STAAR® MASTER®
Practice Test

Sample Booklet
Grade 8
Reading, Form A

Lori Mammen
Editorial Director

You know ECS from TAAS MASTER™ and TAKS MASTER®. Rest assured. The content in the STAAR MASTER® series is 100% new and developed according to the TEA test blueprints for STAAR™.

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For more than two decades, we have helped you achieve student success on Texas tests by providing the highest quality test-prep materials. With STAAR MASTER®, we continue our commitment to create research-based content that engages students and makes teaching easier.

- Based on eligible TEKS and STAAR test blueprints
- All new content with increased rigor
- Emphasis on readiness standards
- Assessment of process skills within context (mathematics, science, and social studies)
- More open-ended (griddable) items (mathematics and science)
Reading, Grade 8
Form A
Teacher Guide

ECS97832-TG
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The STAAR MASTER® series includes new, challenging content to prepare students for the rigor of the 2012 STAAR. It’s what you have come to expect from the most trusted source in Texas testing. Check our Web site often for the latest information at ecslearningsystems.com/staarmaster.

As you use STAAR MASTER® in your classroom, we hope to hear from you! Send us your story and let us know:

- Why you need our product(s)
- How you use them in your classroom
- What outcomes and results you are experiencing

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Please let us know how well the STAAR MASTER® products worked in your classroom. Also, please spread the word—many of our new customers are referred by teachers like you.

Sincerely,
Your ECS Team

p.s. It’s easy to share your story! Visit our Re:Think blog at ecslearningsystems.com/blog and click the Re:Tell button.

Overview of STAAR MASTER® Practice Tests

The STAAR MASTER® Practice Tests allow teachers to assess their students’ mastery of the curriculum standards tested on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®). Each Practice Test reflects the test structure and content outlined in the corresponding STAAR blueprint provided by the Texas Education Agency. Teachers can find the blueprint for each STAAR assessment at the agency’s Web site: http://www.tea.state.tx.us.

In particular, each STAAR MASTER® Practice Test includes—

- course-specific practice items based only on the eligible Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
- the exact number of practice items specified in the blueprint for the corresponding test
- the correct number of practice items for both readiness standards and supporting standards, reflecting the ratio specified in test blueprints
- the appropriate number of griddable practice items (mathematics only)
- rigorous practice items that assess skills at a greater depth
Each *STAAR MASTER® Practice Test Teacher Guide* includes a Correlation Chart with pertinent information for each item in the test booklet.

**Correlation Chart Features:**
- complete answer key
- identification of the reporting category for each item
- standard(s) and expectation(s) tested in each item
- identification of readiness and supporting standards
- complexity level (Low, Moderate, High) of each item

The Teacher Guide for each *STAAR MASTER Practice Test* includes a correlation chart that provides the following information for each item:
- correct answer
- reporting category
- tested standard(s)
- identification as readiness vs. supporting standard
- complexity level

For a complete list of the eligible TEKS for the appropriate subject and grade level, refer to the *STAAR MASTER Student Practice Books.*

When administering any of the *STAAR MASTER Practice Tests,* teachers should be aware of the following points.

1. Each actual STAAR assessment has a 4-hour time limit. The same time limit should be set for any practice test administered to students.
2. Dictionaries must be available for all students taking the STAAR reading assessment (grades 6–8 only) and writing assessment (Grade 8 only). Dictionaries should be available to students for those subject areas and at those grade levels during practice tests, as well.

For further information about the content or structure of the STAAR assessments, please visit the TEA Web site: http://www.tea.state.tx.us.

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### Answer Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<th>Standard(s)</th>
<th>Readiness</th>
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Picture Day

1. Cameron gave a jaw-breaking yawn before crawling out from beneath the covers. It was picture day, and he didn’t want to be late. He rubbed his eyes and stretched his arms before letting his hands drop to scratch his head. Weird, he thought. His fingers wouldn’t move through his hair.

2. Cameron froze. Oh no, he thought. Didn’t I spit out my gum before bed last night? Cameron sat up and looked in the mirror. No such luck. He dampened his comb with water and tried to yank it through the sticky mess, but his comb just got stuck to his head too. Cameron shrugged, yawned, and crammed a cap over his hair as he trudged downstairs to breakfast.

3. Cameron slid into his chair and turned slowly. Melanie stared at Cameron with huge eyes, and then a smile slowly spread across her face.

7. Cameron’s mom immediately realized what had happened. She set her mouth in a grim line and tried to wrestle the cap from Cameron’s head. Melanie began giggling uncontrollably. Finally, his dad stepped in and gave a powerful jerk, freeing Cameron’s head from the cap. Cameron tried to touch his head, now sore from all the pulling, but Mom swatted his hand away.

8. “Cameron, don’t touch it! You’ll just make it worse,” she scolded.

9. “Nothing can look worse than Cameron’s head right now,” Melanie said with a smirk.

1. In paragraph 10 of the story, the word liberally means—
   A. angrily
   B. carefully
   C. generously
   D. timidly

2. Based on the story, the reader can conclude that the gum got into Cameron’s hair—
   A. as he was combing it
   B. while he was sleeping
   C. when he was at school
   D. after he woke in the morning
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**Reading • Mathematics • Writing • Social Studies • Science**

### English • Spanish • Grades 3–8

### STAAR MASTER® Student Practice Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading, Grade 3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Writing, Grade 7</td>
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</table>

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