

PRACTICE EXAM 17: EQAO GRADE 6 LANGUAGE SIMULATION (47 QUESTIONS)

READING SESSION A

Time: Approximately 35 minutes

Passage 1: "The Garden"

A short story by Adaeze Mukasa

The old man across the street did not like children.

That, at least, was what Akira had heard.

For as long as Akira had lived on Birchwood Avenue — almost six years now — the small grey house with the carefully tended front garden had belonged to Mr. Vance. Mr. Vance was, by Akira's estimation, very old. He walked slowly. He always wore a dark green jacket, even in the warmer months. His front garden was beautiful in the precise, careful way that some gardens are beautiful — every plant in its place, no weeds, the small stone walkway swept clean.

Mr. Vance did not speak to the children on the street.

When Akira's brother and his friends had played road hockey in the spring, Mr. Vance had come out of his house and asked them, quietly but firmly, to play somewhere else. When a soccer ball had landed in his garden last autumn, he had walked it back to the curb himself and set it down without saying anything. When the new family on the corner had let their dog out without a leash, and the dog had run across his lawn, Mr. Vance had not yelled. He had simply looked at the family from his front window until the dog was retrieved.

The children on Birchwood Avenue had reached, over many years, a quiet conclusion about Mr. Vance: he did not like children.

Akira had believed this for almost as long as she had lived on the street.

She was eleven years old now.

On a Saturday morning in late May, Akira was walking home from the library when she saw something unusual in Mr. Vance's front garden. Mr. Vance was sitting on a small wooden bench near the side of the house, in a part of the garden Akira had never noticed before. He was very still. His head was down. One of his hands was resting on his knee.

The other hand was holding a small white envelope.

Akira slowed without meaning to.

Mr. Vance looked up. He saw her.

Akira froze.

She expected him to ask her, quietly but firmly, to move along.

He did not. He looked at her for a long moment. Then he looked back down at the envelope in his hand. He did not say anything.

Akira did something she had not planned to do. She crossed the street.

She walked up to the low fence beside Mr. Vance's garden. She stopped at the gate. She did not open it.

"Are you all right, Mr. Vance?" she asked.

Mr. Vance looked up at her again. His eyes were red around the edges, but his face was calm. He was older up close than he had seemed at a distance. His skin was thin. His hands trembled slightly.

"I am all right," he said. His voice was quieter than Akira had expected. "Thank you for asking."

Akira did not know what to say next. She did not want to leave.

"Is that a letter?" she said.

Mr. Vance looked down at the envelope.

"It is," he said. "It is from my wife. She wrote it to me, almost forty years ago, when I was working overseas. I keep a few of her letters in my desk. I read them sometimes."

Akira did not know that Mr. Vance had been married. She did not know anything about him at all.

"Where is your wife?" she asked, before she had time to think about whether the question was polite.

Mr. Vance smiled — a small, tired smile.

"She passed away," he said gently. "Eight years ago. Today would have been her birthday."

Akira looked at her shoes.

She did not know what to say. She had been told, since she was very young, that one should always be polite to adults. But she had never been told what to do when an adult tells you something this large at the gate of his own garden.

"I am sorry," she said quietly.

"Thank you," Mr. Vance said.

They stood — or, in his case, sat — in silence for a moment. Then Mr. Vance asked, "Do you walk past my garden often?"

"Almost every day," Akira said. "I go to the library on Saturdays."

"Hmm," said Mr. Vance.

He looked at his garden. He looked at Akira.

"My wife loved daffodils," he said. "She would not let me plant anything else along the front. Every spring, when they come up, I think of her."

Akira looked at the front garden. There were no daffodils blooming now — May was too late for them — but she could see, along the front border, where they had been. She had walked past those daffodils every spring for six years. She had never thought about them.

"They are beautiful," she said.

Mr. Vance nodded slowly.

"Thank you for stopping," he said. "It was kind of you."

Akira hesitated.

"Mr. Vance?" she said.

"Yes?"

"Why have you never spoken to the children on the street before?"

Mr. Vance was quiet for a long moment.

"Because I did not know how to start," he said finally. "After my wife passed away, I stopped knowing how to talk to people I did not already know. I never disliked the children. I just did not know how to say hello."

Akira nodded. She did not know what to say.

But she stood at the gate of his garden for a few more minutes. They talked, in small careful sentences, about the daffodils that had bloomed there in April. About the library books Akira had just returned. About the bench Mr. Vance was sitting on, which his wife had picked out at a garden centre many years ago.

Then Akira said goodbye. She walked across the street to her own house.

She thought about Mr. Vance for the rest of the day.

The next Saturday, on her way home from the library, Akira stopped again at the gate. Mr. Vance was in the garden. He looked up. He raised one hand in a small wave.

Akira waved back.

She did not go inside the gate.

She did not need to.

She had learned, that May, that some people are not what other people think they are. And that asking — even when you are not sure if you should — is sometimes the only way to find out.

1. Why does the author MOST LIKELY include the detail that Mr. Vance's front garden is "beautiful in the precise, careful way that some gardens are beautiful"?

- A. To show that Mr. Vance does not have many friends or hobbies
- B. To prove that Mr. Vance has worked as a professional gardener his whole life
- C. To suggest that Mr. Vance disapproves of the other gardens on Birchwood Avenue
- D. To suggest that Mr. Vance is a person who pays careful attention to small details

2. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The children on Birchwood Avenue had reached, over many years, a quiet conclusion about Mr. Vance: he did not like children."

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

- A. A judgement formed by the children without checking whether it was actually true
- B. The final part of a long story or article that wraps up the main events
- C. A formal decision agreed upon by a group of people in a meeting
- D. The point at which something ends or stops happening permanently

3. Why does Mr. Vance keep his wife's old letters?

- A. He reads them sometimes to feel close to his wife after her passing
- B. He is planning to publish them in a book one day in the future
- C. He keeps them as evidence in a legal dispute with his wife's family
- D. He has been instructed by a lawyer to keep them safe for many years

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"She had walked past those daffodils every spring for six years. She had never thought about them."

What does this MOST LIKELY suggest about Akira?

- A. Akira has been a careful observer of the flowers in her neighbourhood
- B. Akira's family does not allow her to notice things on her walk to the library
- C. Akira had been passing meaningful things without ever stopping to see them

D. Akira had been told by her parents not to pay attention to neighbours' gardens

5. What is the MOST LIKELY reason Mr. Vance has not spoken to the children on the street for many years?

- A. He thinks the children of the street are usually too loud and disruptive
- B. He has been instructed by the city to keep his property clear of visitors
- C. He believes that adults should never speak to other people's children
- D. He has not known how to begin speaking to people since his wife passed away

6. Read this part of the passage:

"She had been told, since she was very young, that one should always be polite to adults. But she had never been told what to do when an adult tells you something this large at the gate of his own garden."

What does this part of the passage MOST LIKELY communicate about Akira?

- A. Akira is angry that the adults in her life have not prepared her for grown-up conversations
- B. Akira is facing a moment that her usual rules of behaviour do not fully cover
- C. Akira has been told too many rules and cannot decide which one she should follow
- D. Akira is trying to figure out whether Mr. Vance is telling her the truth about his wife

7. Which detail BEST shows that Akira and Mr. Vance's relationship has CHANGED by the end of the story?

- A. Mr. Vance raises one hand in a small wave when Akira passes the following Saturday
- B. Akira walks home along the same route from the library as she has for years
- C. The daffodils have already finished blooming by the end of the month of May
- D. Akira returned a stack of books to the library at the start of the morning

8. What is the central THEME of this story?

- A. Old people who live alone should always be helped by the children in their neighbourhood
- B. Children should never trust the conclusions adults have already reached about their neighbours
- C. The conclusions we reach about other people are sometimes very different from the truth

once climbed a mountain in another country?

What if the boy who delivers our newspapers

has a younger brother

who is just like me?

What if the man who fixes the school's elevator

goes home and plays the cello at night

in a small room with the lights low?

What if the cashier at the corner store —

the one I see almost every day —

is writing a book on the bus ride home?

What if I have been walking past lives

the entire time I have been alive?

What if I have not been paying attention?

11. What kind of poem is this called, based on its structure?

- A. An acrostic poem — a poem where the first letter of each line spells a word
- B. A ballad — a song-like poem that tells a long story with a regular pattern of rhymes
- C. A haiku sequence — three connected poems built from a 5-7-5 syllable pattern
- D. A wondering poem — built almost entirely from speculative "what if" questions

12. What is the MAIN message of this poem?

- A. Every person we pass each day carries stories we are usually not aware of
- B. Children should ask more questions of the strangers they encounter every day
- C. Bus stops are the most interesting place to observe other people closely
- D. The most important stories are the ones written about famous historical events

13. Read this part of the poem:

"What if the man who fixes the school's elevator / goes home and plays the cello at night / in a small room with the lights low?"

What does this MOST LIKELY suggest about the man?

- A. The poet believes that the man should give up his job to become a musician
- B. People often have inner lives that look very different from their public work
- C. The school's elevator has not been working properly for several months now
- D. The cello is one of the most popular instruments for working adults to play

14. What is the MOST LIKELY meaning of the final two lines:

"What if I have been walking past lives / the entire time I have been alive? / What if I have not been paying attention?"

- A. The poet is asking the reader to walk more slowly through their neighbourhood
- B. The poet wishes she had taken a different route to school for many years
- C. The poet is wondering if she has missed seeing the people around her more carefully
- D. The poet is regretting all the questions she failed to ask during her childhood

15. (Open-Response)

The short story "The Garden" and the poem "What If" both involve a character who realizes she has been missing something about the people around her. 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.)

In 1992, a young Canadian fighter pilot named Chris Hadfield received a phone call that would change his life. The Canadian Space Agency had selected him as one of four new astronauts — chosen from a pool of more than five thousand applicants — to join the Canadian astronaut corps. Hadfield was thirty-three years old. He had never been to space.

Twenty-one years later, in 2013, he became the first Canadian to command the International Space Station — and, briefly, one of the most recognized human beings on Earth.

This article tells the story of how he got there, and what he did with the rare chance.

The Boy Who Wanted to Fly

Chris Hadfield was born in 1959 in Sarnia, Ontario, and grew up on a corn farm near Milton. He has said in interviews that his interest in space began on July 20, 1969, when, at nine years old, he watched Neil Armstrong walk on the surface of the moon on a small black-and-white television in his family's living room. From that night forward, he later wrote, he wanted to be an astronaut.

The problem was that, in 1969, Canada did not have astronauts.

Canada did not have a space agency. There was no Canadian path into space. A nine-year-old farm boy in Ontario who wanted to fly to the moon was, in those years, dreaming of something the country he lived in could not yet offer him.

Hadfield made a list of decisions a Canadian astronaut would make if Canadian astronauts existed. He decided he would study science. He decided he would learn to fly. He decided he would join the air force. He decided he would do all of these things even though no Canadian had ever been to space — because someday, perhaps, that might change.

By the early 1990s, it had.

Three Missions in Space

Hadfield flew his first space mission in 1995, on the space shuttle Atlantis, where he became the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm — the robotic arm Canada had built and contributed to the international space program. In 2001, he flew his second mission, this time becoming the first Canadian to walk in space, spending nearly fifteen hours outside the shuttle in two separate spacewalks.

His third mission — the one that made him most widely known — began in December 2012. Hadfield travelled to the International Space Station on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He stayed in space for five months. For the final two months of his mission, in March 2013, he served as commander of the entire station — the first Canadian ever to hold that role.

The Astronaut Who Sang

What set Commander Hadfield apart from many of the astronauts who came before him was something simple. He talked to people on Earth.

From the International Space Station, using a personal Twitter account and YouTube channel, Hadfield posted daily updates: photographs of Earth from orbit, videos answering questions from students, short demonstrations of how astronauts brush their teeth, cry, sleep, or wring out a wet washcloth in zero gravity.

He made the space station — which had been operating for over a decade by then — feel close, immediate, and human.

In May 2013, just before he returned to Earth, Hadfield recorded a video performance of David Bowie's song "Space Oddity," singing and playing guitar while floating in the cupola of the space station. The video was viewed more than ten million times in its first week. It became one of the most-watched space videos ever made.

It was the first music video ever recorded in space.

Coming Home

When Hadfield returned to Earth on May 13, 2013, he was, briefly, one of the most recognized people in the world. He had used his mission not only to do important scientific work but to share the experience of being in space with millions of people who would never go themselves.

He retired from the Canadian Space Agency a few weeks later.

He went home to Canada.

Why It Matters

Chris Hadfield's career matters for several reasons.

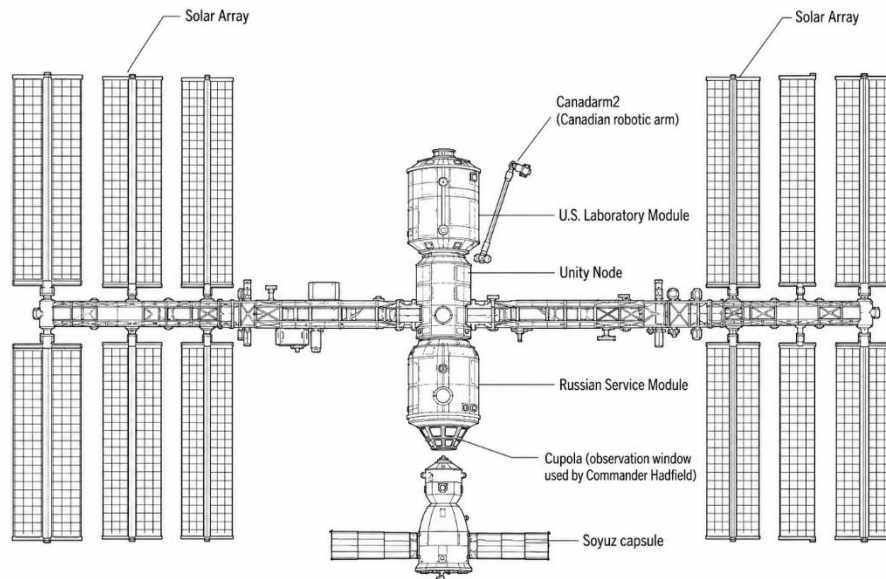
He was the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm in space. He was the first Canadian to walk in space. He was the first Canadian to command the International Space Station. Those firsts are historically significant.

But his career also matters because of what he did with the chance to be in space. He decided that being in orbit was not just an achievement for himself — it was a chance to share something rare with everyone else. Through his videos, his photographs, his interviews, and his music, he made space feel a little less distant from the rest of us.

A boy who watched the moon landing on a small black-and-white television in 1969, in a country that did not yet have astronauts, became the Canadian commander of the International Space Station in 2013.

That is a long way home.

Graphic Text 1: Labelled Diagram of the International Space Station



Graphic Text 2: Chris Hadfield Mission Timeline

Chris Hadfield Timeline

KEY LIFE AND SPACEFLIGHT MILESTONES

1959		Born in Sarnia, Ontario
1969		Watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon at age 9
1992		Selected as Canadian Space Agency astronaut
1995		First mission — Space Shuttle Atlantis; first Canadian to operate the Canadarm
2001		Second mission — first Canadian to walk in space
DECEMBER 2012		Launched to the International Space Station on a Soyuz spacecraft
MARCH 2013		Became the first Canadian commander of the International Space Station
MAY 2013		Recorded the first music video in space; returned to Earth
MID-2013		Retired from the Canadian Space Agency

16. What is the MAIN purpose of this article?

- A. To tell the story of Chris Hadfield's path to becoming a Canadian astronaut commander
- B. To convince readers that the Canadian Space Agency should hire more astronauts each year
- C. To compare Chris Hadfield's career with the careers of other astronauts from other countries
- D. To argue that the International Space Station has been the most important machine ever built

17. Why does the author MOST LIKELY include the detail that, in 1969, "Canada did not have astronauts"?

- A. To suggest that Canadians were not interested in space exploration in earlier decades
- B. To prove that the United States was the only country that had astronauts at the time
- C. To show how unlikely Hadfield's eventual career was when he first dreamed of it
- D. To explain why Hadfield's family had to move to a different country for his career

18. Read this sentence from the article:

"He decided he would do all of these things even though no Canadian had ever been to space — because someday, perhaps, that might change."

What does this sentence MOST LIKELY reveal about Hadfield as a young person?

- A. He believed that other Canadians would help him become an astronaut after he made his decision
- B. He had received a promise from the Canadian government that he could one day become an astronaut
- C. He was naive about the chances of becoming an astronaut and did not understand the difficulty of the path
- D. He was willing to prepare for a future that was not certain — making choices based on what he hoped might be possible

19. What did Chris Hadfield do on his FIRST mission in 1995?

- A. He served as the first Canadian commander of the International Space Station
- B. He became the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm in space
- C. He recorded the first music video ever made in space orbit
- D. He walked in space for nearly fifteen hours during two separate spacewalks

20. According to the article, what made Commander Hadfield "stand apart" from many earlier astronauts?
- A. He used videos, photographs, and music to share his experience with people on Earth
 - B. He spent more total time in space than any other Canadian astronaut in history
 - C. He worked exclusively in Russian spacecraft rather than American space shuttles
 - D. He was the only astronaut who had previously worked as a fighter pilot in Canada

21. Read this sentence from the article:

"He decided that being in orbit was not just an achievement for himself — it was a chance to share something rare with everyone else."

What does this sentence MOST LIKELY communicate about Hadfield?

- A. He believed that astronauts should focus on private scientific work rather than public attention
- B. He was working to gain personal fame so that he could pursue a different career after retirement
- C. He understood that his rare position came with a responsibility to share the experience with others
- D. He thought that other astronauts had been keeping too many secrets about life on the space station

22. (Open-Response)

Using information from BOTH the article and Graphic Text 2 (the timeline), explain how long it took for Chris Hadfield to go from watching the moon landing as a child to becoming commander of the International Space Station. Include at least TWO specific events from his life in your answer.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

24. According to Graphic Text 1, which part of the International Space Station was built by Canada?

- A. The Russian Service Module attached at the bottom of the station
- B. The Canadarm2 — the robotic arm extending from one of the modules
- C. The U.S. Laboratory Module connected to the central node
- D. The Soyuz capsule used by astronauts to travel to and from the station

25. (Open-Response)

The article describes Chris Hadfield as a young person who "decided he would study science. He decided he would learn to fly. He decided he would join the air force." Use information from the article AND Graphic Text 2 to explain how these early decisions helped him achieve his goal. Include at least TWO specific details.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

26. Why does the author MOST LIKELY end the article by saying, "That is a long way home"?

- A. The article is criticizing how long it took Hadfield to return to Earth at the end of each mission
- B. The article is reminding readers that the International Space Station is far from the planet's surface
- C. The article is suggesting that Hadfield's journey from a farm boy to a space station commander was extraordinary
- D. The article is implying that the trip home from the space station is the most dangerous part of the journey

27. (Open-Response)

The article says that Hadfield decided to "share the experience of being in space with millions of people who would never go themselves." Why is this an important part of his career? Use details from the article to support your answer.

(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 chef carefully arranged the dishes on the table ____ the guests would be arriving in only a few minutes.

Which word BEST completes the sentence?

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

30. Which sentence has correct subject-verb agreement?

- A. The team of researchers from the local university are studying the effects of climate change
- B. The team of researchers from the local university were studying the effects of climate change
- C. The team of researchers from the local university have studied the effects of climate change

D. The team of researchers from the local university is studying the effects of climate change

31. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

A. Although the road was icy we still drove, to the bakery the post office and the library

B. Although the road was icy, we still drove to the bakery, the post office, and the library

C. Although, the road was icy we still drove to the bakery the post office, and the library

D. Although the road was icy we still drove to the bakery the post office and the library

32. Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?

A. The mens choir performed at the community centre last Sunday afternoon

B. The mens' choir performed at the community centre last Sunday afternoon

C. The men's choir performed at the community centre last Sunday afternoon

D. The men's' choir performed at the community centre last Sunday afternoon

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 visited the science centre in toronto. We spent the afternoon exploring the exhibits about space exploration and Canadian astronauts. It was one of the most facinating experiences I have ever had on a school trip.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

- Include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Have at least one main character
- Describe the FIRST impression in specific detail
- Show the moment when the first impression turned out to be wrong
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

(Aim for approximately three to five paragraphs.)

WRITING SESSION B

Time: Approximately 35 minutes

Part 1: Language Conventions (Questions 37-40)

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

- A. Walking slowly through the empty corridor past the closed classroom doors that afternoon
- B. Although the rehearsal had been long and the dancers were quite tired by then
- C. The kettle whistled the cat jumped down the children ran into the kitchen all at once
- D. The librarian gently sorted the returned books on the cart at the front desk

38. Read the sentence:

By the time the astronauts opened the hatch, the spacecraft ____ in orbit for nearly two months.

Which phrase BEST completes the sentence?

- A. had been travelling

- B. is travelling
- C. travels
- D. will travel

39. Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- A. The community gathered to celebrate the opening of the brand-new public library
- B. The students worked "dilligently on their reports about Canadian space exploration history
- C. The chef carefully prepared a beautiful meal for the visiting government officials tonight
- 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 make a strong impression on the visiting judges.

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 captain or the crew was prepared for the unexpected change in the mission schedule.

(Write your response in the space provided.)

Part 3: Conventions Continued (Questions 43-45)

43. Which sentence uses capitalization correctly?

- A. Last July, my Family visited the canadian space agency offices in Saint-Hubert, quebec
- B. Last july, my family visited the Canadian Space Agency offices in saint-hubert, quebec
- C. Last July, my family visited the canadian space agency offices in Saint-Hubert, Quebec
- D. Last July, my family visited the Canadian Space Agency offices in Saint-Hubert, Quebec

44. Read the sentence:

The astronaut ___ commanded the International Space Station in 2013 returned to Earth a few weeks later.

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 put my notebook asked Dad from the kitchen doorway carefully"

- B. "Where did you put my notebook?" asked Dad from the kitchen doorway.
- C. Where did you put my notebook "asked Dad from the kitchen doorway carefully"
- D. "Where did you put my notebook, asked Dad from the kitchen doorway"

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

46. (Extended Writing — Opinion)

Some people believe that Canada should spend more money on space exploration — including astronauts, satellites, and scientific missions. Other people believe that money for space exploration could be better spent on problems on Earth, such as the environment, health care, or housing.

What do you think?

Write a response in which you:

- Clearly state your opinion
- Give at least TWO reasons that support your opinion
- Explain each reason with specific examples or details
- Briefly acknowledge an opposing view
- End with a strong concluding thought

(Aim for approximately four paragraphs.)

silence has been grief and uncertainty, not dislike. The other options invent reasons (noise, city instructions, rule about adults) not supported by the passage.

6. B — The passage explicitly contrasts Akira's usual rules ("always be polite to adults") with the unfamiliar situation she now faces — an adult sharing something large with her at a garden gate. She is in a moment that her usual rules do not fully cover. The other options misread the lines as anger, indecision, or distrust.

7. A — Mr. Vance raising his hand in a small wave the following Saturday is the clearest evidence of the changed relationship. After years of silence between them, this small gesture marks the beginning of mutual recognition. The other options describe routine details (route, daffodils, library books) that do not show change.

8. C — The story's emotional centre is that the conclusion the children reached about Mr. Vance — that he did not like children — was simply not true. The story turns on the gap between assumption and reality. The other options misread the message as a helping rule, a distrust of adults, or a comment on family letters.

9. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *At the beginning of the story, Akira believes — like the other children on Birchwood Avenue — that Mr. Vance does not like children. She had reached this conclusion based on the fact that he asked road hockey players to play elsewhere, returned a soccer ball without speaking, and looked silently at a family whose dog ran across his lawn. By the end, after speaking with him at his garden gate and learning about his late wife and the daffodils she loved, Akira understands that Mr. Vance was never unkind — he had simply stopped knowing how to speak to people he did not already know after his wife passed away. Her view of him shifts from suspicion to compassion. (Strong: clear before/after change + two specific details.)*

10. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *The lesson means that the assumptions other people make about a person can be very different from who the person really is — and that asking is the only way to find out the truth. Akira had believed for years that Mr. Vance did not like children, because that was the quiet conclusion the neighbourhood had reached. By choosing to cross the street and ask if he was all right, Akira discovered a quiet, grieving man who had not known how to begin speaking to his neighbours. Asking — even when she was unsure if she should — is what let her see the real person behind the garden gate. (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)*

11. D — The poem is built almost entirely from speculative "what if" questions — "What if every house... What if the woman... What if I have been walking past lives...". This defines the wondering form. The other options describe forms that do not match (no hidden acrostic word, no ballad story, no 5-7-5 haiku pattern).

12. A — The poem's central message is that every person we pass each day carries stories we are usually not aware of — the woman at the bus stop, the newspaper boy, the elevator repair worker, the cashier. The other options misread the message as a behaviour rule, a setting commentary, or a comment on famous events.

13. B — The "what if" about the elevator worker imagines him playing the cello at night in a small room. The point is that people often have inner lives — hobbies, talents, private passions — that look very different from their public work. The other options misread the lines as a career-change suggestion, a maintenance complaint, or a popularity claim.

14. C — The closing two lines turn the wondering inward — the poet is asking herself whether she has been missing the people around her this whole time. The final question reframes the entire poem as a meditation on her own inattention. The other options misread the lines as a walking-speed suggestion, route regret, or childhood regret.

15. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *Both pieces involve a young person realizing she has been missing something about the people around her. In "The Garden," Akira realizes that for six years she has walked past Mr. Vance's daffodils — and past Mr. Vance himself — without ever wondering about the man behind the garden. In "What If," the speaker wonders whether she has been "walking past lives the entire time I have been alive" without paying attention to the inner lives of the people she sees every day. Both pieces honour the moment when a person stops, looks more carefully, and realizes there is much more to see than she had noticed before. (Strong: clear similarity + evidence from both texts.)*

16. A — The article's central purpose is to tell the story of Chris Hadfield's path to becoming a Canadian astronaut commander — from a farm boy in Ontario watching the moon landing to commanding the International Space Station. Every section supports this story. The other options misread the purpose as a hiring argument, a comparison, or a claim about the station's importance.

17. C — Pointing out that Canada had no astronauts in 1969 emphasizes how unlikely Hadfield's eventual career was — he was dreaming of becoming something his own country did not yet offer. This makes his journey more meaningful. The other options misread the detail as a comment on Canadian interest, American exclusivity, or relocation.

18. D — The sentence reveals that Hadfield was willing to prepare for an uncertain future — making decisions based on what he hoped *might* be possible. This characterizes him as both ambitious and patient. The other options misread the sentence as group support, government promise, or naivete.

19. B — The article states directly that on his first mission in 1995, Hadfield "became the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm." This is the article's specific claim about Mission 1. The other options confuse Mission 1 with later missions (commanding the ISS in 2013, the spacewalk in 2001, the music video in 2013).

20. A — The article states that what set Hadfield apart was that he "talked to people on Earth" — posting daily photos, videos, and demonstrations from the space station. He used media to share his experience widely. The other options invent reasons (time in space, exclusive spacecraft type, fighter pilot history) the article does not present as setting him apart.

21. C — The sentence communicates that Hadfield saw his rare position in orbit as carrying a responsibility — a chance to share the experience with everyone else, not just an achievement for himself. The other options misread the sentence as a preference for private work, fame-seeking, or a secrecy critique.

22. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *Chris Hadfield's journey from watching the moon landing to commanding the International Space Station took forty-four years. According to the article and the timeline, he watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon in 1969 when he was nine years old, on a small black-and-white television in his family's living room. He was selected as a Canadian Space Agency astronaut in 1992, flew his first mission in 1995, walked in space in 2001, and finally became the first Canadian commander of the International Space Station in March 2013. (Strong: claim + two specific events from both sources.)*

23. D — The diagram label for the cupola describes it as the "observation window used by Commander Hadfield." This is what the cupola is used for, according to the diagram. The other options invent uses (sleeping, plant-growing, docking) not given by the labelled figure.

24. B — The diagram labels the robotic arm as "Canadarm2 (Canadian robotic arm)." This is the Canadian contribution to the International Space Station shown in the figure. The other options misread the diagram — the service module is Russian, the laboratory module is American, and the Soyuz capsule was built by Russia.

25. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *Chris Hadfield's early decisions prepared him for a career that did not yet exist when he made them. The article explains that he decided to study science, learn to fly, and join the air force — choices that built the exact qualifications a future astronaut would need. By the time the Canadian Space Agency began selecting astronauts in the early 1990s, Hadfield had become a fighter pilot with the skills to compete against more than five thousand applicants. The timeline shows that he was selected in 1992 and flew his first mission in 1995 — twenty-three years after he made his childhood plan. (Strong: claim + two specific details from both sources.)*

26. C — The closing line "That is a long way home" suggests that Hadfield's journey — from a Sarnia farm boy watching the moon landing in 1969 to a Canadian commander of the space station in 2013 — was extraordinary. The phrase captures both distance and homecoming. The other options misread the closing as criticism, an altitude comment, or a danger warning.

27. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *This is an important part of Hadfield's career because he turned a rare personal achievement into something widely shared. The article explains that he posted daily updates from the International Space Station — photographs of Earth from orbit, videos answering questions from students, demonstrations of how astronauts brush their teeth or wring out a wet washcloth in zero gravity. His recording of "Space Oddity" became the first music video made in space and was viewed more than ten million times in its first week. By sharing his experience, Hadfield made space feel "close, immediate, and human" for people who would never go themselves. (Strong: clear interpretation + text evidence.)*

28. Open-Response — Sample strong answer: *Chris Hadfield grew up on a corn farm in Ontario watching the moon landing on a small black-and-white television, and he later became the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm, the first Canadian to walk in space, and the first Canadian to command the International Space Station in March 2013. What set him apart from earlier astronauts was that he used videos, photographs, and music — including the first music video ever recorded in space — to share his experience with millions of people on Earth. His career shows how a long-term plan and a sense of public*

responsibility can turn a childhood dream into a historic achievement. (Strong: captures main ideas + uses specific detail + own words.)

29. A — "Because" introduces a cause-and-effect relationship — the chef arranged the dishes carefully *because* the guests would arrive in only a few minutes. This is the only conjunction that fits the meaning. "Unless" signals condition, "however" signals contrast, and "although" signals concession — none of which match the cause-and-effect relationship.

30. D — The subject is "team" (singular collective noun), so the singular verb "is studying" is correct. Options A, B, and C use plural verbs that incorrectly agree with the closer noun "researchers" rather than the actual subject "team." Collective nouns like "team," "group," and "class" are treated as singular in standard usage.

31. B — Option B correctly uses a comma after the introductory dependent clause ("Although the road was icy,") and commas to separate three items in a list ("the bakery, the post office, and the library"). Options A, C, and D either omit needed commas or scatter them incorrectly throughout the sentence.

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

33. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *Last fall, my best friend and I visited the science centre in Toronto. We spent the afternoon exploring the exhibits about space exploration and Canadian astronauts. It was one of the most fascinating experiences I have ever had on a school trip.* (Three errors fixed: "my best friend and me" → "my best friend and I"; "toronto" → "Toronto"; "facinating" → "fascinating.")

34. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *As the countdown reached zero and the rocket engines roared to life, the spacecraft slowly lifted off the launch pad.* (Strong: combines all three ideas using subordination, flows smoothly, builds to a single moment.)

35. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *The woman who walks her two small white dogs past my house every morning always carries a thick black notebook tucked under her left arm. I wonder what she writes in it — whether it is a journal, a story, a list of things she needs to remember, or maybe something she is writing for someone she loves. She has been walking past my window for almost a year, and I have never once seen her without the notebook.* (Strong: specific observed detail, clear wondering, no name used.)

36. Extended Writing — **Sample Level 3 response benchmark:** A strong narrative response builds around one specific, ordinary first impression — about a neighbour, classmate, teacher, or relative — and develops a clear arc showing how that impression turned out to be wrong. Strong responses describe the FIRST impression in sensory detail, place the discovery inside a specific scene, and close with a quiet shift in understanding. Length: approximately three to five paragraphs. The strongest responses pick a small, specific misreading rather than a dramatic one, and let the discovery emerge from honest detail.

37. D — Option D has a clear subject ("The librarian"), a verb ("sorted"), 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. A — The sentence describes an action that had been ongoing before another past event ("By the time the astronauts opened the hatch"). This requires the past perfect continuous tense, "had been travelling." Options B, C, and D use present, simple present, or future tenses that do not match the past-before-past time relationship signalled by the sentence.

39. B — Pre-assigned answer: B. The correct answer is B. Option B contains the misspelled word "dilligently," which should be spelled "diligently" with only one "l" after the "i." This is a commonly misspelled word because writers often double the wrong consonant. Option A is spelled correctly throughout, including "gathered," "celebrate," and "library." Option C contains no spelling errors — "carefully," "beautiful," "government," and "officials" are all correctly spelled. Option D is also free of spelling errors, with "practised" being the standard Canadian English spelling of the verb form (distinct from the noun "practice").

40. C — "Because" introduces a cause-and-effect relationship — the students prepared carefully *because* they wanted to make a strong impression on the judges. 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 captain nor the crew was prepared for the unexpected change in the mission schedule. The error is the use of "or" with "neither." The correlative conjunction pair is "neither...nor," so "or" must be replaced with "nor." The verb "was" is correct: in a "neither/nor" construction, the verb agrees with the subject closer to it, and the closer subject here ("crew") is singular, so the singular "was" is appropriate. (Strong: identifies the conjunction error and produces a clean rewrite.)

42. Open-Response — **Sample strong answer:** *The fog finally lifted just after sunrise. The small fishing village began to wake up, and the bells of the harbour church began to ring across the quiet water below.* (Strong: run-on split cleanly into two complete sentences while preserving the full meaning.)

43. D — Option D correctly capitalizes "July" (month), "Canadian Space Agency" (proper organization name), "Saint-Hubert" (proper city name), and "Quebec" (proper province name), while leaving "family" lowercase (common noun). Option A fails to capitalize "Canadian Space Agency" and "Quebec," and incorrectly capitalizes "Family." Options B and C miss "July," "Canadian Space Agency," "Saint-Hubert," or "Quebec."

44. A — "Who" is used to refer to people doing an action — the astronaut *who* commanded the space station. "Whom" is the object form (incorrect because the pronoun is the subject of "commanded"), "which" refers to things, and "whose" indicates possession. "Who" is the only correct relative pronoun here.

45. B — Option B 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, C, and D either omit quotation marks, misplace them, or fail to handle the punctuation around the speaker tag correctly.

46. Extended Writing — Sample Level 3 response benchmark: A strong opinion response takes a clear stand (more space funding OR more Earth-focused funding OR a balanced position) in the opening paragraph, develops at least two well-reasoned arguments in body paragraphs with specific examples (scientific discovery, national pride, urgent Earth needs, dual investment), 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 series-of-paragraphs response introduces a specific wonder or question in the opening paragraph and explains when it first started, develops at least two interesting aspects of that wonder in separate body paragraphs with concrete detail, and closes with a reflection on why wondering — even without answers — matters. Length: approximately four paragraphs. The strongest responses pick a focused, specific wonder rather than a sweeping topic, and let genuine curiosity drive the writing.

