NEW YORK STATE
COMPONENT RETEST

ENGLISH
COMPONENT A
MODULE 5

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004

SCORING KEY
AND
RATING GUIDE

Multiple Choice Key

1	3
2	3
3	2
4	4
5	3

Component A

(used for 2-point responses that refer only to the text)

Score Point 2

- presents a well-developed paragraph
- provides an appropriate explanation
- supports the explanation with the information from the text
- uses language that is appropriate
- may exhibit errors in conventions that do not hinder comprehension

Score Point 1

- provides an explanation
  or
- implies an explanation
  or
- has an unclear explanation

  AND

- supports the explanation with partial or overly general information from the text
- uses language that may be imprecise or inappropriate
- exhibits errors in conventions that may hinder comprehension

Score Point 0

- is off topic, incoherent, a copy of the task and/or text, or blank
- demonstrates no understanding of the task/text
- is a personal response

Component A

(used for 2-point responses that refer to the text and the graphic)

Score Point 2

- presents a well-developed paragraph addressing the task
- demonstrates basic understanding of the text and graphic
- supports the explanation with the information from both the text and graphic
- uses language that is appropriate
- may exhibit errors in conventions that do not hinder comprehension

Score Point 1

- provides an explanation
  or
- implies an explanation
  or
- has an unclear explanation

  AND

- supports the explanation with partial or overly general information from the text and/or graphic
- uses language that may be imprecise or inappropriate
- exhibits errors in conventions that may hinder comprehension

Score Point 0

- is off topic, incoherent, a copy of the task and/or text, or blank
- demonstrates no understanding of the task/text
- is a personal response

Directions: Read the passage and study the graphic on the following pages. Write your answer to each multiple-choice question on your answer sheet. Then write your responses to questions 6 and 7 in the space provided on your answer sheet. You may use the margins to take notes as you read.

Mars

Long an object of mystery and speculation, Mars is beginning to reveal its secrets. Unmanned probes of the red planet—first begun in the 1970s—are filling in the blanks and blazing a trail for human explorers to follow.

The skies can turn the prettiest shade of salmon pink. But the fourth planet from the sun is no paradise. The color comes from red dust being kicked into the air by massive windstorms.

Mars isn't beachfront property, either: No liquid water has ever been detected on the surface. The atmosphere does contain a bit of moisture—enough that, if all gathered in one place and frozen, it would likely form a glob about as big as a medium-size iceberg.

When humans set up their first camp, as space buffs are sure they will someday, the weather will be nothing to write home about. The average temperature is no greater than –27°F (–32.8°C). Although it never rains, the poles do get some carbon dioxide snowfalls. Taking more than a few gulps of air would ruin an astronaut's day. Carbon dioxide, toxic to humans, makes up 95.3 percent of what little atmosphere there is.

A dune buggy drive across Mars would reveal a dramatic difference in scenery from the northern to the southern hemispheres. Much of the southern half is rugged, pockmarked with meteor craters dating from the planet's earliest history. The relatively smooth plains of the northern half are believed to have been formed by ancient volcano flows and erosion. But the reasons for this difference remain under discussion. As do a lot of things about Mars.

People once widely believed that intelligent life existed on Mars. The 19th-century discovery of what appeared to be geometric[1] designs etched[2] across the surface was taken as evidence. The lines were thought to have been a system of canals that had been built to irrigate the surface. It is now clear that the "canals"—perhaps the most spectacular geologic features of Mars—are natural valleys where ancient rivers once flowed.

Another shattered idea concerns the planet's seasonal changes in color. Once attributed to the rapid spread of some life-form, these shifts are now known to develop from the movement of

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[1] geometric: of regular design
[2] etched: outlined clearly or sharply

fine dust in the atmosphere.

By the close of the 20th century, none of the many experiments conducted by spacecraft had ever found persuasive evidence of life. Nevertheless, speculation continued over the existence of some form of life, in either the present or past. In 1996 scientists discovered organic compounds and minerals in a meteorite that collided with Earth around 11,000 B.C. These compounds suggest that Mars may have been inhabited by microbes more than three billion years ago.

Beginning in the 1960s the United States and the [former] Soviet Union targeted Mars as a focus of their respective space programs. U.S. Mariner and Viking series spacecraft first flew by the planet, then orbited it and eventually placed lander modules on the surface. Two Soviet probes reached the surface. The Soviet's Mars 3 in 1971 became the first capsule containing instruments to soft-land on the planet—the gentle touchdown allowed the craft to send signals back to Earth.

The U.S. Viking missions focused on looking for extraterrestrial[3] life. Although landers from Vikings 1 and 2 in 1976 found no convincing evidence, they did collect detailed information about the planet's geology and weather.

Vivid pictures of the surface came from the U.S. spacecraft Mars Pathfinder, which arrived at the planet on July 4, 1997. The lander—along with a six-wheeled robotic rover named Sojourner—sent back more than 17,000 images. In all, the mission returned some 2.6 billion bits of data, including chemical analyses of rocks and information about the Martian climate.

By the time Pathfinder and Sojourner fell silent more than seven months later—outlasting all expectations—U.S. and European scientists already had begun laying plans for future missions to the red planet. But such efforts are always risky. Two U.S. spacecraft—the Mars Climate Orbiter and the Mars Polar Lander—failed in 1999, with a combined loss of more than U.S. $285 million.

— National Geographic

from http://www.nationalgeographic.com/eye/mars/mars.html
National Geographic Image Collection.

[3] extraterrestrial: existing or coming from somewhere outside Earth and its atmosphere

Graphic

Earth/Mars Comparison

	Mars	Earth
Average Distance from Sun	142 million miles	93 million miles
Average Speed in Orbiting Sun	14.5 miles per second	18.5 miles per second
Diameter	4,220 miles	7,926 miles
Tilt of Axis	25 degrees	23.5 degrees
Length of Year	687 Earth Days	365.25 Days
Length of Day	24 hours 37 minutes	23 hours 56 minutes
Gravity	.375 that of Earth	2.66 times that of Mars
Temperature	Average –81 degrees F	Average 57 degrees F
Atmosphere	mostly carbon dioxide, some water vapor	nitrogen, oxygen, argon, others
Number of Moons	2	1

Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions (1–5): Select the best suggested answer to each question and write its number in the space provided on the answer sheet. The questions may help you think about ideas and information you might want to use in your written responses. You may return to these questions any time you wish.

1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the text?

(1) The most effective space probe to explore the planet Mars was the U.S. Mars Pathfinder.
(2) The search for extraterrestrial life on Mars has always been the focus of the Soviet Space Program.
(3) Curiosity and hard work have given scientists new information that may help in the quest to send human explorers to Mars.
(4) New technology has provided scientists with a better understanding of the system of canals on Mars.

2 According to the text, "windstorms" cause

(1) carbon dioxide snowfalls
(2) an average temperature of –27°F
(3) the skies to turn salmon pink in color
(4) the atmosphere to contain a lot of moisture

3 From studying a meteorite found on Earth, scientists conclude that

(1) there has been volcanic activity on Mars
(2) microbes may have lived on Mars at one time
(3) much of Mars's surface is made up of red dust
(4) the atmosphere on Mars is composed mostly of carbon dioxide

4 What benefit did the Sojourner provide NASA scientists concerning Mars?

(1) videotapes of Mars
(2) first landing on Mars
(3) substantial proof of life on Mars
(4) detailed information about Mars

5 The graphic shows that, compared to Earth, Mars

(1) is closer to the sun
(2) has a higher temperature
(3) is roughly half the diameter
(4) moves faster around the sun

Short-Response Questions

Directions (6–7): Write your responses to questions 6 and 7 in the space provided on the answer sheet.

6 In a well-developed paragraph of three to five sentences, explain why some people think that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars. Support your explanation with information from the text.

7 In a well-developed paragraph of three to five sentences, explain why a visitor from Earth would find the environment on Mars to be uncomfortable. Support your explanation with information from the text AND the graphic.

QUESTION #6

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 6

Some people believe that we will eventually have a manned space mission to Mars. This is mainly due to the fact that we have been developing more and more scientific advancements. For example, according to the reading, u.s. spacecraft, Mars Pathfinder, sent us back 17,000 images of Mars' surface. By knowing more about the climate on Mars as well as other conditions, we will be able to prepare ourselves with the proper equiptment we need, in order to make trips to the planet.

Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates an appropriate explanation using information from the text to explain why some people think that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars (*Mars Pathfinder sent us back 17,000 images of Mars' surface. By knowing more about the climate on Mars as well as other conditions, we will be able to prepare ourselves*). Language use is appropriate and errors in conventions (*u.s.* and *equiptment*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 6

For over fourty years, the United States, as well as the former Soviet Union have been studying the planet Mars. Scientists have used spacecrafts, such as a six-wheeled robotic rover named Sojourner to discover tons of information about the planet mars. Mars very cold atmosphere, and mostly carbon dioxided atmosphere makes it difficult for austronauts to visit the panet. People have hope that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars. Although extremely expensive, U.S., and European scientist have started planning a future mission to the unmanned planet Mars.

Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates an appropriate explanation using information from the text to explain why some people think that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars (*the United States, as well as the former Soviet Union have been studying the planet Mars. Scientists have used...Sojourner to discover tons of information* and *Although extremely expensive, U.S., and European scientist have started planning a future mission*). Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions (*dioxided, austronauts, scientist have*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 6

Eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars. That's how some of us think and hope for the future. Some people think this way because of the amount of information we have gathered so far, With the help of the Spacecrafts. Some have taken vivid picture samples, others allowing the craft to send signals back to Earth and so on. With the information we gather, many of us have hopes in future life on mars and to atleast start with a manned space mission.

Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation (*Some people think this way because of the amount of information we have gathered*) that is supported by overly general information from the text (*Some have taken vivid picture samples...send signals back to Earth*). Language use is occasionally imprecise (*many of us have hopes in future life...and to at least start*) but errors in conventions (misuse of commas and *Spacecrafts*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 6

In the future It is believed by many people that we will have a manned space mission to Mars. They believe this because Scientists from Europe and the United States have already begun new plans for such an expedition. Many people are intriqued by not knowing exactly what Mars is like, and of course, they want to find out.

Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that is supported with partial information from the text (*They believe this because Scientists from Europe and the United States have already begun new plans for such an expedition*). Instead of developing that idea, the response includes ideas that are not text-based (*Many people are intrigued by not knowing exactly what Mars is like*). Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions (*It, Scientists, intriqued*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 6

I think we think that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars because scientist & many people that wok for NASA would want to have a mission under the belt.

Score Point: 0

The response provides information that is not text-based (*scientist & many people that work for NASA would want to have a mission under the belt*) demonstrating no understanding of the text.

PRACTICE SET

Some people think that eventually humans will be able to step foot on Mars. They believe this because if they can get the Mars Pathfinder and a robotic rover named Sojourner on the planet, they can get humans on Mars. Also, the landing could be safe by putting instruments on the space shuttle to land softly.

Many people beleive that it will one day be possible to conduct a manned space mission to the planet Mars. This is a justifiable beleif considering the massive endvances made in Mars research. Space organizations have collected data about the red planet for quite some time. It has been discovered that there is an atmosphere surrounding the planet which never exceeds -27° F. This knoledge would help prepare astronauts for a journey to Mars. Knowing the atmospheric conditions, the candidates for the trip would be able to properly prepare themselves. One potential problem with orchestrating a voyage to Mars is the sheer task of arriving safely. However within the past fifty years, there have been a number of successful landings on the planet. With perhaps further improvement of the landing procedures, NASA, or another space program would be able to create a craft capable of sending a trained crew to Mars. Therefore, considering the advances in research of Mars and new, improved space technology man may become liberated from this Earthbound nature and be able to experience the wonders of another planet.

Most people think that someday we will have a manned mission to Mars. We have recieved information from the Pathfinder and Sojourner. The wind storms on Mars would not be fun. There are gravity boosts to help that. Sending someone to mars would help us find out if there ever was life on Mars.

According to the text "Mars" taken from National Geographic, it is the belief of some people that a manned space mission to Mars may be possible in the future. Both US spacecrafts Pathfinder and Sojourner lasted longer in the Martian atmosphere than expected, suggesting that Earth-made materials and machines can survive and function better than it was originally thought. Information and data collected via the US space crafts may also aid in the first successful manned mission to Mars in that scientists will know those conditions awaiting any human visits to the red planet.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 6

Some people believe that someday we will have a manned space mission to Mars. There are many reasons on why they may believe this, it could be because there are designs etched on to the surface ~~suggesting~~ life on Mars. Also NaSa has been discussing making a space mission to mars and want to try even with the risk.

COMPONENT A, Module 5
ITEM 6
PRACTICE SET ANNOTATIONS

1. Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that is supported by partial information from the text (*if they can get the Mars Pathfinder and a robotic rover named Sojourner on the planet, they can get humans on Mars*). Instead of developing this idea, the response includes an idea that is not text-based (*the landing could be safe by putting instruments on the space shuttle to land softly*). Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions do not hinder comprehension.

2. Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates an appropriate explanation using information from the text to explain why some people think that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars (*Space organizations have collected data...there is an atmosphere...which never exceeds –27° F. This knoledge would help prepare astronauts* and *One potential problem...is the sheer task of arriving safely. However within the past fifty years, there have been a number of successful landings on the planet*). Language use is appropriate and errors in conventions (*beleif* and *knoledge*) do not hinder comprehension.

3. Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that includes partial information from the text for support (*We have recieved information from the Pathfinder and Sojourner* and *The windstorms on Mars would not be fun*). Instead of developing these ideas, the response includes an idea that is not text-based (*There are gravity boostes to help that*). Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions (*recieved* and *boostes*) do not hinder comprehension.

4. Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates an appropriate explanation using information from the text to explain why some people think that eventually we will have a manned space mission to Mars (*Pathfinder and Sojourner lasted longer in the Martian atmosphere than expected...Earth-made materials and machines can survive* and *Information and data collected via the US space crafts may also aid...scientists will know those conditions awaiting any human visits*). Language use is appropriate and errors in conventions do not hinder comprehension.

5. Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that is supported by overly general information from the text (*NaSa has been discussing making a space mission to mars*). The response also contains information from the text that is not clearly connected to the task (*there are designes etched on to the surface suggesting life on Mars*). Language use is occasionally imprecise (*discussing making a space mission*), but errors in conventions (*designes*) do not hinder comprehension.

QUESTION #7

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 7

A visiter from Earth would find Mars very uncomfortable to be on for some obvious reasons given in the text and graphic. According to the graphic, Mars is -81 degrees Fuhrich is a temperature that cannot sustain humon life. The graphic also gives the gravity of mars whic is .375 that of Earth's People would be floating on the surface of Mars. The text states that the air on Mars is 95.3 persent carbon dioxide, which is poisonous to humons. A person would die shortly after breathing the air on Mars. The only way for humons to be present on Mars is to wear special protectie clothing and be totally confined from the outside environment. That would be very uncomfortable to do.

Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates a basic understanding of the text and the graphic. It explains why a visitor from Earth would find the environment on Mars to be uncomfortable by using information from the graphic (*Mars is -81 degrees F which is a temperature that cannot sustain humon life* and *the gravity of mars whic is .375 that of Earth's*), as well as information from the text (*the air on Mars is 95.3 persent carbon dioxide, which is poisonous to humons*). Language use is appropriate and errors in conventions (*humon* and *persent*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 7

The environment on Mars is very unlike that of Earth. If an individual were to travel to Mars, they would find it to be quite uncomfortable. Mars has mostly CO_2 in its' atmosphere and this is a toxin to humans therefore it wouldn't be desirable to have to breathe on Mars. Also, it is normally -81°F. Cold like this not many would like to endure. Furthermore there are massive windstorms and little water moisture making the living conditions very unsatisfying. All in all, Mars would definately cause an Earth visitor to loose comfort because of the environment.

Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates a basic understanding of the text and the graphic. It explains why a visitor from Earth would find the environment on Mars to be uncomfortable by using information from the graphic (*Mars has mostly CO_2 in its' atmosphere and this is a toxin to humans* and *it is normally –81° F. Cold like this not many would like to endure*) and from the text (*there are massive windstorms and little water moisture*). Language use is generally appropriate and the errors in conventions (punctuation errors and *definately*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 7

Humans will definatly find Mars uncomfortable. The temperature rarely exceeds -27°F and the pretty pink skies are due to massive wind storms that kick up the dust on Mars. Another reason humans would be uncomfortable on Mars is because the air is made up of carbon dioxide, which is fatal to humans.

Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates a basic understanding of the text and the graphic. It explains why a visitor from Earth would find the environment on Mars to be uncomfortable by using information from the text (*The temperature rarely exceeds –27° F...massive wind storms that kick up the dust*), as well as information from the graphic (*the air is made up of carbon dioxide, which is fatal to humans*). Language use is appropriate and the error in conventions (*definatly*) does not hinder comprehension.

A visitor from Earth would find the environment of Mars to be uncomfortable. Some of the reasons that a visitor would find it uncomfortable is the temperature averages -27°F and there are massive windstorms. It would also be darker because it is 142 million miles from the sun compared to earths 93 million miles.

Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that is supported by partial information from the text (*the temperature averages –27° F and there are massive windstorms*). The response includes information from the graphic that is misinterpreted (*It would also be darker because it is 142 million miles from the sun*). Language use is generally appropriate and the errors in conventions (*earths*) do not hinder comprehension.

Component A – Module 5 – Question # 7

A visitor from earth might find environment on mars unconfortable because of the cold temerature and carbon dixoide

Score Point: 1

The response implies an explanation that is supported by overly general information from the text and graphic (*because of the cold temerature and carbon dioxide*). The response lacks the development and specific support needed for a higher score. Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions (*find environment, unconfortable, temerature*) do not hinder comprehension.

PRACTICE SET

It would be uncomfortable because of the carbon bionoxide & the amount of heat which is none it is an average of -21° f.

The average person would find it uncomfortable because of the cold temperatures, averaging by the text at -27°F and -81°F From the chart. Another factor that decreases the desirability of the planet is the extreem winds forms turning up huge clouds of dust. One last feature that is not good for any human is the absence of air, the atmosphere is made up of 95.3% CO_2 which is Fatal to humans.

According to the text a visitor from the earth would find the environment on Mars to be Uncomfortable because there Wouldnt be any Oxygen Since Mars Atmosphere is Mostly Carbon dioxide and Water vapors

If a person from Earth ever visited Mars, he or she would find the environment to be uncomfortable for many reasons. Mars has many severe windstorms, which could be harmful to the visitor. There has been no discovery of liquid water on Mars's surface, making it very difficult for someone to live there. The temperature and atmosphere are also unsuitable for humans. The average temperature on Mars is -81 degrees F and its atmosphere is made up of 95.3 percent of Carbon dioxide.

Visitors from Earth would find the enviroment on Mars to be uncomfortable for many different reasons. ~~for many different~~ The weather on Mars average is 81 degrees F than in Earth. The ~~Atmosphere~~ is mostly carbon dioxide and water vapor., Earths has nitrogen, oxygen, aron ~~and other etc~~ more and others. The length of years ~~on Mar is~~ 687 Earth days in Mars, ~~And Earth~~ Although the Earth on Mars is 365.25 days

COMPONENT A, Module 5
ITEM 7
PRACTICE SET ANNOTATIONS

1. Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that is supported by partial information from the text and/or graphic (*because of the carbon bionoxide*). The response includes information from the text that is inaccurate (*it is an average of –21° f*). Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions (*bionoxide*) do not hinder comprehension.

2. Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates a basic understanding of the text and the graphic. It explains why a visitor from Earth would find the environment on Mars to be uncomfortable by using information from the text (*because of the cold temperatures, averaging by the text at –27° F, the extreem windstorms turning up huge clouds of dust, the atmosphere is made up of 95.3° CO_2 which is fatal to humans*), as well as information from the graphic (*-81° F*). Language use is generally appropriate and the errors in conventions (*uncomftorbale, decreaces, extreem, 95.3°* instead of 95.3%) do not hinder comprehension.

3. Score Point: 1

The response provides an explanation that is supported by partial information from the graphic and/or text (*there Wouldn't be any Oxygen Since Mars Atmosphere is Mostly Carbon dioxide and Water vapors*). Language use is generally appropriate and errors in conventions (inappropriate capitalization) do not hinder comprehension.

4. Score Point: 2

The response presents a well-developed paragraph that demonstrates a basic understanding of the text and the graphic. It explains why a visitor from Earth would find the environment on Mars to be uncomfortable by using information from the text (*Mars has many severe windstorms, which could be harmful; There has been no discovery of liquid water...making it very difficult for someone to live there; its atmosphere is made up of 95.3 percent of Carbon dioxide*), as well as information from the graphic (*the average temperature on Mars is -81 degrees F*). Language use is appropriate and errors in conventions do not hinder comprehension.

5. Score Point: 1

The response implies an explanation that is supported by a list of partial information from the graphic (*average is 81 degrees F, The Atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide and water vapor, Earths has nitrogen, oxygen, aron*). The response includes information from the graphic that has no clear connection to the task (*The length of years 687 Earth days in Mars, the Earth on Mars is 365.25 days*). Language use is imprecise (*The weather...is 81 degrees F than in Earth*) but errors in conventions (*enviroment*, and inappropriate capitalization) do not hinder comprehension.