

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Sample Test Questions ELA/Literacy, Grades 9-11

ELA/Literacy

Grade 9

Directions: Today you will research the development and one-time use of the atomic bomb. First you will read a passage from a speech by Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Manhattan Project, under which the bomb was developed in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Then you will read a letter from a group of eminent scientists to President Harry S. Truman, asking him not to use the bomb. Finally you will read about President Truman and his decision to drop the bomb. As you review these sources, you will answer questions and gather information so that you can write an essay synthesizing what you have learned.

Sample multiple-choice question: How does Oppenheimer develop his claim in paragraph 7 that “It is not good to be a scientist, and it is not possible, unless you think that it is of the highest value to share your knowledge, to share it with anyone who is interested”?

- A. He offers a thorough analysis of why the claim has been useful in the development of scientific knowledge.
- B. He provides limited scientific data to show that the belief expressed in the claim has been accepted by most scientists.
- C. He gives several examples from history to demonstrate that many different cultures have believed the claim to be true.
- D. He builds upon the belief expressed in the claim without providing specific evidence to support it.

ELA/Literacy

Grade 10

Directions: Today you will read and analyze passages from two short stories. As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions about each text individually and about the relationship between the texts so you can write an analytical essay.

Sample essay question: You have read two passages, one from Jacey Choy's "Red Cranes" and one from Jun'ichirō Tanizaki's "The Firefly Hunt." Though Mie and Sachiko, the main characters in the passages, have certain similarities, the authors develop their characters in very different ways. Write an essay in which you analyze the different approaches the authors take to develop these characters. In your essay, be sure to discuss how each author makes use of such elements as:

- the main characters' interactions with other characters,
- the presentation of the main characters' thoughts, and
- the strong feelings each character experiences at the end of each passage.

Use specific evidence from both passages to support your analysis.

ELA/Literacy

Grade 11

Directions: Today you will read two documents that were written at the time of the American Revolution and watch a video that gives further information about one of these documents. As you study these sources, pay particular attention to the rhetorical features of each document and the audience to which each one was addressed. At the end of the task, you will be asked to write an analytical essay.

Sample essay question: You have studied three sources involving the establishment of American independence from Great Britain. The sources are:

- Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776
- A passage from Patrick Henry's March 23, 1776, speech to the Second Virginia Convention
- The video "From Subjects to Citizens"

An important idea presented in the sources involves the colonists' notions of the purpose of government. Write an essay in which you explore the perceptions of government's purpose presented in the sources. In writing your essay, consider how the authors of the two written documents describe the ideal relationship between a government and its people, and how they describe the actual relationship between the government of Great Britain and the colonists. Consider also the perspective presented in the video. Remember to use evidence from all three sources to support your ideas.

<http://www.parcconline.org/practice-tests>