Sample Booklet
Grade 4
Writing, Form A

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™.

All New! Research-Based Series for Texas
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)
Writing, Grade 4
Form A
Teacher Guide
Dear Texas Educator,

Since 1982, ECS Learning Systems has created quality K–12 teaching materials, training, and media. As a Texas-based publisher of the highest quality test-prep materials, we have always shared your commitment to lead your students to success on Texas tests—TEAMS, TAAS, TAKS, and now the STAAR™. With STAAR MASTER®, we continue our commitment to create research-based content that engages students and makes teaching easier.

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

At ECS, we strive to provide educators like you with easy-to-use and effective materials that make teaching easier. We count it as a privilege to have you as a customer, and we hope that our products continuously exceed your expectations.

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

### Day 1

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Day 1

Writing
Grade 4
Form A

Name _____________________________ Date _____________________________

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STAAR is a trademark of Texas Education Agency. STAAR MASTER and ECS Learning Systems, Inc. are not affiliated with or sponsored by the Texas Education Agency or the State of Texas.
Dancing Feet

School was over for the day. Sarah walked out to the soccer field to look for her best friend, Lacey.

"Come on, Lacey," said Sarah. "You said you’d go to dance class with me today. Remember?"

Lacey was still breathing hard after dribbling the soccer ball down the field.

"Yeah, I remember. I’m a little nervous, though."

1. What is the correct way to write sentences 14 and 15?
   A. She zipped up her jacket and followed Sarah to the parking lot.
   B. She zipped up her jacket, she followed Sarah to the parking lot.
   C. She zipped up her jacket, and followed Sarah to the parking lot.
   D. Sentences 14 and 15 are correct in the story.

2. What change should be made in sentence 26?
   A. Change That’s to Thats
   B. Change the first comma to a period
   C. Change whispered to whispered
   D. Delete the comma after her.
Writing Prompt I

Look at the picture below.

It takes patience and skill to teach another person.

Write about a time when you taught someone how to do something.

Be sure to—
• write about a personal experience
• organize your writing
• develop your ideas in detail
• choose your words carefully
• use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Gabriel wrote this story about staying calm. He would like you to read his story and look for any edits he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Paddling to Safety

(1) Juan kneeled at the end of the canoe, and paddled slowly.

(2) “Milly, those sure look like storm clouds,” Juan said, motioning with his head up to the sky.

(3) “I think you’re right. (4) We’d better get back to Mom and Dad at the dock. (5) They are probably worried.” (6) Milly suddenly grabbed the sides of the canoe as a clap of thunder sounded in the distance.

1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?
   A. Change kneeled to needed
   B. Delete the comma
   C. Change slowly to slowing
   D. No change is needed in sentence 1.

2. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?
   A. Change suddenly to sudden
   B. Change grabbed to grabbed
   C. Change thunder to Thunder
Writing Prompt II

READ the information in the box below.

Each year, the United States Postal Service chooses people to honor on postage stamps. The person may be a famous leader, a popular entertainer, or someone else admired by others.

THINK about a person that you would honor on a postage stamp.

WRITE about one person that you would honor on a postage stamp. Explain why that person deserves such an honor.

Be sure to—
• state your central idea clearly
• organize your writing
• develop your writing in detail
• choose your words carefully
• use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences
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STAAR MASTER®
Reading • Mathematics • Writing • Social Studies • Science
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• based on eligible TEKS and STAAR™ test blueprints
• practice items marked with complexity level (L, M, or H)
• questions labeled with “skill tags”
• targeted practice in a variety of contexts

Authentic
Reflects key characteristics of STAAR™
• increased rigor
• emphasis on readiness standards
• more open-ended (griddable) items (mathematics and science)
• assessment of process skills within context (mathematics, science, and social studies)

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Includes brand-new materials
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**English • Spanish**  Grades 3 – 8

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**Value-Priced** to provide each student a copy.

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**FREE Teacher Guide** (a $15.00 value) included with each pack. For School Packs, an extra Teacher Guide will be included free for each additional 30 copies ordered.

### **STAAR MASTER® Practice Tests**

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Form B available 2012–2013 school year.

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