



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2006**

**Grade 8
Reading**

Reading

The protesters gathered in a band in front of city hall.

- ① Which sentence uses the word band as it is used in the box?
- A. I heard the band play in the park.
 - B. She wore a wedding band to the event.
 - C. A large band of employees demanded a raise.
 - D. Please place a band of ribbon around the gift.

The owners decided to raze the crumbling building and to construct another one in its place.

- ② What does the word raze mean as it is used in the box?
- A. build up
 - B. tear down
 - C. hold within limits
 - D. reclaim what is lost

Years ago, towns had an interesting way of handling stray animals. Read this passage and then answer the questions that follow.

Town Animal Pounds

William F. Robinson

In early colonial days, each New England village was grouped around a central green, or “common,” and there was little problem with grazing animals. Each morning, the livestock would be let out of their pens onto the common, where they spent the day.

As the population grew, and farms sprang up farther away from the common, problems developed. The livestock was let loose each day to graze wherever it wished, and often it wished to be in another farmer’s crops. By the early 1700s the courts were clogged with innumerable animal damage suits and countersuits.

To relieve the problem, towns began constructing municipal corrals of wood or stone, the town pounds. Any pig, goose, sow, sheep, goat, or horse caught straying was brought to the pound and held until a fine was paid. The pound was usually located just outside the village, close enough for convenience, but far enough away to keep the animals within from being a nuisance.

One of the earliest stone pounds was built in Durham, New Hampshire in 1705, seventy years after the town’s founding, and in appearance it is similar to most pounds. A rectangle 25 by 40 feet, it has chest-high granite walls. The stones here were cut to fit, but many other pounds simply piled odd-sized stones into a wall. A town’s prosperity had a direct bearing on the size and quality of its pound. Some had low walls thrown together haphazardly; others, like the giant pound that still stands in Richmond, Rhode Island, were

giant fortifications over eight feet high. The gates ranged from hinged doors to a few boards held up by a pole wedged against them. The pounds were usually square or rectangular, but sometimes the towns ordered them to be built in other shapes. The Jefferson, Maine and Leverett, Massachusetts pounds are circular, and the Chepachet, Rhode Island pound is trapezoidal, to fit between two roads near their junction. A few, like the old pound in Foster Center, Rhode Island, had brooks running through for watering the animals. Usually a townsman built the pound after a vote at the town meeting sanctioned its construction.

- 5 *March 3, 1806, Whitingham, Vermont. Voted to build a Pound of Stone in the following dimensions: 30 feet Squair Within the Walls, the Walls to be six feet high four feet thick at the bottom two feet thick on the top frame together with a Stone Post to Hang the Door or gate on with a hole drilled in the Said Post for the Hinges to be set in, Said Pound to be Completed by the first Day of July next, Said Walls to be Handsomely faced on the inside and Decently faced on the outside to the acceptance of the Select Men.*

The bill for this pound came to \$34.98.

The specifications for a pound built in 1671 at Scituate, Massachusetts were much simpler: the town required it to be “horse high, bull strong, and hog tight.”

3 The word innumerable means

- A. countless.
- B. serious.
- C. measured.
- D. ridiculous.

4 Town animal pounds were usually located

- A. on the edge of a common field.
- B. inside the village square.
- C. on the outskirts of the largest farm.
- D. outside of the village.

5 The stone walls of the pound in Durham were constructed by

- A. piling stones to form a wall.
- B. cutting stones to fit.
- C. building in the shape of a trapezoid.
- D. wedging a pole between boards.

6 The **main** purpose of paragraph 5 is to

- A. illustrate the need for town animal pounds.
- B. provide an example of a construction plan.
- C. show how different an animal pound can be.
- D. entertain the reader with a local story.

7 Explain how town animal pounds differed from one another. Use specific information from the passage to support your answer.

Read these two poems by Brod Bagert and then answer the questions that follow.

Progress

Great-grandpa had a gramophone
That weighed a hundred pounds,

Granddad had a hi-fi
That stood four feet off the ground,

5 Papa had components
Stacked in stages like a rocket,

And me . . .
I've got a Walkman
I can fit inside my pocket.

—*Brod Bagert*

A New Age

I asked the old jazzman:

WHAT INSTRUMENT SHOULD I LEARN TO PLAY

THE TROMBONE . . . ?

OR THE SAXOPHONE . . . ?

5 THE LEAD GUITAR OR BASS . . . ?

But the jazzman kinda shook his head,

Then he made a funny face and said:

CHILD . . . I'M GONNA MAKE YOU WISE,

YOU YOUNG CATS GOT TO REALIZE

10 THAT MUSIC SOUND DONE DIGITIZED

AND EVERYTHING IS SYNTHESIZED.

IF YOU WANT TO GET A GIG

THAT AIN'T GONNA GO AWAY,

A MULTI-MEDIA COMPUTER

15 IS THE INSTRUMENT TO PLAY.

—*Brod Bagert*

8 According to the poem “Progress,” musical equipment has become

- A. cheaper.
- B. louder.
- C. heavier.
- D. smaller.

9 In “A New Age,” lines 2 through 5 and lines 8 through 15 are capitalized to

- A. indicate speech.
- B. stress grammar.
- C. introduce new music.
- D. show rhyme scheme.

10 Why does the jazzman recommend using a multi-media computer to new musicians?

- A. It is easier to learn than other instruments.
- B. It is a new instrument that is popular.
- C. It is less expensive than buying other instruments.
- D. It is the easiest instrument to bring to concerts.

11 In the word multi-media, the prefix *multi* means

- A. large.
- B. open to choice.
- C. electronic.
- D. more than one.

12 Explain how the title of each poem shows the author’s message. Use details from each poem to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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Grade 8 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	WV	II	II	II	II	LI	LA	LA	WV	LA
GLE Code	7-3	7-2	7-2	7-7	7-7	7-7	7-7	7-4	7-6	7-5	7-2	7-6
Depth of Knowledge Code	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	3
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	C	B	A	D	B	B		D	A	B	D	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, SA = Short Answer, CR = Constructed Response