STAAR MASTER®
Practice Test

Sample Booklet
Grade 7
Writing, 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™.

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 7
Form A
Teacher Guide

ECS97634-TG

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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 2

**Writing Prompt II:** Personal Narrative  
**Reporting Category:** 1  
**Standards:** 7.14B; 7.14C; 7.14D; 7.16A  
**Standard Type:** Readiness  
**Complexity:** High  
**Evaluation of Personal Narrative:** A rubric for scoring personal narratives is located on the TEA Web site—[www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/).
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Aaron read about how animals use camouflage. He wrote this paper to share what he learned. Proofread Aaron’s paper and look for any mistakes he has made. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Hiding in Plain Sight

(1) In the wild, animals face many kinds of threats. (2) They don’t always have time to run and hide, though. (3) Indeed, many animals have special colors and patterns that help them blend with their surroundings. (4) This is called camouflage.

(5) Blending is the most basic kind of camouflage. (6) This kind of camouflage exists everywhere in the animal world. (7) In blending, the color of the animal matches where the animal lives. (8) For example, polar bears live where there is a lot of snow and ice. (9) Their

1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?
   A  Change Indeed to Instead
   B  Change have to has
   C  Insert a comma after colors
   D  Make no change

2. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 16?
   A  Change can to could
   B  Change instant to instantly
   C  Change their to there
   D  Make no change
Writing Prompt I

READ the information in the box below.

A common phrase is, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

THINK about what someone’s appearance tells you.

WRITE an essay explaining whether or not you can accurately judge a person by his or her appearance.

Be sure to—
• clearly state your controlling idea
• organize and develop your explanation effectively
• choose your words carefully
• use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences
Writing Prompt II

Look at the picture below.

Walking a tightrope requires patience.

Write a personal narrative about a time when you needed patience. Be sure to write in detail about the situation and describe what happened as a result of your patience.
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• 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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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.

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