New York State Testing Program

English Language Arts Test
Listening/Writing

Grade 7

2009 Scoring Guide
English Language Arts
Editing Paragraph Scoring Clarifications

1. Students should not be told how many errors to look for. Otherwise, students might stop reviewing the rest of the paragraph because they believe they have found all the targeted errors when, in fact, they have misidentified one or more elements in the paragraph as being incorrect. It is best to encourage students always to review the entire paragraph.

2. As indicated in the rubric, students receive credit for identifying the errors in mechanics or grammar that have been included in the editing paragraph. Conversely, points are deducted for errors introduced by students.

3. Introduced errors are errors made by students when they change correct elements in the paragraph to ones that are grammatically or mechanically incorrect. These may be errors in capitalization, word choice, verb tense, punctuation, sentence structure, etc. Students are not to be penalized for introduced spelling errors since spelling is not assessed via the editing paragraph.

4. A neutral revision is a revision made by the student to any part of the paragraph that does not result in a grammatical or mechanical error. The student is not penalized for such a revision. Examples of neutral revisions include the following:
   - If a student changes a word in a paragraph, but the word is grammatically correct and fits the sentence, then such a revision is acceptable, provided that the revision does not alter the meaning of the sentence to such a degree that it no longer fits the context of the paragraph. (Note: If the meaning of the sentence is significantly altered, then the change is considered an introduced error.)
   - Since the comma before “and” in a series is considered optional, crossing it out is acceptable.

5. If a verb tense correction is made but misspelled, the correction should be given credit, provided that the word clearly and accurately corrects the tense despite the misspelling.

6. In Grades 3, 5, and 7, students are held accountable for introducing grammar and/or usage errors.

7. Errors in homophones (words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and different spellings) are considered to be usage errors. In Grades 5 and 7, students are held accountable for introducing such errors. Students in Grade 3 are not held accountable for introducing homophone errors since, according to the Core Curriculum, they are not expected to have mastery in this area. An example of a homophone error is confusing “to,” “two,” and “too.”
8. A student is not permitted to cross out an entire sentence to avoid making a correction. If a student crosses out a small portion of a sentence, but the sentence is still grammatically intact and the meaning of the sentence remains unchanged, such a revision is acceptable.

9. Proofreading marks are allowed, provided that the errors are clearly indicated and corrected by the proofreading marks. If a scorer is unfamiliar with proofreading marks, the scorer should contact the table facilitator or scoring leader for assistance.

10. A student who corrects an error by using means other than proofreading marks or the revision method described in the test directions may still receive full credit, provided the correction is made clearly and accurately. Some examples of acceptable correction methods include the following:

- circling the error rather than crossing it out
- crossing out the part of the word that is incorrect rather than crossing out and rewriting the entire word
- crossing out a punctuation mark only rather than crossing out the word it is next to and rewriting the word without the mark above the revision
- adding a punctuation mark only instead of crossing out the word it is next to and rewriting both above the revision

In each of these cases, as long as the correction made is accurate and clear to the scorer, the correction is acceptable.

11. If a student makes a correction but does not cross out the original error, then such a correction is acceptable, provided that the correction is completely clear without further interpretation being needed on the part of the scorer.

12. If a student makes more than one error of a particular type (e.g., failing to capitalize a proper noun), then additional scoring factors must be considered. In order to be considered a single error, the repeated error needs to be identical. For example, if a student repeatedly fails to capitalize a particular name, that is considered a single error, even though it occurs more than once. However, if the error occurs in two different names, then that is considered to be two separate errors.

13. Multiple capitalization errors within a unit are counted as one error. A unit is a group of words that are connected and part of a single concept, such as a book title, sports team, or a person’s job title.
Additional examples of introduced errors:

- If a sentence is divided incorrectly, creating a sentence and a fragment, then the fragment is considered to be one error. If two fragments are created, then the paper is assessed for two errors.
- An introduced change in tense is counted as an error.

Additional examples of neutral revisions:

- The comma is optional following a short introductory element such as a prepositional phrase (e.g., *For several days*).
- The comma before a conjunction that links two or more independent clauses is optional.
- It is acceptable to begin a sentence with “And” or “But.”
- It is acceptable to divide a compound sentence into two individual sentences, provided that each sentence is grammatically correct.
Editing Task

Question 35
Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes at all. There are no mistakes in spelling.

Read the paragraph and find the mistakes. Draw a line through each mistake in the paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

Most of us have had the experience of playing some kind of video game. We may have played it at an arcade, on a computer, or through a video game system that was plugging into a television set. There is many different types of video games today, but this was not always the case. William Higinbotham an employee of Brookhaven National Laboratory, is thought to be the creator of the first video game. He designs the game in 1958 as an activity for people visiting the laboratory. The game, called "Tennis for two," was much less complex than the games we have today. Nevertheless, this simply game was the beginning of a giant industry.
Most of us have had the experience of playing some kind of video game. We may have played it at an arcade, on a computer, or through a video game system that was plugging into a television set. There is many different types of video games today, but this was not always the case. Higinbotham, William Higinbotham an employee of Brookhaven National Laboratory, is thought to be the creator of the first video game. He design the game in 1958 as an activity for people visiting the laboratory. The game, called “Tennis for two,” was much less complex than the games we have today. Nevertheless, this simply game was the beginning of a giant industry.

Potential corrections:
- Removing the word “was” and changing “plugging” to “plugs” in 3rd line
- Adding the word “is” after “Higinbotham,” changing the comma after “Laboratory” to a period, and adding “He” afterwards creates two complete sentences in 5th line

Potential neutral revisions:
- Changing “kind” in the 1st line and “game” in the 2nd line to plural and also changing “it” in the 2nd line to “them”
- Changing the comma after “today” in 4th line to a period and capitalizing “but” OR removing “but” and capitalizing “this”

Rubric:
- 3 points: no more than 1 error, either introduced or not corrected, remains after the student has corrected the paragraph
- 2 points: 2 to 3 errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph
- 1 point: 4 to 5 errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph
- 0 points: 6 or more errors, either introduced or not corrected, remain after the student has corrected the paragraph

NOTE: If the item is left blank, apply Condition Code A.
Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes at all. There are no mistakes in spelling.

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Most of us have had the experience of playing some kind of video game. We may have played it at an arcade, on a computer, or through a video game system that was plugged into a television set. There are many different types of video games today, but this was not always the case. William Higinbotham, an employee of Brookhaven National Laboratory, is thought to be the creator of the first video game. He designed the game in 1958 as an activity for people visiting the laboratory. The game, called "Tennis for two," was much less complicated than the games we have today. Nevertheless, this simple game was the beginning of a giant industry.
There is no more than 1 error, either introduced or not corrected.

1 of the 6 original errors is not corrected
• [two] – should be capitalized

0 introduced errors; 1 neutral revision
Neutral Revision:
• [it] – changed to “one” (This is not incorrect, nor does it change the meaning of the sentence.)

1 error total
Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes at all. There are no mistakes in spelling.

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Most of us have had the experience of playing some kind of video game. We may have played it at an arcade, on a computer, or through a plugged video game system that was plugging into a television set. There is many different types of video games today, but this was not always the case. William Higinbotham, an employee of Brookhaven National Laboratory, is thought to be the creator of the first video game. He designed the game in 1958 as an activity for people visiting the laboratory. The game, called “Tennis for two,” was much less complicated than the games we have today. Nevertheless, this simply game was the beginning of a giant industry.
There are 2 to 3 errors, either introduced or not corrected.

2 of the 6 original errors are not corrected
• [two] – should be capitalized
• [simply] – should be changed to “simple”

0 introduced errors; 0 neutral revisions

2 errors total
Here is a paragraph a student wrote. There are some mistakes in the paragraph. Some
sentences may have more than one mistake, and other sentences may contain no mistakes
at all. There are no mistakes in spelling.

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paragraph. Then write the correction above it.

Most of us have had the experience of playing some kind of video
game. We may have played it at an arcade, on a computer, or through a
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different types of video games today, but this was not always the case.
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game in 1958 as an activity for people visiting the laboratory. The game,
called "Tennis for two," was much less complicated than the games
we have today. Nevertheless, this simply game was the beginning of a
giant industry.
There are 4 to 5 errors, either introduced or not corrected.

5 of the 6 original errors are not corrected
- [is] – should be changed to “are”
- [,] – comma should be added after “Higinbotham”
- [designs] – should be changed to “designed”
- [two] – should be capitalized
- [simply] – should be changed to “simple”

0 introduced errors; 1 neutral revision

Neutral Revision:
- [,] – comma added after “1958” (optional comma)

5 errors total
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There are 6 or more errors, either introduced or not corrected.

5 of the 6 original errors are not corrected
- [plugging] – should be changed to “plugged”
- [is] – should be changed to “are”
- [,] – comma should be added after “Higinbotham”
- [designs] – should be changed to “designed”
- [simply] – should be changed to “simple”

1 introduced error; 1 neutral revision

**Introduced Error:**
- [industry] – should not be capitalized after “giant”

**Neutral Revision:**
- [have] – deleted after “us” (This is not incorrect, nor does it change the meaning of the sentence.)

6 errors total
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Grade 7

2009 Practice Set
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# 7th GRADE LISTENING/WRITING

## PRACTICE SET ANSWER KEY

Name: ________________________________

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