Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)

Reading Sample Test Grade 6

Arizona Department of Education

Assessment Section
602-542-5031

Revised December 2010

The reading passages, test items, and scoring guides in this publication are representative only and should not be interpreted as exact duplicates of the passages and items that may appear on AIMS tests, nor the scoring guides used to score them. Authority for final approval of all test items and testing materials rests with the Arizona Department of Education.

The Arizona Department of Education of the State of Arizona does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or in its hiring and employment practices. If you have questions or grievances related to this policy, please contact the Administrative Services DAS at (602) 542-3186.

The contents of this publication were developed partially with funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Education. These contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the agency, nor should endorsement by the federal government be assumed. Arizona Department of Education grants permission to Arizona schools to copy this publication as necessary for educational purposes.

AIMS Sample Test – Reading
Grade 6

Section	Page
Reading Test	1
Reading Answer Key	15

READING

Go On

DIRECTIONS: **Read this passage and then answer questions 1 through 5.**

Web Weaver

The ancient Greeks tell the story of a talented but foolish young woman named Arachne. Arachne was well known throughout the land for the beautiful tapestries and rugs she wove. One day at a local arts and crafts fair held in the agora[1], she was busy working at her loom when a crowd began to gather around.

"What vivid colors! Such intricate designs!" exclaimed the crowd. "Truly such talent would rival Athena herself!"

High up in her home on Mt. Olympus, Athena heard the praises of those gathered and, as goddess of arts and crafts, decided to descend to the agora to investigate. Athena disguised herself as an old beggar woman so she could observe Arachne unnoticed.

With each compliment given by the onlookers, Arachne grew bolder and more proud. "Athena would have to work hard to achieve *my* skill," she boasted. "*My* tapestries are superior to all others."

In her disguise, Athena spoke up. "Foolish child," she scolded. "Don't you know how unwise it is to mock the gods? You should beg Athena for forgiveness at once," warned the old woman.

Recklessly Arachne continued. "I don't need to apologize for my skill. Why, if Athena and I were to have a contest, I am certain to be declared the better weaver."

Upon hearing the challenge, Athena cast aside her disguise, revealing her true identity. With a stony glare she declared, "So be it. Let the competition begin!"

Her pride overcoming her fear, Arachne nodded and both began weaving. Rapidly the patterns began appearing on the looms. Athena's tapestry pictured a scene of the troubles that come to those who anger the gods. Arachne's tapestry displayed the gods in silly, unflattering ways.

When the goddess glanced at Arachne's disrespectful design, she could take no more. Eyes blazing, she roared, "I gave you a warning, but you have gone too far! If you are so proud of your spinning and weaving, then that is what you shall do forever." As soon as the command was issued, Arachne's body and limbs began to shrivel up until she became a small spider.

Even today, Arachne remains in that form, weaving her webs as a reminder and warning to all those who might dare to challenge the gods.



[1] In ancient Greece an agora (ag ər ə) was a marketplace or other gathering place.

1 Who made the challenge to become the better weaver?

A the gods

B Arachne

C Athena

D the Greeks

2 Which of the following is the theme of this passage?

A The gods should respect humans.

B Weaving tapestries is difficult.

C The gods like to trick the Greeks.

D Showing too much pride is unwise.

3 How did Athena's disguise allow her to watch Arachne create her tapestries?

A She looked too angry to be friendly.

B She dressed like a man so people ignored her.

C She dressed as a beggar woman to hide her identity.

D She looked too scary so people avoided talking to her.

4 Which of the following motivated Arachne to work so hard to weave her tapestries?

A Arachne liked the vivid colors.

B Arachne liked to make fun of the gods.

C Arachne loved the crowd's attention.

D Arachne loved to do difficult things.

5 Which of the following quotes indicates Arachne's conflict in the passage?

A "So be it. Let the competition begin."

B "Such intricate designs!"

C "I gave you a warning, but you have gone too far!"

D "*My* tapestries are superior to all others."

DIRECTIONS: **Read this poem and then answer questions 6 through 11.**

Morning

Morning
Eyelids heavy
Too heavy to open
Alarm clock is buzzing again
Hit snooze

Breakfast
I can smell it
I think its Dad's turn to cook
Salty sausage and sweet syrup
Pancakes

Had to wake up
Time to get dressed
Shuffle to the kitchen
I'll pour a tall glass of orange juice
Still tired

Should have slept in
No school today
I'll spend time with my friends
Saturday's good for relaxing
Weekend

6 Read the following phrase from the poem.

Salty sausage and sweet syrup

This is an example of which element of poetry?

A alliteration

B onomatopoeia

C rhythm

D repetition

7 Which of these phrases **best** states the main idea of this poem?

A Weekends are less stressful.

B Alarm clocks are annoying.

C There is no school on Saturday.

D Sausage is only for breakfast.

8 Read this line from the poem.

Shuffle to the kitchen

According to the author, what does this phrase mean?

A playing with cards in the kitchen

B running quickly to the kitchen

C walking slowly to the kitchen

D taking papers to the kitchen

9 Based on the last stanza of the poem, what is the author's attitude upon realizing it is Saturday?

A angry about getting up early

B disgusted about having nothing to do

C satisfied with getting to eat sausage

D positive about weekend activities

10 Which of these phrases does **not** fit the mood of this poem?

A I can smell it

B Shuffle to the kitchen

C Eyelids heavy

D Should have slept in

11 From which stanza does the reader know that breakfast is being prepared?

A first

B second

C third

D fourth

DIRECTIONS: **Read this advertisement and then answer questions 12 through 20.**

HIP HOP WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 14
10:00A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
North City Community Center
5678 N. Verde Drive

All the hottest Hip Hoppers in town will be there showing you all the latest and greatest moves!!!

Dancer and choreographer Bryan Feldman will be there straight from his tour with Gusher.

Gizmo Valdez will share the same steps he taught the Los Angeles River Girls.

Missy Heart brings her VTV Awards show-stopping dance numbers to you.

Four sessions will be held with classes at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Sign up for the classes that match your interest and skill level. There will be a one-hour lunch break, which includes a Jam Session where you can talk with the instructors and get their autographs. Lunch will not be provided. There is a picnic area if you want to bring your own lunch and a snack bar at the Community Center if you wish to purchase food. For safety reasons, no food or drink will be allowed in the dance rooms.

Instructor	10:00-10:45	11:00-11:45	12:00-1:00	1:00-1:45	2:00-3:00
Bryan	Int. Hip Hop	Beg. Breakin'	Lunch/Jam Session	Adv. Pop and Lock	Free Style/Showcase
Gizmo	Adv. Hip Hop	Int. Breakin'	Lunch/Jam Session	Beg. Pop and Lock	Free Style/Showcase
Missy	Beg. Hip Hop	Adv. Breakin'	Lunch/Jam Session	Inter. Pop and Lock	Free Style/Showcase

The cost for the workshop is $60, which includes up to 4 classes. There is an early registration discount of $10 if you register by May 10th.

Registration begins at 9:00 A.M., May 9th at the Community Center or online at www.hiphop.edu. Class size is limited, so register early.

Call 602-555-6835 for more information.

12 Read the phrase from the flyer.

> **All the hottest Hip Hoppers in town will be there showing you all the latest and greatest moves!!!**

What is the intended effect of these loaded words?

A to get autographs from talented dancers

B to encourage dancers to sign up for classes

C to inform the instructors of their class times

D to locate directions to the community center

13 Which of the following is the **best** source of information about Hip Hop?

A atlas

B thesaurus

C dictionary

D website

14 According to the flyer, which of the following is **not** a good reason to register for the Hip Hop Workshop?

A There is a picnic area for lunch.

B There are classes for all ability levels.

C Missy Heart was on the VTV Awards Show.

D Gizmo Valdez taught the Los Angeles River Girls.

15 James wants to learn break-dancing. Which instructor should he choose for his "breakin" class?

A Missy

B Gusher

C Bryan

D Gizmo

16 After reading "**Hip Hop Workshop**," who would be the intended audience?

A actors

B dancers

C athletes

D singers

Based on the workshop schedule, the total number of sessions that the reader could participate in is –

17 **A** 12 sessions

B 6 sessions

C 5 sessions

D 4 sessions

18 From the information in this flyer, a dancer would **not** be able to

A expect to learn hip hop moves

B expect lunch to be provided

C expect to meet talented dancers

D expect to obtain autographs

19 Which of these questions should a dancer ask to know if they can enroll in the advanced Hip Hop class?

A Can I take both the intermediate and advanced classes?

B When did Gizmo start Hip Hop dancing?

C How much experience does Missy have?

D What moves should I be able to do?

20 What is the organizational structure of this passage?

A chronological order

B logical order

C cause and effect

D comparison and contrast

DIRECTIONS: **Read this letter and then answer questions 21 through 27.**

Student Council
Desert Path Elementary School
March 26, 2009

Dear Principal Stanton,

The date for our annual Desert Path Pride Spirit Week is rapidly approaching and the Student Council has been discussing some new ideas about how to celebrate and express school pride this year. Since Spirit Week is the week before scheduled testing, we would like to suggest combining student festivities with preparation for testing. We want to assure you that all proposed activities would focus on academics while providing fun for those involved.

Testing time can be very stressful for students and teachers alike, and we believe that a certain amount of diversion after a year of hard work will create a more relaxed atmosphere. Students with less anxiety should perform better than pressure-packed pencil pushers. All kidding aside, we feel our students deserve a change in their daily routine before settling down to the serious task of testing.
Our plan for the week is as follows:

Monday – Math Day would include fun math games in the classrooms and school-wide activities such as estimation to guess the number of jelly beans in a jar, recording times at relay races, competitions for multiplication facts, and measuring to find and compare sizes of items at school.

Tuesday – Reader's Roundup would focus on books and authors. Students and staff can come dressed as their favorite author or character from a book. This day would be great for the librarian's famous "Mystery Reader" contest. Older students can share reading time with younger-aged buddies.

Wednesday – Writer's Day would display student writing from previously held competitions for types of writing like poems, stories and essays. Of course there would be prizes given for outstanding writing in each category.

Thursday – Words Day would deal with vocabulary. We've had Twin Day in previous spirit celebrations. Why not hold a Synonym Day where people can portray synonyms with partners by wearing similar costumes?

Friday – No Fear Day would be where we have our spirited assembly to get us ready for testing. The Student Council could even put on a skit showing how all of us at Desert Path are ready for test week.

These are just a few of the ideas we are asking you to consider. We would like to have the opportunity to meet with you and discuss our plan and to hear what ideas you may have for Spirit Week. Please let us know when you can schedule some time to meet.

Respectfully yours,
The Student Council

21 Adding the affix bi– to the word annual makes a new word that means –

A two times each year

B more than two years

C three times each year

D more than three years

22 Which is a fact that supports the author's argument about changing Spirit Week?

A Testing can be very stressful.

B Our students deserve a change in their daily routine.

C All proposed activities would focus on academics.

D Older students can share reading time with younger-aged buddies.

23 Read the following sentence from the letter.

> **Students with less anxiety should perform better than pressure-packed pencil pushers.**

Which of the following words means pressure-packed?

A sealed

B tense

C carefree

D squeezed

24 Which of the following is the Student Council's main purpose for writing the letter to the principal?

A to entertain

B to inform

C to describe

D to persuade

25 Which of these will **most** likely happen as a result of this letter?

A Spirit Week will be cancelled.

B Spirit Week activities will be changed.

C Spirit Week will be postponed.

D Spirit Week will be held in the library.

26 Which organizational feature is used to focus the reader on the proposed activities?

A diagrams

B topic sentences

C boldface print

D headings

27 In the letter, which of the following is a synonym for the word <u>diversion</u>?

A routine

B division

C change

D anxiety



AIMS Sample Test – Reading Answer Key
Grade 6

Item Number	Correct Answer	Performance Objective
1	B	1-6-7
2	D	2-1-2
3	C	1-6-7
4	C	2-1-3
5	D	2-1-1
6	A	2-1-7
7	A	2-1-1
8	C	2-1-6
9	D	2-1-5
10	A	2-1-6
11	B	2-1-7
12	B	3-3-3
13	D	3-1-4
14	A	3-3-3
15	C	3-1-6
16	B	3-3-2
17	D	3-2-1
18	B	1-6-1
19	D	3-2-3
20	B	3-1-9
21	A	1-4-1
22	C	3-1-3
23	B	1-4-4
24	D	3-3-1
25	B	3-1-9
26	C	3-1-5
27	C	1-4-2