturday afternoon.
- C. We play soccer at the park every Saturday afternoon.
- D. We were playing soccer at the park earlier this Saturday.

LANGUAGE COMPONENT — SESSION 4: WRITING

For questions 31 through 40, choose the best answer.

31. Read the topic sentence: Walking to school every day is good for children. Which sentence would be the BEST supporting reason?

- A. Some schools are too far away for walking.
- B. Walking is a popular activity for families on weekends.
- C. Walking gives children fresh air and exercise to start their day.
- D. Many cities have safe sidewalks for walking around.

32. Which sentence would BEST begin a personal narrative about helping at a school food drive?

- A. Food drives are an important event at many schools.
- B. The morning of the food drive, I packed three large bags of cans.
- C. Helping at a food drive teaches children about kindness.
- D. People often donate canned food during the winter months.

33. Which sentence uses STRONGER, more specific verbs?

- A. The cat went up the tree and was at the top quickly.
- B. The cat moved up the tree and got to the top fast.
- C. The cat did things up the tree and was at the top in no time.
- D. The cat clawed up the tree and perched on the highest branch.

34. Read the sentence: Sara opened her notebook ____ began to write her story. Which word BEST fills in the blank?

- A. And
- B. But
- C. Or
- D. So

35. Which would be the BEST closing for an opinion paragraph arguing that all children should learn to swim?

- A. Some pools have special lessons for younger children.
- B. Swimming is a popular sport across Canada.
- C. For all these reasons, every child should learn to swim.
- D. Different pools have different safety rules to follow.

36. Which sentence uses dialogue punctuation correctly?

- A. "I love this song." said Hana.
- B. "I love this song," said Hana.
- C. "I love this song" said Hana.
- D. I love this song, said Hana.

37. Which word is spelled CORRECTLY?

- A. Library
- B. Libary
- C. Libreary
- D. Librarry

38. Read the paragraph:

Mateo loves making art with clay. He has been taking pottery lessons for two years. ____ Mateo hopes to enter one of his bowls in the local art show this spring.

Which sentence BEST fills in the blank?

- A. Many art galleries display children's work in Canada.
- B. His younger brother prefers drawing over working with clay.
- C. He has already shaped more than twenty small bowls.
- D. Clay is made from very fine soil mixed with water.

39. Which sentence is the BEST example of DIALOGUE?

- A. Aisha asked her brother to share his crayons during art class.
- B. Aisha wanted her brother to share his crayons during art class.

- C. The crayons were shared by Aisha and her brother in art class.
- D. "Please share your crayons," Aisha said to her younger brother.

40. Read this sentence: The cold wind cut through my jacket as the snow crunched beneath my boots and the bare trees creaked in the silence. What is this sentence MAINLY doing?

- A. Listing the items needed for a winter walk safely
- B. Using sensory details to bring a winter scene to life
- C. Explaining how to dress for a very cold day
- D. Telling the reader where the walker is exactly standing

MATHEMATICS COMPONENT — STAGE 1: NUMBER

41. Which number is the same as four hundred seventy-six?

- A. 4,076
- B. 746
- C. 467
- D. 476

42. Round 392 to the nearest TEN.

- A. 400
- B. 380
- C. 390
- D. 300

43. What is the value of the digit 6 in the number 569?

- A. 60
- B. 6
- C. 600
- D. 6,000

44. What is $347 + 285$?

- A. 522
- B. 632
- C. 612
- D. 542

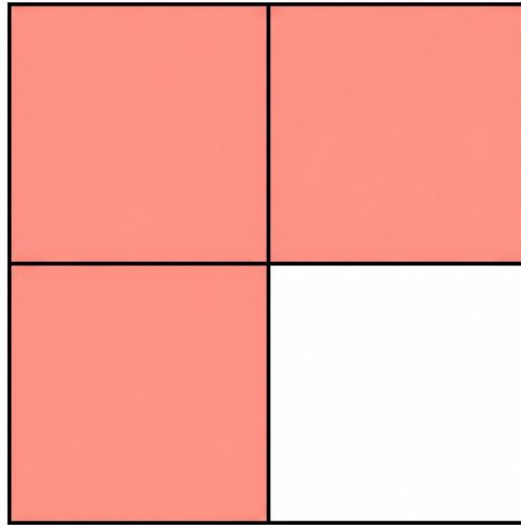
45. A library had 542 magazines on the shelves. By the end of the month, 178 magazines had been borrowed by visitors. How many magazines are LEFT on the shelves?

- A. 720
- B. 436
- C. 374
- D. 364

46. Which list shows these numbers ordered from GREATEST to LEAST?

- A. 873, 651, 429, 184
- B. 184, 429, 651, 873
- C. 873, 184, 429, 651
- D. 184, 873, 429, 651

47. Look at the figure below.



What fraction of the windowpane is shaded?

- A. $\frac{4}{3}$
- B. $\frac{1}{4}$
- C. $\frac{3}{4}$
- D. $\frac{2}{4}$

48. Which fraction is LESS than $\frac{1}{2}$?

- A. $\frac{3}{4}$
- B. $\frac{1}{4}$
- C. $\frac{2}{3}$
- D. $\frac{4}{8}$

49. What is the missing number in this pattern? 12, 24, 36, ____, 60, 72

- A. 42
- B. 50
- C. 54
- D. 48

50. Which number is EVEN?

- A. 286
- B. 153
- C. 471
- D. 357

MATHEMATICS COMPONENT — STAGE 2: ALGEBRA, DATA, AND SPATIAL SENSE

51. What is 5×8 ?

- A. 35
- B. 40
- C. 45
- D. 30

52. A garden has 42 flowers. They are planted equally in 6 rows. How many flowers are in each row?

- A. 6
- B. 36
- C. 7
- D. 8

53. What is the missing number? $\square + 25 = 50$

- A. 75
- B. 35
- C. 15
- D. 25

54. A pattern follows the rule subtract 3. If the first term is 40, what is the FIFTH term in the pattern?

- A. 25
- B. 28
- C. 31
- D. 34

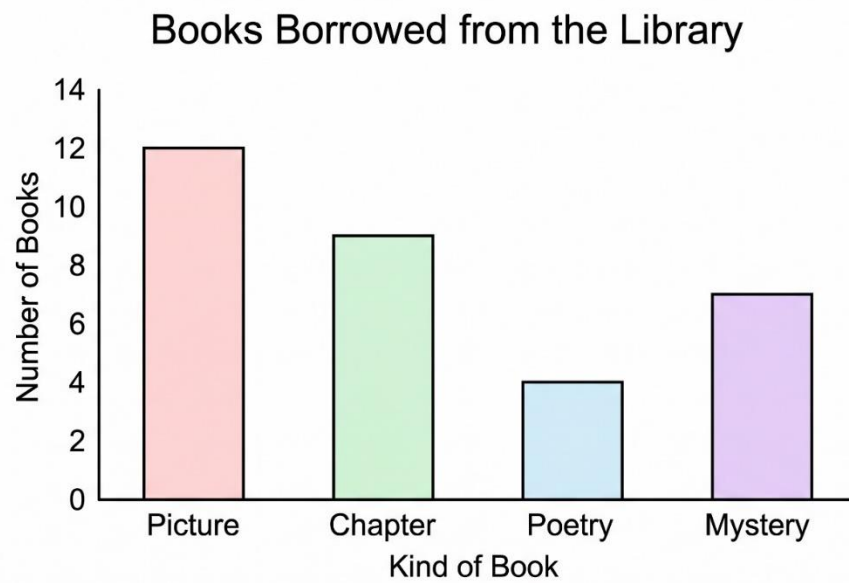
55. A character starts at position (2, 6) on a grid. The instructions are:

1. Move 3 spaces right.
2. Move 4 spaces down.
3. Move 1 space right.

Where does the character end up?

- A. (5, 2)
- B. (5, 6)
- C. (6, 2)
- D. (6, 6)

56. Look at the bar graph below.

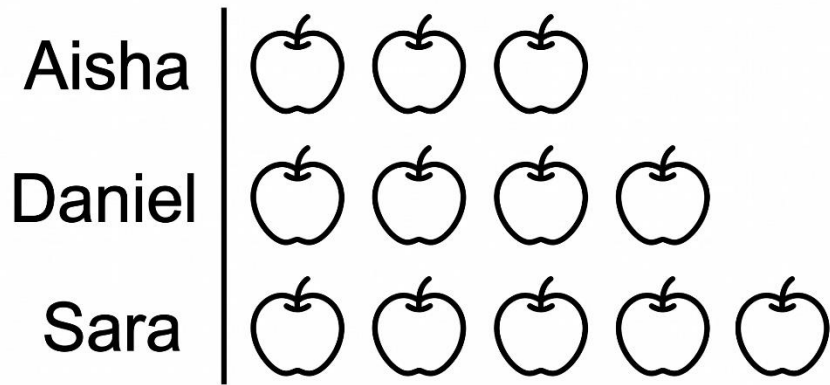


How many MORE picture books were borrowed than poetry books?

- A. 8
- B. 16
- C. 4
- D. 12

57. Look at the pictograph below.

Apples Sold at the Market



Each apple = 9 apples sold.

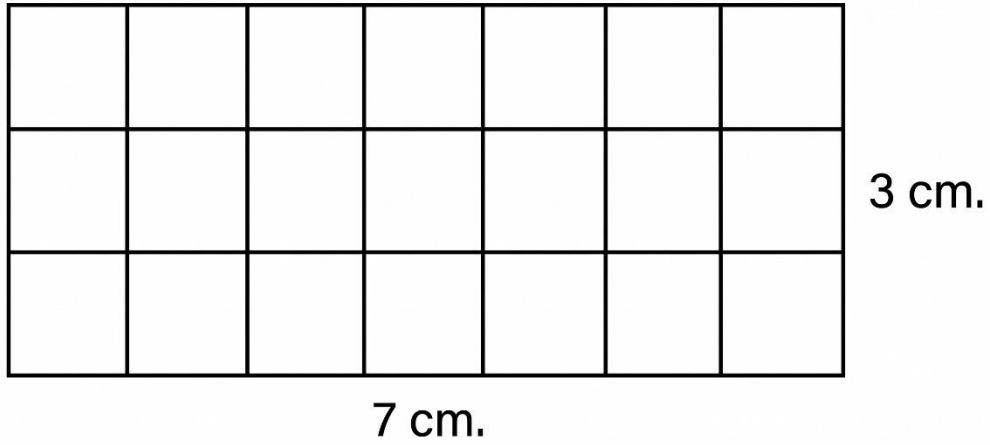
How many apples did Sara sell at the market?

- A. 5
- B. 14
- C. 36
- D. 45

58. Which 3D solid has 8 corners and 12 straight edges, with all sides the same length?

- A. Sphere
- B. Cylinder
- C. Cube
- D. Cone

59. Look at the rectangle below.



What is the AREA of this rectangle?

- A. 21 square centimetres
- B. 10 square centimetres
- C. 14 square centimetres
- D. 28 square centimetres

60. A muffin costs \$3 and a juice costs \$2. Aiden has \$25 and buys 4 muffins and 3 juices. How much money does he have LEFT?

- A. \$18
- B. \$7
- C. \$12
- D. \$5

Practice Exam 16: Answer Key and Explanations

- 1. A** — Twenty-two items. The story states this directly: *"The list was twenty-two items long."* The careful listing is part of why Mia's sale ran smoothly.
- 2. D** — Her old wooden train set at four dollars. The story states this directly: *"The most expensive thing — her old wooden train set — was four dollars."* The cheapest item was the twenty-five-cent green eraser.
- 3. B** — Three stuffed animals and a small puzzle. The story states this directly: *"By the time they walked away, they had bought three stuffed animals and a small puzzle."* That first purchase brought Mia six dollars and fifty cents.
- 4. C** — Twenty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents. The story states this directly: *"She had made twenty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents."* The total came from selling almost everything on her table.
- 5. A** — A new pair of roller skates. The story states this directly: *"She had been saving for a new pair of roller skates. The skates cost thirty dollars."* The garage sale brought her close to her goal.
- 6. D** — Purple. The poem opens with this exact line: *"It is purple with a zipper / And a small white tag inside."* The colour is part of the case's identity.
- 7. C** — When the speaker was four years old. The poem states this directly: *"My grandmother bought it for me / When I was four years high."* The case has been with the speaker since junior K.
- 8. B** — A message from the speaker's best friend in Grade Two. The poem states this directly: *"There is a small folded note / From my best friend in Grade Two —"* The note says *Have a good test today.*
- 9. D** — The purple has become more pink. The poem states this directly: *"The purple is more pink than purple."* The colour change comes from years of use.
- 10. A** — The speaker wants to keep using the pencil case for years to come. The closing lines describe future plans — fitting in new pencils while keeping the old note. This kind of question asks readers to interpret a closing image, not take it literally.
- 11. B** — From a Russian word that means "white." The article states this directly: *"The name beluga comes from a Russian word that means 'white.'"* The name describes the adult whale's colour.
- 12. C** — Dark grey. The article states this directly: *"Baby belugas, called calves, are born dark grey. As they grow up, their colour slowly turns white."* A beluga is fully white by about six years old.
- 13. D** — To send and receive sounds underwater. The article states this directly: *"The melon helps the whale send and receive sounds underwater."* The melon is the bulging forehead.
- 14. A** — Their songs sound like the songs of birds. The article states this directly: *"Sailors hundreds of years ago called them the canaries of the sea because their songs sound like birds."* Belugas can make over 50 different sounds.

- 15. B** — The use of sound to find things underwater. The article states this directly: "*This use of sound to find things underwater is called echolocation.*" Belugas use echolocation to find food in dark deep water.
- 16. C** — Beluga whales are special animals with many unusual features. The article covers the white colour, the round head, the singing, the cold-water hunting, and the endangered Saint Lawrence population. The other options describe smaller parts of the article rather than the central idea.
- 17. A** — Recycling at home or in the community. Passage 1 describes a child's job of taking the family recycling to the curb; Passage 2 explains how recycling works after pickup. Two-text comparison questions require finding the shared topic at the broadest level.
- 18. D** — To share a personal memory of helping with the family recycling. Passage 1 uses first-person language ("*Every Tuesday night, it is my job to take the recycling out*") and tells one specific personal story. This is the defining feature of personal narrative writing.
- 19. B** — A special centre where recycling is sorted by machines and workers. Passage 2 states this directly: "*A big truck takes the recycling from the curb to a special centre called a Materials Recovery Facility. At the centre, the items move along on a wide conveyor belt. Workers and big machines sort the materials.*"
- 20. C** — A personal memory of dragging a big bin out to the curb. The dragging of the bin, the rumbling wheels, and the father watching from the door appear only in Passage 1. Passage 2 contains only general information about how recycling works after pickup.
- 21. D** — The girl finished her homework before dinner. A complete sentence has a subject (girl), a verb (finished), and a complete thought. The other options are fragments — either missing a main verb, beginning with a subordinator that leaves the thought hanging, or lacking a main clause.
- 22. A** — On Monday, we will visit my aunt in Calgary. Capitals are required on the first word, days of the week (Monday), and proper place names (Calgary). *Aunt* stays lowercase because it is not being used as a name; the other options either miss a required capital or add extra ones.
- 23. B** — The school bus arrived early this morning. Statements (declarative sentences) end with a period. The other options pair questions, exclamations, or commands with the wrong punctuation marks.
- 24. D** — Nibbled. *Nibbled* describes the action the rabbit performed — this is the role of a verb. *Quick* and *small* are adjectives, and *carrot* is the noun being acted upon.
- 25. C** — The four ducks swim across the pond every morning. A plural subject (*four ducks*) takes a plural verb without -s (*swim*). Option A mismatches; option B uses a singular noun with a plural verb; option D is a fragment because *swimming* alone is not a main verb.
- 26. A** — Built. The phrase *yesterday evening* signals past tense, formed by the irregular past form *built*. Present, future, and present-continuous forms all conflict with the past time word in the sentence.
- 27. C** — Unhappy. *Unhappy* and *sad* are synonyms — both describe a low or negative feeling. The other options describe opposite or unrelated qualities like happiness, loudness, or brightness.

- 28. D** — The cat's toy was on the windowsill. The apostrophe + s shows singular possession (the toy belongs to one cat). Option A omits the apostrophe; option B places it after the s (which shows plural possession); option C omits the s.
- 29. A** — Before the parade began, we found our seats by the road. A comma is required after an introductory dependent clause (*Before the parade began*). Option B omits the comma; option C is missing commas in a list; option D places commas where they break the sentence's flow.
- 30. B** — We will play soccer at the park next Saturday afternoon. Future tense uses *will* + base verb, and *next Saturday* signals an action that has not happened yet. The other options describe past, habitual present, or past-continuous actions.
- 31. C** — Walking gives children fresh air and exercise to start their day. A strong supporting reason explains *why* the topic sentence is true with a specific benefit. The other options describe unrelated facts about school distance, family weekends, or sidewalks.
- 32. B** — The morning of the food drive, I packed three large bags of cans. Strong narrative openings place the reader inside a specific moment with concrete details (the morning, the three bags of cans). The other options state general facts about food drives rather than entering a story.
- 33. D** — The cat clawed up the tree and perched on the highest branch. Strong verbs like *clawed* and *perched* are specific and create vivid images. Verbs like *went*, *moved*, *was*, and *did* are weak because they could describe almost any action.
- 34. A** — And. *And* joins two related actions in the same direction — opening the notebook and beginning to write are connected steps of the same activity. Words like *but*, *or*, and *so* would express contrast, alternative, or result, none of which fits.
- 35. C** — For all these reasons, every child should learn to swim. An opinion-piece closing should restate the position with confidence and connect to the supporting reasons that came before. The other options drift to unrelated facts about pools, popularity, or safety rules.
- 36. B** — "*I love this song*," said Hana. Correct dialogue punctuation places a comma inside the closing quotation mark before the speaker tag. Option A uses a period instead of a comma; option C omits the comma entirely; option D omits the quotation marks.
- 37. A** — Library. The word is spelled l-i-b-r-a-r-y. The other options are common misspellings produced by sounding the word out without checking standard form.
- 38. C** — He has already shaped more than twenty small bowls. A supporting sentence in a paragraph about Mateo's pottery should add a related detail about his work. The other options drift to unrelated topics like Canadian galleries, his brother, or how clay is made.
- 39. D** — "*Please share your crayons*," Aisha said to her younger brother. True dialogue uses quotation marks around the speaker's exact words. The other options describe what was said without quoting it directly — that is indirect speech, not dialogue.

- 40. B** — Using sensory details to bring a winter scene to life. The sentence engages the sense of touch (*cold wind cut through my jacket*), sound (*snow crunched, trees creaked*), and atmosphere (*the silence*). Sensory details create atmosphere — one of the techniques the EQAO writing rubric specifically rewards.
- 41. D** — 476. *Four hundred seventy-six* breaks down as $400 + 70 + 6$, with four hundreds, seven tens, and six ones. Reading number-word questions carefully matters — 4,076, 746, and 467 all use similar digits but have very different values.
- 42. C** — 390. To round 392 to the nearest ten, look at the ones digit (2). Since 2 is less than 5, round down: 392 sits closer to 390 than to 400 on a number line.
- 43. A** — 60. The digit 6 sits in the tens place in 569, so its value is $6 \times 10 = 60$. Place value determines what each digit is worth, regardless of the digit itself.
- 44. B** — 632. Column addition: $7 + 5 = 12$ (write 2, carry 1); $4 + 8 + 1 = 13$ (write 3, carry 1); $3 + 2 + 1 = 6$. The total is 632.
- 45. D** — 364. Column subtraction: $542 - 178$ requires regrouping in both the ones and tens columns. The ones become $12 - 8 = 4$, the tens (after borrowing) become $13 - 7 = 6$, and the hundreds become $4 - 1 = 3$. The result is 364.
- 46. A** — 873, 651, 429, 184. Ordering from greatest to least compares hundreds digits first: $8 > 6 > 4 > 1$. Only option A arranges all four numbers in true descending order.
- 47. C** — $\frac{3}{4}$. The windowpane is divided into 4 equal small squares (the denominator), and 3 of those squares are shaded (the numerator). The fraction is shaded parts over total parts, giving $\frac{3}{4}$.
- 48. B** — $\frac{1}{4}$. Comparing to one-half: $\frac{1}{4}$ means one of four equal parts, which is less than the two of four equal parts that equals $\frac{1}{2}$. The other options ($\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{4}{8}$) each represent values equal to or greater than $\frac{1}{2}$.
- 49. D** — 48. The pattern adds 12 each step: 12, 24, 36, ____, 60, 72. The missing term is $36 + 12 = 48$, which then continues to 60 by adding 12 again. Checking both directions confirms the rule.
- 50. A** — 286. An even number ends in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8. Only 286 ends in an even digit (6); the others end in 3, 1, and 7 — all odd.
- 51. B** — 40. The multiplication fact $5 \times 8 = 40$ is a core Grade 3 times-table fact. A useful check: skip-counting by 5s eight times gives 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40.
- 52. C** — 7. Equal sharing: $42 \text{ flowers} \div 6 \text{ rows} = 7 \text{ flowers in each row}$. Division undoes multiplication — $7 \times 6 = 42$ confirms the answer through the fact family.
- 53. D** — 25. To find the missing addend, use the inverse operation: $50 - 25 = 25$. Checking: $25 + 25 = 50$. The inverse-operation strategy is the most reliable approach for missing-addend questions.

54. B — 28. Starting at 40 and subtracting 3 each step: 40 (1st), 37 (2nd), 34 (3rd), 31 (4th), 28 (5th). Writing each term as you go prevents the drift errors that come from holding many numbers in your head.

55. C — (6, 2). Starting at (2, 6): right 3 \rightarrow (5, 6); down 4 \rightarrow (5, 2); right 1 \rightarrow (6, 2). Tracking the position after each instruction on scrap paper is the most reliable approach for coding-grid questions.

56. A — 8. The picture-books bar reaches 12 and the poetry-books bar reaches 4. The difference is $12 - 4 = 8$. Comparison questions on bar graphs require reading both bars carefully against the scale and subtracting.

57. D — 45. Sara's row shows 5 apple symbols, and the key states each apple equals 9 apples sold. The total is $5 \times 9 = 45$. Always multiply the picture count by the key value rather than counting pictures alone.

58. C — Cube. A cube has 8 vertices (corners), 12 straight edges, and 6 equal square faces. Spheres have no corners or edges; cylinders have 2 curved edges and no corners; cones have 1 curved edge and 1 vertex at the point.

59. A — 21 square centimetres. The area of a rectangle equals length \times width: $7 \times 3 = 21$ square centimetres. Counting the unit squares inside the grid (7 across, 3 down) gives the same result.

60. B — \$7. This is a multi-step problem: $4 \text{ muffins} \times \$3 = \$12$; $3 \text{ juices} \times \$2 = \$6$; total cost = $\$12 + \$6 = \$18$. Money left: $\$25 - \$18 = \$7$. Multi-step money problems require identifying every operation in the right order.