

FreedomProject Academy

8TH GRADE ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST

Instructions:

1. Print the entire test.
2. All work must be completed only by the student. It is imperative for us to see the student's own work for accurate placement. No outside sources are to be used including but not limited to the following: textbooks, notes, text messages, Internet sources, smart phones, tablets, parents, family, or friends.
3. Be sure to include the student's name and note the time it took to complete the test at the top of the first page.
4. The Grammar section of this test should be in manuscript (printed) writing; however, the Literature and Writing sections should be in **cursive**. If the student has not learned cursive, take steps to work on that skill over summer to prepare for school in the fall.
5. Scan completed test and email to tests@fpeusa.org.

Name _____ Date: _____ Time to complete: _____
8TH GRADE ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST. Please answer all questions. The grammar section should be in manuscript (printing) writing. Place all labels **above** the word(s) wherever no lines are provided.

GRAMMAR

Put S for “Sentence” and F for “Fragment.”

- ___ 1.) After we visit the library and gather information for the research paper.
- ___ 2.) Listen closely to our guest speaker.
- ___ 3.) Fishing, skiing, and swimming in the lake.

Underline the simple subject once and the simple predicate twice.

- 1.) Many new inventions and devices make life easier.
- 2.) Have you ever seen a talking computer?
- 3.) Hearing-impaired viewers can read subtitles and enjoy their favorite television shows.

Classify the following sentences as declarative (DEC), interrogative (INT), imperative (IMP), or exclamatory (EXC). Add the appropriate end mark.

- _____ 1.) Have you ever watched a honeybee or a bumblebee in a garden__
- _____ 2.) Notice the yellow pollen that collects on the legs and body of the bee__
- _____ 3.) What a remarkable insect the bee is__

Look at the words in italics. Label each as a noun (N), pronoun (Pro), or adjective (Adj).

- 1.) An *archaeologist* has found that markings on an old *calendar* stick are the precise records of a *lunar* year and a solar year.
- 2.) The calendar stick is a carved *hickory* branch with *four* sides.
- 3.) *It* is worn along the *edges* and shows other signs of frequent use.
- 4.) In an early portrait, a Winnebago chief holds a calendar stick in *his* right hand.

Look at the words in italics. Label each as a verb (V), adverb (Adv), preposition (Prep), conjunction (Conj), or interjection (I).

- 1.) It *appeared* on the Fun Page *of* a New York City newspaper, *and* readers *immediately asked* the editors *for* more.
- 2.) *Wow! Almost* every daily newspaper in the United States *now* publishes crossword puzzles.

Place parentheses () around each prepositional phrase and underline the word or phrase it modifies.

- 1.) The pony with the white forelock is Sally's.
- 2.) Outside the door the hungry cat waited patiently.
- 3.) The first United States space shuttle was launched in 1981.

Identify each group of italicized words as an Independent Clause (I) or a Subordinate Clause (S). If it is Subordinate, also label it as an adjective clause or adverb clause.

- 1.) My mother, *who was born and raised in Jamaica*, really knows how to cook.
- 2.) Whenever I have a chance, *I try to learn her secrets*.
- 3.) *As soon as we pay for these items*, let's take them home.

Identify each sentence as simple (S), compound (CD), complex (CX), or compound-complex (CD-CX).

- _____ 1.) We visit the Liberty Bell whenever we go to Philadelphia.
- _____ 2.) Have you chosen a topic for your report yet, or are you still making your decision?
- _____ 3.) When George Washington Carver was working on soil improvement and plant diseases, the South was recovering from the Civil War, and his discoveries gave planters a competitive edge.

Identify each italicized word as a direct object (DO), indirect object (IO), predicate nominative (PN), or predicate adjective (PA).

- 1.) My sister has become a computer-repair *technician*.
- 2.) The teacher showed the *class* a *film* about the Revolutionary War.
- 3.) At first the colt seemed *frightened*.

Identify each incorrect pronoun and write the correct form.

- 1.) The computer experts in our class are Rosalinda and her.
- 2.) Pablo and me are planning to visit the Andes Mountains.
- 3.) Will you attend the rally with Scott and I?

Identify each incorrect verb and write the correct form.

- 1.) I seen that magician on television.
- 2.) You should have went with Thomas to the game.
- 3.) Sandra throwed the ball to the shortstop.

Circle each letter that should be capitalized.

- 1.) the curtiss soap corporation sponsors the tv show called *three is two too many*.
- 2.) when grandma murray and aunt edna from mobile, alabama, visited us, they watched the program.
- 3.) in the silliest show, the people in the next town, longview, thought that a sea monster was living in lake cranberry and reported it to the department of the interior.

Place correct punctuation in each of the sentences below – end marks, commas, semicolons, and colons.

- 1.) Some turtles live on land others live in lakes streams or oceans
- 2.) Three species of tortoises that can be found in the United States are as follows the desert tortoise the gopher tortoise and the Texas tortoise

Place correct punctuation in each of the sentences below – underlining, quotation marks, apostrophes, or hyphens.

- 1.) A two thirds majority said they didnt want to have the dance Friday night Shawn said.
- 2.) Does the public library have copies of the Seminole Tribune?

LITERATURE: VOCABULARY / COMPREHENSION

Read this selection and then answer the questions which follow.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST LITERATURE SELECTION ***A Christmas Carol – from Stave I “Marley’s Ghost”***

Once upon a time—of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve—old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement-stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already: it had not been light all day: and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!" He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure."

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! what right have you to be merry? what reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? what reason

have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."

"Don't be cross, uncle," said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge, indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas,' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew: "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

The clerk in the tank involuntarily applauded: becoming immediately sensible of the impropriety, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever.

"Let me hear another sound from you" said Scrooge, "and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation. You're quite a powerful speaker, sir," he added, turning to his nephew. "I wonder you don't go into Parliament."

"Don't be angry, uncle. Come! Dine with us to-morrow." Scrooge said that he would see him—yes, indeed he did. He went the whole length of the expression, and said that he would see him in that extremity first.

"But why?" cried Scrooge's nephew. "Why?"

"Why did you get married?" said Scrooge.

"Because I fell in love."

"Because you fell in love!" growled Scrooge, as if that were the only one thing in the world more ridiculous than a merry Christmas. "Good afternoon!"

"Nay, uncle, but you never came to see me before that happened. Why give it as a reason for not coming now?"

"Good afternoon," said Scrooge. "I want nothing from you; I ask nothing of you; why cannot we be friends?"

"Good afternoon," said Scrooge.

"I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. We have never had any quarrel, to which I have been a party. But I have made the trial in homage to Christmas, and I'll keep my Christmas humour to the last. So A Merry Christmas, uncle!"

"Good afternoon!" said Scrooge.

"And A Happy New Year!"

"Good afternoon!" said Scrooge.

His nephew left the room without an angry word, notwithstanding. He stopped at the outer door to bestow the greetings of the season on the clerk, who, cold as he was, was warmer than Scrooge; for he returned them cordially.

LITERATURE: VOCABULARY / COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions after reading the separately posted passage from *A Christmas Carol – Stave I, “Marley’s Ghost”*. You may refer back to it at any time. (30 pts.)

For the vocabulary section, circle the letter of the correct answer.

1.) “It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside go **wheezing** up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet ...”

In the sentence above, **wheezing** means which of the following? (1 pt.)

- a. hurrying
- b. jumping to keep warm
- c. breathing with a rattling sound
- d. talking as they met friends

2.) “Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't **replenish** it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room ...”

In the sentence above, **replenish** means which of the following? (1 pt.)

- a. light
- b. feel its warmth
- c. refill
- d. extinguish it

3.) “What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be **morose**? You're rich enough.”

In the sentence above, **morose** means which of the following? (1 pt.)

- a. light-hearted
- b. charitable
- c. gloomy
- d. mean-spirited

4.) “Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the **veneration** due to its sacred name and origin, ...”

In the above sentence, **veneration** means which of the following? (1 pt.)

- a. celebration
- b. customs or traditions
- c. meaning
- d. reverence

5.) "The clerk in the tank involuntarily applauded: becoming immediately sensible of the **impropriety**, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever."

In the above sentence, **impropriety** means which of the following? (1 pt.)

- a. improper behavior
- b. observing good manners
- c. regretting his actions
- d. improvement of his situation

Please answer **all parts** of the remaining comprehension questions in **complete sentences** by hand in **cursive**. Answers must come from this selection only, not any prior knowledge of later events. Points will be deducted if these directions are not followed.

6.) On what good day of the year does this story begin? What was Scrooge doing? Describe the weather at the time. (4 pts.)

7.) Why did Scrooge have the door to his counting house open? Describe in detail the conditions of the clerk's room. (3 pts.)

8.) Who comes to visit Scrooge? (2 pts.)

9.) What famous line (two parts) is Scrooge known for saying? (2 pts.)

10.) For what reason did Scrooge think that his nephew should not have a Merry Christmas, and what was the nephew's witty response? (4 pts.)

11.) According to Scrooge, what should happen to a person who wished others a Merry Christmas? (2 pts.)

12.) Why did Scrooge warn his clerk that he might lose his job? (2 pts.)

12.) Contrast Scrooge's nephew's personality traits with those of his uncle. Name at least three differences. Give examples of how these traits were displayed. (6 pts.)

WRITING

Choose ONE of the following. Write 100-200 words in cursive, complete sentences, and paragraph form.

- Write a narrative about a very exciting event in your life.
- Write a narrative outlining a typical day in your life. It could be a school day, a weekend day, or a summer day.

