MASSACHUSETTS ENGLISH 10 · FINAL EXAM · 50 QUESTIONS

Final Exam — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - The Last Train Home

Use this reading for questions 1, 5, 9, 13, and 37.

Elena stood on the cold platform and watched the last train pull in twenty minutes late. The wind pushed at her coat, and the station lights buzzed overhead. She had planned to read on the ride home, but the delay gave her time to notice the people around her.

An old man in a gray coat searched his pockets again and again, his face growing worried. Elena saw a small paper ticket lying under the bench where he had been sitting. She picked it up, walked over, and held it out to him. His face relaxed at once, and he thanked her three times.

On the train, the man told Elena he was traveling to see his granddaughter for the first time in a year. He said the ticket had been a gift from his daughter. Elena listened, and by the time the train reached her stop, the cold wait no longer felt like wasted time.

1 **According to Source I, which word best describes Elena?**

A observant and kind, because she notices the ticket and returns it

B impatient, because she complains about the late train

C careless, because she leaves her book on the platform

D fearful, because she avoids talking to strangers

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Source I - Why Sleep Matters for Teenagers

Use this reading for questions 2 and 6.

Teenagers need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night, yet many get far less. Early school start times, homework, sports, and late night screen use all cut into sleep time. When sleep is short night after night, the effects build up.

Sleep helps the brain store what was learned during the day. Students who sleep well are more likely to remember lessons, solve problems, and stay focused in class. Sleep also affects mood: tired students are more likely to feel irritable and stressed.

The article argues that families and schools should protect sleep time. Simple steps help, such as keeping phones out of the bedroom at night and keeping a regular bedtime. Better sleep is not laziness; it is part of learning well and staying healthy.

2 **According to Source I, how many hours of sleep do teenagers need each night?**

- **A** 4 to 5 hours
- **B** 6 to 7 hours
- **C** 8 to 10 hours
- **D** 11 to 12 hours

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Source I - Draft Paragraph

Use this reading for questions 3 and 7.

Our school day starts too early. Many students ride buses in the dark and arrive half asleep. Teachers notice sleepy students in first period. My brother likes pancakes for breakfast. A later start would help students learn better and feel healthier.

3 **According to Source I, what is the main weakness of this draft paragraph?**

- **A** it has too many sentences about sleep
- **B** it states its main idea too clearly
- **C** it uses too many formal words
- **D** it lacks specific evidence, such as data or examples about later start times

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4 **Which sentence uses the correct pronoun?**

A Maria and Jon finished its project on time

B Maria and Jon finished his project on time

C Maria and Jon finished their project on time

D Maria and Jon finished her project on time

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5 **According to Source I, what theme does the story suggest?**

A small acts of kindness can matter more than we expect

B traveling by train is always faster than traveling by car

C old people should not travel alone at night

D reading on a train is the best way to pass time

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6 **According to Source I, which text structure does the author mainly use?**

A cause and effect, showing how short sleep leads to problems and how better sleep helps

B question and answer, listing questions from readers

C compare and contrast, weighing two different schools

D order of events, telling a story from start to finish

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7 **According to Source I, which transition best connects the idea that students arrive half asleep to the idea that a later start would help?**

A However, because it signals contrast

B For example, because it introduces an example

C Therefore, because it signals a result or conclusion

D First, because it signals the first step

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8 **Which sentence uses commas correctly in a series?**

A We bought apples oranges and bananas

B We bought apples oranges, and bananas

C We bought apples, oranges, and bananas

D We bought, apples, oranges, and bananas

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9 **According to Source I, what is the main idea of the passage?**

A Elena travels to visit her granddaughter for the first time in a year

B Elena misses her train because she stops to read a book on the platform

C Elena buys a ticket for an old man who cannot afford the train fare

D Elena helps a stranger find his lost ticket and learns that a small act of kindness can change a day

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Source II - A Town Builds a Library Garden

Use this reading for questions 10 and 14.

Last spring, the town of Cedar Falls turned an empty lot beside its library into a garden for readers. Volunteers cleared weeds, built raised beds, and planted flowers, herbs, and vegetables. The project was paid for by a grant from the town council and money raised at a community bake sale.

The garden opened in June with benches, a small stage, and a path wide enough for wheelchairs. Since then, the library has held story hours and summer reading clubs outdoors. Neighbors who once walked past the empty lot now stop to read, talk, and pick herbs for cooking.

Town leaders say the garden has changed how people use the library. It is no longer only a place to borrow books. It has become a gathering place where reading and community life grow together.

10 **According to Source II, how was the garden project paid for?**

- **A** only by selling library books
- **B** by charging neighbors to enter the garden
- **C** by a town council grant and money from a community bake sale
- **D** by a loan from a national bank

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Source II - Draft Introduction

Use this reading for question 11.

Have you ever wondered why some neighborhoods have no safe place for teenagers to gather after school? Our town needs a teen community center. A center would give students a safe place to study, play sports, and learn new skills after school.

Many students now go home to empty houses or hang out in parking lots. A teen center would solve this problem by offering supervised activities every weekday afternoon.

11 **According to Source II, who is the most likely audience for this essay?**

A town leaders and community members who could support a teen center

B only teenagers who play sports

C only teachers at one school

D students in another state

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12 **Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly for a singular possessive?**

A The dogs bone is on the porch

B The dog s bone is on the porch

C The dog's bone is on the porch

D The dogs' bone is on the porch

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13 **According to Source I, why does the author describe the cold wind and the late train?**

A to show that Elena should have stayed home that evening

B to explain why the train station has bright lights

C to prove that winter trains always run late

D to show that the long wait gives Elena time to notice the man

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14 **According to Source II, in this passage the word transformed would most nearly mean**

A changed completely

B painted a new color

C moved to another town

D closed for repairs

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15 **What is the main job of a topic sentence in a body paragraph?**

A to state the main idea of that paragraph

B to conclude the whole essay

C to list sources used in the essay

D to ask the reader a question

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16 **Which revision best fixes this run on sentence: Jon finished his homework he went outside?**

A Jon finished his homework, he went outside

B Jon finished his homework, and he went outside went

C Jon finished his homework he went outside went

D Jon finished his homework. He went outside

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Source III - The Empty Seat

Use this reading for questions 17 and 21.

On his first day at a new school, Marcus carried his lunch tray through a crowded cafeteria and looked for a place to sit. Every table seemed full, and every seat seemed already claimed by a group of friends.

Near the window, one seat was empty beside a quiet boy who was sketching in a notebook. Marcus took a breath, walked over, and asked if the seat was free. The boy looked up, smiled, and slid his notebook aside.

The boy, Sam, showed Marcus a drawing of a hero with a cape made of lightning. Marcus laughed and asked how Sam thought of such ideas. By the end of lunch, they were planning a comic together, and Marcus no longer felt like a stranger.

17 **According to Source III, what can the reader infer about Sam?**

- **A** he is unfriendly, because he sketches alone
- **B** he is welcoming, because he smiles and shares his notebook
- **C** he is angry, because he hides his drawings
- **D** he is new to the school, because he sits by the window

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Source III - How to Enter the Science Fair

Use this reading for question 18.

Step 1: Choose a topic that asks a question you can test with an experiment. Step 2: Get your teacher approval by March 3. Do not start building until your teacher has approved your plan.

Step 3: Build your display and write a clear summary of your results. Step 4: Practice explaining your project in two minutes or less. Step 5: On fair day, bring your display, your summary, and your signed entry form.

18 **A student has chosen a topic and wants to start building on March 2. What must they do first?**

- **A** Get teacher approval
- **B** Build the display
- **C** Practice explaining the project
- **D** Bring the signed entry form

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19 **Which revision best replaces the vague word stuff in the sentence: Put your stuff in the bin?**

A Put your things in the bin

B Put your stuff stuff in the bin

C Put your art supplies in the bin

D Put it in the bin stuff

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20 **Which sentence avoids a misplaced modifier?**

A Walking home, a dog was seen by Maria

B Maria saw a dog walking home yesterday dog

C Walking home, Maria dog was seen

D While Maria was walking home, she saw a dog

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21 **According to Source III, what theme does the story suggest?**

- **A** it takes courage to reach out, and one small step can start a friendship
- **B** new students should always eat lunch alone
- **C** drawing comics is more important than making friends
- **D** crowded places are never good places to meet people

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22 **Which statement best explains the difference between a central idea and a supporting detail?**

- **A** a central idea is the main point, while a supporting detail is evidence or an example for that point
- **B** a central idea is always a single word, while a detail is a full paragraph
- **C** a central idea is an opinion, while a detail is always false
- **D** a central idea and a detail mean exactly the same thing

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23 **Why should a persuasive essay address a counterargument?**

- A to confuse the reader
- B to show the writer has considered other views and can answer them
- C to change the thesis in the middle of the essay
- D to make the essay longer without adding ideas

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24 **In American punctuation, where does a comma normally go with a closing quotation mark?**

- A outside the closing quotation mark
- B inside the closing quotation mark
- C after the next word in the sentence
- D nowhere, commas are never used with quotations

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25 **A story suddenly shows a scene from the main character early life five years earlier. This technique is called**

A foreshadowing, because it hints at the future

B a flashback, because it returns to an earlier time

C a symbol, because it stands for childhood

D a climax, because it is the most exciting part

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26 **Which word most clearly signals a cause?**

A however, because it shows contrast

B similarly, because it shows likeness

C because, because it links a reason to a result

D finally, because it shows the last step

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27 **Which sentence correctly paraphrases an idea instead of copying it?**

A restating the idea in your own words and citing the source

B copying the original sentence word for word

C changing one word and keeping the rest the same

D quoting without naming the source

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

28 **Which sentence uses the superlative form correctly?**

A This is the tallest building in town

B This is the taller building in town

C This is the most tallest building in town

D This is the tall building in town

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29 **How can setting most affect a story?**

A it can only tell the reader the time of day

B it can create mood and tension, such as an isolated cabin creating unease

C it can replace the need for characters

D it can only describe what characters wear

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30 **An article states that library attendance doubled from 200 visitors to 400 visitors in one year. What can the reader correctly conclude?**

A attendance fell by 200 visitors

B attendance stayed the same

C attendance increased by 200 visitors

D attendance increased by 400 visitors

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Source III - Draft Conclusion

Use this reading for questions 31 and 35.

In conclusion, schools should offer more art classes. Art helps students think creatively and express ideas. Also, scientists just discovered a new planet. Art classes give students a chance to try new materials and share their work.

31 **According to Source III, which sentence should be removed from the conclusion?**

- **A** In conclusion, schools should offer more art classes
- **B** Art helps students think creatively and express ideas
- **C** Also, scientists just discovered a new planet
- **D** Art classes give students a chance to try new materials and share their work

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32 **Which sentence uses correct subject verb agreement with either or?**

A Either the teacher or the students are leading the discussion

B Either the teacher or the students is leading the discussion

C Either the teacher or the students be leading the discussion

D Either the teacher or the students am leading the discussion

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Source IV - A Letter Never Sent

Use this reading for question 33.

When Ana was twelve, she wrote a long letter to her grandmother, who lived three states away. In the letter, Ana described her new school, her favorite books, and the garden she was growing behind her house.

Ana never sent the letter. She worried that her handwriting was messy and that her words were not good enough. She folded the letter, tucked it into a drawer, and forgot about it as the years passed.

Last summer, Ana found the letter while cleaning that same drawer. Reading her own young words made her laugh and ache at the same time. That evening, she called her grandmother and told her everything the letter had said, and more.

33 **According to Source IV, why did Ana never send the letter?**

A she lost her grandmother's address and could not find it

B she had no paper left after writing the first page

C her grandmother told her not to write letters

D she worried her handwriting and words were not good enough

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Source IV - Recycling in Small Towns

Use this reading for questions 34 and 38.

Small towns face a special challenge with recycling. A large city can fill a truck every day, but a small town may fill one only once a week. Driving that truck a long way to a recycling center costs money and fuel.

Still, many small towns make recycling work. They ask residents to sort paper, plastic, and glass, and to rinse containers before drop off. Clear labels on bins help people sort correctly, and a regular pickup schedule helps families plan.

Recycling in a small town saves space in the local landfill and keeps useful materials in use. Town leaders say the program works best when it is simple and convenient, because people are more likely to recycle when it is easy to do right.

34 **According to Source IV, what is one benefit of recycling in a small town?**

- **A** it removes the need for any pickup schedule
- **B** it makes trucks travel shorter distances every day
- **C** it saves space in the local landfill and keeps useful materials in use
- **D** it allows residents to throw all trash in one bin

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35 **According to Source III, what is the main weakness of this conclusion?**

A it restates the thesis too clearly

B it uses the phrase in conclusion

C it is too short to be a conclusion

D it includes an unrelated sentence about a planet

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

36 **Which sentence is a comma splice?**

A Maria read the book, and she wrote a report

B Maria read the book. She wrote a report

C Maria read the book, she wrote a report

D Maria read the book and wrote a report

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37 **According to Source I, what can the reader infer about the old man?**

- **A** he lost his ticket on purpose, because he wanted help
- **B** he works at the train station, because he knows the schedule
- **C** he dislikes talking to strangers, because he stays silent
- **D** he values family, because he is traveling to see his granddaughter

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38 **According to Source IV, what is the author's main purpose?**

- **A** to persuade towns to close their landfills at once
- **B** to tell a story about a truck driver
- **C** to explain how small towns can make recycling work
- **D** to compare recycling with composting in detail

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

39 **Which detail is most relevant as evidence for the claim that reading daily improves vocabulary?**

A a study showing students who read daily learned more new words than students who did not

B a photo of a library

C a list of favorite book colors

D a story about a student who dislikes reading

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40 **Which group of words is a sentence fragment?**

A Because the bus was late

B The bus was late

C The bus was late, so we waited

D We waited because the bus was late

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Source V - Morning on the River

Use this reading for question 41.

Mist rises off the river like slow breath.

A heron stands still as stone in the shallows.

The sun climbs, and the water turns to gold.

I listen to the river and feel the day begin.

41 **According to Source V, which word best describes the mood of the poem?**

- **A** tense and frightening
- **B** rushed and chaotic
- **C** angry and bitter
- **D** calm and peaceful

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Source V - Tutoring Center Announcement

Use this reading for question 42.

The school tutoring center will open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 in Room 112. Any student may drop in for help with math, reading, or science. No appointment is needed, but students should bring their assignments and questions.

Tutors are older students who have been trained by teachers. The center will close on school holidays and on days when school ends early for weather.

42 **According to Source V, when is the tutoring center open?**

- **A** Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00
- **B** every weekday from 8:00 to 3:00
- **C** Saturdays from 10:00 to 12:00
- **D** only on school holidays

Understand It with Pulse **Flag a mistake**

43 **Which sentence avoids slang in formal writing?**

A That movie was awesome sauce

B That movie was lit

C That movie was totally rad

D That movie was well made and engaging

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44 **Which book title uses capitalization correctly?**

A The river school

B The River School

C the River School

D The river School

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

45 **In a story, the main character who drives the action is called the**

- **A** antagonist, because that character opposes the hero
- **B** protagonist, because that character is central to the story
- **C** narrator, because that character tells the story
- **D** symbol, because that character stands for an idea

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46 **A passage first describes a problem with litter in a park and then describes a cleanup plan that solved it. This text structure is**

- **A** problem and solution, because it presents a problem and then a plan that solves it
- **B** cause and effect, because it shows only causes
- **C** compare and contrast, because it compares two parks
- **D** order of events, because it tells a story

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47 **What is the main purpose of a works cited list?**

A to hide the sources used

B to list sources so readers can find and check them

C to replace body paragraphs

D to count the words in the essay

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48 **How many verbs are in this sentence: Maria reads and writes every day?**

ANSWER _____

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49 **The wind whispered through the trees is an example of**

- **A** a simile, because it uses like or as
- **B** personification, because it gives wind a human action
- **C** a hyperbole, because it exaggerates the wind
- **D** irony, because wind cannot whisper

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50 **Which sentence is a paraphrase rather than a direct quotation?**

- **A** The author writes that sleep supports learning, in different words from the original
- **B** The author writes the exact words from the original inside quotation marks
- **C** The author copies a full paragraph without changes
- **D** The author lists the title of the original article only

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ANSWER KEY

1.	A	**18.**	A	**35.**	D
2.	C	**19.**	C	**36.**	C
3.	D	**20.**	D	**37.**	D
4.	C	**21.**	A	**38.**	C
5.	A	**22.**	A	**39.**	A
6.	A	**23.**	B	**40.**	A
7.	C	**24.**	B	**41.**	D
8.	C	**25.**	B	**42.**	A
9.	D	**26.**	C	**43.**	D
10.	C	**27.**	A	**44.**	B
11.	A	**28.**	A	**45.**	B
12.	C	**29.**	B	**46.**	A
13.	D	**30.**	C	**47.**	B
14.	A	**31.**	C	**48.**	2
15.	A	**32.**	A	**49.**	B
16.	D	**33.**	D	**50.**	A
17.	B	**34.**	C		

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