Missouri Assessment Program – Practice Form
Grade 8 English Language Arts
Script for Administering Braille Edition

This script should be used to administer the Braille edition of the assessments. This script should not be used to administer the online assessments. This document contains secure testing materials and must be destroyed following the guidelines provided in Section 3.4 of the Test Coordinator’s Manual.

To ensure that all students are tested under the same conditions, the Test Examiner (TE) should adhere strictly to the script for administering the test. These instructions can be found in the boxes in bold on the following pages. The TE should answer questions raised by students when asked but should never help the class or individual students with specific test items. Except for single words, no test items can be read to any student for any content area unless the student has Read Aloud as a specified tool/accommodation.

Please remember that the script must be followed exactly and used each time a test is administered. All directions and listening presentations that a TE must read to students are indicated by the word “SAY” and are in boxes so they stand out from the regular text. They should be read aloud exactly as written, using a natural tone and manner. If the TE makes a mistake in reading a direction, the TE should stop and say, “I made a mistake. Listen again.” Then the direction should be reread.

The TE should try to maintain a natural classroom atmosphere during the test administration. Before each test begins, he or she should encourage students to do their best.
GRADE 8, SESSION 1

Make sure that each student has his or her own test booklet and any additional materials needed to access the assessment. Students should mark their answers or indicate their responses to the Test Examiner.

SAY Please make sure you have the correct test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Pause to make sure students have their own test booklets.

SAY Now you will be taking the English Language Arts Practice Form. This test has four sessions that contain different types of questions. Today you will take Session 1. This session includes questions based on passages. Be sure to read each passage. Some questions will require you to choose each correct answer. Other questions will require you to mark or indicate your answers to the Test Examiner. One question will require you to respond to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt to understand the task. Then, plan and draft your essay. Finally, write the final draft of your essay. Read each question carefully and follow the directions.

Pause.

SAY When you come to the word STOP at the bottom of the page, you have finished this session. You may go back over Session 1 and check your answers, but do not go to any other session. When you finish checking Session 1, please close your test booklet and sit quietly.

Are there any questions?

Pause to answer any questions the students have. When you are sure that the students understand the directions, continue.

SAY Open your test booklet to the first question in Session 1. You may begin.

Make sure students are on the correct page.
When the students have finished,

**SAY**  Stop. This is the end of the English Language Arts Practice Form, Session 1. Please close your test booklet.

If this is the end of testing for the day, collect all testing materials and secure the materials after confirming that all test booklets are accounted for.

If this is **not** the end of testing for the day, have students close their test booklets and take a short break. Resume testing when students are ready to continue.
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GRADE 8, SESSION 2
Make sure that each student has his or her own test booklet and any additional materials needed to access the assessment. Students should mark their answers or indicate their responses to the Test Examiner.

SAY Please make sure you have the correct test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Pause to make sure students have their own test booklets.

SAY Now you will be taking Session 2 of the English Language Arts Practice Form. This session includes different types of questions based on passages. Be sure to read each passage. Some questions will require you to choose each correct answer. Other questions will require you to mark or indicate your answers to the Test Examiner. Read each question carefully and follow the directions.

You may NOT go back to Session 1 in your test booklet. Work through each question in Session 2 only.

Are there any questions?

Pause to answer any questions the students have.

SAY When you come to the word STOP at the bottom of the page, you have finished this session. You may go back over Session 2 and check your answers, but do not go to any other session. When you finish checking Session 2, please close your test booklet and sit quietly.

Are there any questions?

Pause to answer any questions the students have. When you are sure that the students understand the directions, continue.

SAY Open your test booklet to the first question in Session 2. You may begin.

Make sure students are on the correct page.
When the students have finished,

**SAY**  Stop. This is the end of the English Language Arts Practice Form, Session 2. Please close your test booklet.

If this is the end of testing for the day, collect all testing materials and secure the materials after confirming that all test booklets are accounted for.

If this is **not** the end of testing for the day, have students close their test booklets and take a short break. Resume testing when students are ready to continue.

**GRADE 8, SESSION 3**

Make sure that each student has his or her own test booklet and any additional materials needed to access the assessment. Students should mark their answers or indicate their responses to the Test Examiner.

**SAY**  Please make sure you have the correct test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Pause to make sure students have their own test booklets.

**SAY**  Now you will be taking Session 3 of the English Language Arts Practice Form. This session includes different types of questions. Some questions will require you to choose each correct answer. Other questions will require you to mark or indicate your answers to the Test Examiner. Read each question carefully and follow the directions.

You may **NOT** go back to Session 1 in your test booklet. Work through each question in Session 3 only.

Are there any questions?

Pause to answer any questions the students have.

**SAY**  When you come to the word STOP at the bottom of the page, you have finished this session. You may go back over Session 2 and check your answers, but do not go to any other session. When you finish checking Session 3, please close your test booklet and sit quietly.
Are there any questions?

Pause to answer any questions the students have. When you are sure that the students understand the directions, continue.

**SAY** Open your test booklet to the first question in Session 3. You may begin.

Make sure students are on the correct page.
When the students have finished,

**SAY** Stop. This is the end of the English Language Arts Practice Form, Session 3. Please close your test booklet.

If this is the end of testing for the day, collect all testing materials and secure the materials after confirming that all test booklets are accounted for.

If this is **not** the end of testing for the day, have students close their test booklets and take a short break. Resume testing when students are ready to continue.
GRADE 8, SESSION 4
For Session 4, scripts are provided for items assessing listening.

Make sure that each student has his or her own test booklet and any additional materials needed to access the assessment. Students should mark their answers or indicate their responses to the Test Examiner.

Say: Please make sure you have the correct test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Pause to make sure students have their own test booklets.

Say: Now you will be taking Session 4 of the English Language Arts Practice Form. This session includes different types of questions based on presentations. Some questions will require you to choose each correct answer. Other questions will require you to mark or indicate your answers to the Test Examiner. Read each question carefully and follow the directions.

You may NOT go back to a previous session in your test booklet. Work through each question in Session 4 only.

Are there any questions?

Pause to answer any questions the students have. When you are sure that the students understand the directions, continue.

Say: Open your test booklet to Session 4. You will listen to a presentation and then answer questions 1 through 4.

Make sure students are on the correct page.
These days, almost everyone uses electronic devices, and most written communication is done using a keyboard. It seems that there is really no reason to pick up a pen anymore or to learn handwriting at school. In reality the opposite is true—good old-fashioned handwriting provides many benefits that keyboarding does not offer.

Scientists have discovered that handwriting can create powerful connections in the brain. According to one expert, a unique circuit in the brain is activated when a person writes by hand. This circuit creates communication pathways between different parts of the brain. It means that you might learn things, connect ideas, and remember things much more effectively if you write them down. These types of mental connections are more difficult to form with keyboarding.

Psychologist Carol Christensen agrees. Christensen has performed studies testing the impact of handwriting. In her tests, students up to grade 8 typically produced better-quality work when they used handwriting.

And it is not only kids and teens who benefit. Experts have found that writing by hand can help everyone, from young children to adults. According to research, using a computer can be distracting, but writing by hand can encourage concentration. As psychologist Paul Bloom states, “With handwriting, the very act of putting it down [on paper] forces you to focus on what’s important.”

No matter how important keyboarding has become, handwriting still remains an important life skill. You may need to jot down notes for your boss, write a shopping list, fill out a form, or write a thoughtful thank-you note. People who have taken the time to develop handwriting skills are equipped to do all of these tasks quickly and easily. Whether in school, at work, or in everyday life, we can all still benefit by learning and practicing handwriting skills.

I will read it one more time.
Please answer questions 1 through 4. When you complete these four questions, please stop working and sit quietly.

Pause. Allow time for students to respond.

Find question 5 in your test booklet. You will listen to a presentation and then answer questions 5 through 8.

Pause.
The Elgin Marbles

Over the centuries, many items of historical importance have been moved out of their home country. Often this sparks debate on where these artifacts belong. Should they stay in the host country or should they be returned to their original home? The solution is rarely clear. Ultimately, it must be decided by the two nations involved. When deciding the fate of these treasures, their preservation should be the primary concern.

The sculptures from the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, are a famous example. These statues are sometimes called the Elgin Marbles because Lord Elgin brought them from Greece to England in the early 1800s. At that time, many of the Parthenon sculptures had already been destroyed. Lord Elgin took about half of the remaining sculptures back to England. They are now housed at the British Museum in London, England.

England claims to have a right to the statues because Lord Elgin bought them from the sultan who ruled Greece at the time. Greece claims they were never legally sold by the sultan. They should be returned to Greece so they can be displayed with the other ancient sculptures from the Parthenon.

However, the strongest argument involves who can preserve these treasures for future generations to study and enjoy. Greece points out that the statues were damaged in England by pollution in the nineteenth century. They were further harmed by the chisels, acid, and sandpaper the British used to clean them at the time. The city of Athens has been restoring the Parthenon, and a new museum there is designed to keep the statues safe.

England argues that the statues would have been destroyed by war if Lord Elgin had not rescued them. Pollution in Athens may have further damaged the statues. The British Museum maintains that staff take good care of the marble statues and now use safer methods to clean them.

Both countries have strong arguments in their favor. The final decision should be based primarily on which country can best maintain these irreplaceable artifacts.

I will read it one more time.
Read the presentation aloud again.

**SAY** Please answer questions 5 through 8. When you complete these four questions, please stop working and sit quietly.

Pause. Allow time for students to respond.

When the students have finished,

**SAY** Stop. This is the end of the English Language Arts Practice Form, Session 4. Please close your test booklet.

Collect all test materials.