

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
FOR ALASKA'S SCHOOLS

# English Language Arts Test Booklet Grade 6

## Paper-Based Item Sampler

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Alaska Department of Education & Early Development



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## Directions

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This test includes questions that will ask you to provide your answer in a variety of ways.

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### Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) Directions

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- Use the Writer's Checklist to help you plan, write, and proofread your response.
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When you come to the word STOP at the end of a part, you may go back and review to check your answers. You may only review the part you just completed. You may not look at any other part in the test booklet.

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## The Perplexity of Zadig

by Andrew Lang

On the banks of the river Euphrates, there once lived a man called Zadig, who spent all his days watching the animals he saw about him and in learning their ways and in studying the plants that grew near his hut. The more he knew of them, the more he was struck by the differences he discovered even in the animals or flowers which he thought were exactly alike when he first saw them.

One morning as he was walking through a little wood there came running toward him an officer of the queen's household, followed by several of her attendants. Zadig noticed that one and all seemed in the greatest anxiety and glanced from side to side as if they had lost something they held to be very precious, and hoped against hope that it might be lurking in some quite impossible place.

On catching sight of Zadig, the first of the band stopped suddenly.

"Young man," he said, panting for breath, "have you seen the queen's pet dog?"

"It is a tiny spaniel, is it not?" answered Zadig, "which limps on the left fore-paw, and has very long ears?"

"Ah then, you have seen it!" exclaimed the steward joyfully, thinking that his search was at an end.

"No," replied Zadig, "I have never seen it. Indeed, I did not so much as know that the queen had a dog."

At these words the faces of the whole band fell, and with sighs of disappointment they hurried on twice as fast as before, to make up for lost time.

Strange to say, it had happened that the finest horse in the king's stable had broken away from its groom and galloped off no one knew where, over the boundless plains of Babylon. The chief hunter and all the other officials pursued it with the same eagerness that the officers of the household had displayed in running after the queen's dog and, like them, met with Zadig, who was lying on the ground watching the movements of some ants.

"Has the king's favorite horse passed by here?" inquired the great hunter, drawing rein.

"You mean a wonderful galloper fifteen hands high, shod with very small shoes, and with a tail three feet and a half long? The ornaments of his bit are of gold and he is shod with silver?"

"Yes, yes, that is the runaway," cried the chief hunter; "which way did he go?"

"The horse? But I have not seen it," answered Zadig, "and I never even heard of it before."

Now Zadig had described both the horse and the dog so exactly that both the steward and the chief hunter did not doubt for a moment that they had been stolen by him.

The chief hunter said no more, but ordered his men to seize the thief and to bring him before the supreme court, where he was condemned to pass the rest of his life in exile. Scarcely, however, had the sentence been passed than the horse and dog were discovered and brought back to their master and mistress, who welcomed them with transports of delight. But as no one would have respected the judges any longer if they had once admitted that they had been altogether mistaken, they informed Zadig that, although he would not be banished from the country, he must pay four hundred ounces of gold for having declared he had *not* seen what he plainly *had* seen.

With some difficulty Zadig raised the money, and when he had paid it in court, he asked permission to say a few words of explanation.

“Moons of justice and mirrors of truth,” he began. “I swear to you by the powers of earth and of air that never have I beheld the dog of the queen nor the horse of the king. And if this august assembly will deign to listen to me for a moment, I will inform them exactly what happened. Before I met with the officers of the queen’s household, I had noticed on the sand the marks of an animal’s paws, which I instantly recognized to be those of a small dog; and as the marks were invariably fainter on one side than on the three others, it was easy to guess that the dog limped on one paw. Besides this, the sand on each side of the front paw-marks was ruffled on the surface, showing that the ears were very long and touched the ground.

“As to the horse, I had perceived along the road the traces of shoes, always at equal distances, which proved to me that the animal was a perfect galloper. I then detected on closer examination, that though the road was only seven feet wide, the dust on the trees both on the right hand and on the left had been swept to a height of three and a half feet, and from that I concluded the horse’s tail, which had switched off the dust, must be three and a half feet long. Next, five feet from the ground I noticed that twig and leaves had been torn off the trees, so evidently it was fifteen hands high. As to the ornaments on its bit, the horse had scraped one of them against a rock on turning a corner too sharply, and some traces of gold remained on it, while the light marks left on the soil showed that its shoes were not of iron but of a less heavy metal, which could only be silver.”

Great was the amazement of the judges and of everybody else at the perception and reasoning of Zadig. At court the king commanded that the four hundred ounces of gold, which Zadig had paid as a fine, should be restored to Zadig. In obedience to this order, the clerk of the court and the ushers came to Zadig’s hut, bringing with them the four hundred ounces; but, when they arrived, they told Zadig that three hundred and ninety-eight of them were due for law expenses, so he was not much better off than before.

1. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

How do the judges' reaction of finding the queen's dog and the king's horse affect Zadig?

- A. Their skill in returning the animals quickly results in Zadig being thanked for his assistance.
- B. Their annoyance about the animals being stolen results in Zadig helping to search for the thief.
- C. Their concern about their reputation results in Zadig being punished.
- D. Their loyalty to the queen results in Zadig admitting his guilt.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to part A?

- A. . . . as he was walking through a little wood there came running toward him an officer of the queen's household, followed by several of her attendants.
- B. . . . the faces of the whole band fell, and with sighs of disappointment they hurried on twice as fast as before, to make up for lost time.
- C. . . . the horse and dog were discovered and brought back to their master and mistress, who welcomed them with transports of delight.
- D. . . . he must pay four hundred ounces of gold for having declared he had *not* seen what he plainly *had* seen.

2. Read the sentences from the passage.

On the banks of the river Euphrates, there once lived a man called Zadig, who spent all his days watching the animals he saw about him and in learning their ways and in studying the plants that grew near his hut. The more he knew of them, the more he was struck by the differences he discovered even in the animals or flowers which he thought were exactly alike when he first saw them.

Which statement shows how these sentences contribute to the development of the character of Zadig?

- A. They show that Zadig prefers spending time alone to spending time with other people.
- B. They show that Zadig is observant of many details in nature.
- C. They show that Zadig was born in a place very different from where he lived as an adult.
- D. They show that Zadig has studied in school to be a scientist.

3. Read the sentence from the passage.

Zadig noticed that one and all seemed in the greatest anxiety and glanced from side to side as if they had lost something they held to be very precious, and hoped against hope that it might be lurking in some quite impossible place.

How does the word choice in the sentence impact the tone of the sentence?

- A. It suggests a desperate tone.
- B. It creates an impatient tone.
- C. It suggests an unhappy tone.
- D. It creates a sympathetic tone.

4. Which sentence from the passage explains why people thought Zadig was not telling the truth?

- A. “Yes, yes, that is the runaway,” cried the chief hunter; “which way did he go?”
- B. “The horse? But I have not seen it,” answered Zadig, “and I never even heard of it before.”
- C. Now Zadig had described both the horse and the dog so exactly that both the steward and the chief hunter did not doubt for a moment that they had been stolen by him.
- D. The chief hunter said no more, but ordered his men to seize the thief and to bring him before the supreme court, where he was condemned to pass the rest of his life in exile.

5. Which sentence from the passage shows that the people of the kingdom changed their attitude toward Zadig?
- A. “Next, five feet from the ground I noticed that twig and leaves had been torn off the trees, so evidently it was fifteen hands high.”
  - B. “As to the ornaments on its bit, the horse had scraped one of them against a rock on turning a corner too sharply, and some traces of gold remained on it, while the light marks left on the soil showed that its shoes were not of iron but of a less heavy metal, which could only be silver.”
  - C. Great was the amazement of the judges and of everybody else at the perception and reasoning of Zadig.
  - D. At court the king commanded that the four hundred ounces of gold, which Zadig had paid as a fine, should be restored to Zadig.
6. What are **two** themes of the passage? Choose **two** answers.
- A. Do not be quick to judge others.
  - B. Things are not always as they seem.
  - C. It is not easy to admit you are wrong.
  - D. Challenges can make people stronger.
  - E. Many problems have simple solutions.



## In Perfect Order

by Wilbur Fisk Gordy

The East India Company arranged to ship cargoes of tea to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston. When the cargoes arrived, the people in New York and Philadelphia refused to allow them on land, and in Charleston the tea was stored in damp cellars, where it spoiled. But in Boston, where the Tory Governor, Hutchinson, was determined to fight a hard battle for the King, there was a most exciting time. The result was the famous “Boston Tea Party.”

It was a quiet Sunday morning, on the 28th of November, 1773, when the *Dartmouth*, one of the three tea-ships on the way to Boston, sailed into the harbor. “The *Dartmouth* is in!” spread like wildfire, and soon the streets were astir with people.

With a stubborn purpose to prevent the landing of the tea even if they had to fight, the Boston people appointed men, armed with muskets and bayonets, some to watch the tea-ships by day and some by night. Sentinels were stationed in the church-belfries to ring the bells, and beacon-fires were ready to be lighted on the surrounding hilltops. The morning of December 16th came. If the tea should remain in the harbor until the morrow—the twentieth day—the revenue officer would be empowered by law to land it by force. Men, talking angrily and shaking their fists with excitement, were gathering into the streets of Boston from surrounding towns. By ten o’clock over 5,000 had assembled in the Old South Church and in the streets outside.

They were waiting for the coming of Francis Rotch, who had gone to see if the collector would give him a clearance. Rotch came in and told the angry crowd that the collector refused to give the clearance. The people told him that he must get a pass from the Governor. Fearing for his personal safety, the man started out to find Governor Hutchinson, who had purposely retired to his country home at Milton. Then the meeting adjourned for the morning.

At three o’clock a great throng of eager men again crowded into the Old South Church and the streets outside to wait for the return of Rotch. It was a critical moment. “If the Governor refuses to give the pass, shall the revenue officer be allowed to seize the tea, and land it tomorrow morning?” Many anxious faces showed that men were asking themselves this momentous question.

But while, in deep suspense, the meeting waited and deliberated, John Rowe said, “Who knows how tea will mingle with salt water?” A whirlwind of applause swept through the assembly and the masses outside the church. As daylight deepened into darkness, candles were lighted. Shortly after six, Rotch entered the church and, with pale face, said, “The Governor refuses to give a pass.” An angry murmur arose, but the crowd soon became silent, when Samuel Adams arose and said, “This meeting can do nothing more to save the country.”

This was plainly a concerted signal. In an instant a war-whoop sounded, and forty or fifty “Mohawks,” or men dressed as Indians, who were waiting outside, dashed past the door and down Milk Street toward Griffin’s Wharf, where the tea-ships were lying at anchor. It was bright moonlight, and everything could be plainly seen. Many men stood on shore and watched the “Mohawks” as they broke open 342 chests and poured the tea into the harbor. There was no confusion. All was done in perfect order.

## A Retrospect of the Boston Tea Party

A memoir of George R. T. Hewes

as told to James Hawkes

The particular object of sending this cargo of tea to Boston at that time, and the catastrophe which befell it, have been recorded, among the most important and interesting events in the history of the American revolution; but the rehearsal of it at this time, by a witness, and an actor in that tragicomical<sup>1</sup> scene, excites in the recollection of it a novel and extraordinary interest.

On my inquiring of Hewes if he knew who first proposed the project of destroying the tea, to prevent its being landed, he replied that he did not; neither did he know who or what number were to volunteer their services for that purpose. But from the significant allusion of some persons in whom I had confidence, together with the knowledge I had of the spirit of those times, I had no doubt but that a sufficient number of associates would accompany me in that enterprise.

The tea destroyed was contained in three ships, laying near each other, at what was called at that time Griffin's wharf, and were surrounded by armed ships of war; the commanders of which had publicly declared, that if the rebels, as they were pleased to style the Bostonians, should not withdraw their opposition to the landing of the tea before a certain day, the seventeenth day of December, 1773, they should on that day force it on shore, under the cover of their cannon's mouth. On the day preceding the seventeenth, there was a meeting of the citizens of the county of Suffolk, convened at one of the churches in Boston, for the purpose of consulting on what measures might be considered expedient to prevent the landing of the tea, or secure the people from the collection of the duty. At that meeting a committee was appointed to wait on Governor Hutchinson, and request him to inform them whether he would take any measures to satisfy the people on the object of the meeting. To the first application of this committee, the governor told them he would give them a definite answer by five o'clock in the afternoon. At the hour appointed, the committee again repaired to the governor's house, and on inquiry found he had gone to his country seat at Milton, a distance of about six miles. When the committee returned and informed the meeting of the absence of the governor, there was a confused murmur among the members, and the meeting was immediately dissolved, many of them crying out, "Let every man do his duty, and be true to his country!"; and there was a general huzza<sup>2</sup> for Griffin's wharf. It was now evening, and I immediately dressed myself in the costume of an Indian, equipped with a small hatchet, which I and my associates denominated the tomahawk, with which, and a club, after having painted my face and hands with coal dust in the shop of a blacksmith, I repaired to Griffin's wharf, where the ships lay that contained the tea.

When I first appeared in the street, after being thus disguised, I fell in with many who were dressed, equipped, and painted as I was, and who fell in with me, and marched in order to the place of our destination. When we arrived at the wharf, there were three of our number who assumed an authority to direct our operations, to which we readily submitted. They divided us into three parties, for the purpose of boarding the three ships which contained the tea at the same time. The name of him who commanded the division to which I was assigned, was Leonard Pitt. The names of the other commanders I never knew. We were immediately ordered by the respective commanders to board all the ships at the same time, which we promptly obeyed. The commander of the division to which I belonged, as soon as we were on board the ship, appointed

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<sup>1</sup> tragicomical—an incident of mixed tragic and comic character

<sup>2</sup> huzza—exclamation

me boatswain<sup>3</sup>, and ordered me to go to the captain and demand of him the keys to the hatches and a dozen candles. I made the demand accordingly, and the captain promptly replied, and delivered the articles; but requested me at the same time to do no damage to the ship or rigging. We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches, and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders; first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to expose them to the effects of the water. In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found in the ship; while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time. We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us. We then quietly retired to our several places of residence, without having any conversation with each other, or taking any measures to discover who were our associates; nor do I recollect of our having had the knowledge of the name of a single individual concerned in that affair, except that of Leonard Pitt, the commander of my division, whom I have mentioned. There appeared to be an understanding that each individual should volunteer his services, keep his own secret, and risk the consequences for himself. No disorder took place during that transaction, and it was observed at that time, that the stillest night ensued that Boston had enjoyed for many months.

During the time we were throwing the tea overboard, there were several attempts made by some of the citizens of Boston and its vicinity, to carry off small quantities of it for their family use. To effect that object, they would watch their opportunity to snatch up a handful from the deck, where it became plentifully scattered, and put it into their pockets. One Captain O’Conner, whom I well knew, came on board for that purpose, and when he supposed he was not noticed, filled his pockets, and also the lining of his coat. But I had detected him, and gave information to the captain of what he was doing. We were ordered to take him into custody, and just as he was stepping from the vessel, I seized him by the skirt of his coat, and in attempting to pull him back, I tore it off; but springing forward, by a rapid effort, he made his escape.

The next morning, after we had cleared the ships of the tea, it was discovered that very considerable quantities of it was floating upon the surface of the water; and to prevent the possibility of any of its being saved for use, a number of small boats were used by sailors and citizens, who rowed them into those parts of the harbor wherever the tea was visible, and by beating it with oars and paddles, so thoroughly drenched it, as to render its entire destruction inevitable.

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<sup>3</sup> boatswain—a ship’s officer in charge of equipment and the crew

7. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

How does the author of “In Perfect Order” reveal what the people of Boston plan to do about the tea?

- A. by quoting a famous citizen of Boston
- B. by telling a story about the governor of Boston
- C. by describing the laws about ships and their cargo
- D. by citing examples of ships that had sailed to large cities

**Part B**

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer in part A?

- A. When the cargoes arrived, the people in New York and Philadelphia refused to allow them on land, and in Charleston the tea was stored in damp cellars, where it spoiled.
- B. If the tea should remain in the harbor until the morrow—the twentieth day—the revenue officer would be empowered by law to land it by force.
- C. At three o’clock a great throng of eager men again crowded into the Old South Church and the streets outside to wait for the return of Rotch.
- D. But while, in deep suspense, the meeting waited and deliberated, John Rowe said, “Who knows how tea will mingle with salt water?”

8. Read the sentence from “In Perfect Order.”

“The *Dartmouth* is in!” spread like wildfire, and soon the streets were astir with people.

What does the phrase “spread like wildfire” mean?

- A. signaled danger
- B. caused confusion
- C. was whispered softly
- D. was publicized quickly

9. Which sentences from “In Perfect Order” **best** suggest that the opposition of the British was a popular idea in Boston? Choose **two** answers.
- A. But in Boston, where the Tory Governor, Hutchinson, was determined to fight a hard battle for the King, there was a most exciting time.
  - B. With a stubborn purpose to prevent the landing of the tea even if they had to fight, the Boston people appointed men, armed with muskets and bayonets, some to watch the tea-ships by day and some by night.
  - C. By ten o’clock over 5,000 had assembled in the Old South Church and in the streets outside.
  - D. Rotch came in and told the angry crowd that the collector refused to give the clearance.
  - E. Many anxious faces showed that men were asking themselves this momentous question.
10. Which sentence from “A Retrospect of the Boston Tea Party” explains why the men of Boston dressed in costumes to get rid of the tea?
- A. In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found in the ship; while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time.
  - B. We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us.
  - C. We then quietly retired to our several places of residence, without having any conversation with each other, or taking any measures to discover who were our associates; nor do I recollect of our having had the knowledge of the name of a single individual concerned in that affair, except that of Leonard Pitt, the commander of my division, whom I have mentioned.
  - D. There appeared to be an understanding that each individual should volunteer his services, keep his own secret, and risk the consequences for himself.

11. Read the sentence.

Both “In Perfect Order” and “A Retrospect of the Boston Tea Party” state that the   **A**   went to   **B**   to postpone making a decision about the tea.

Choose **one** word or phrase for each blank that **best** completes the sentence. Do **not** use a word more than once. Some words or phrases will **not** be used. Record your answers in the answer document.

|                | 1.<br>governor | 2.<br>committee | 3.<br>Griffin’s<br>wharf | 4.<br>Milton | 5.<br>Old South<br>Church |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Blank A</b> |                |                 |                          |              |                           |
| <b>Blank B</b> |                |                 |                          |              |                           |

12. Read the sentences from “In Perfect Order.”

Many men stood on shore and watched the “Mohawks” as they broke open 342 chests and poured the tea into the harbor. There was no confusion. All was done in perfect order.

Which sentences from “A Retrospect of the Boston Tea Party” **best** support the claim that the disposal of the tea was an organized affair? Choose **two** answers.

- A. It was now evening, and I immediately dressed myself in the costume of an Indian, equipped with a small hatchet, which I and my associates denominated the tomahawk, with which, and a club, after having painted my face and hands with coal dust in the shop of a blacksmith, I repaired to Griffin’s wharf, where the ships lay that contained the tea.
- B. When I first appeared in the street, after being thus disguised, I fell in with many who were dressed, equipped, and painted as I was, and who fell in with me, and marched in order to the place of our destination.
- C. They divided us into three parties, for the purpose of boarding the three ships which contained the tea at the same time.
- D. I made the demand accordingly, and the captain promptly replied, and delivered the articles; but requested me at the same time to do no damage to the ship or rigging.
- E. No disorder took place during that transaction, and it was observed at that time, that the stillest night ensued that Boston had enjoyed for many months.

13. Turn to pages 4 and 5 of your answer document. Read the Writer's Checklist and then complete the Text-Dependent Analysis Question.

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14. Read the paragraph.

Our school should allow students to have a seven-minute passing period between classes rather than the five-minute passing period that we currently have. Studies show that longer passing periods benefit both students and teachers. \_\_\_\_**A**\_\_\_\_, in a nearby district, where passing times were extended, teachers spent far less time keeping records of students who were late. \_\_\_\_**B**\_\_\_\_, they devoted that time to teaching.

Which word or phrase should be placed in each blank to clarify the relationships between ideas? Match each blank to the **best** word or phrase. Do **not** use a word or phrase more than once. Some words or phrases will **not** be used. Record the answers in your answer document.

|         | 1.<br>Finally | 2.<br>Instead | 3.<br>By all means | 4.<br>For example | 5.<br>Additionally | 6.<br>In conclusion |
|---------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Blank A |               |               |                    |                   |                    |                     |
| Blank B |               |               |                    |                   |                    |                     |

15. Read the paragraph.

Brady’s trip to the art museum with his aunt was interesting, but the most fascinating exhibit was the hall of miniature rooms. There, some artists had taken months to create tiny replicas of rooms and houses from different periods of history. Brady peered inside one of them—it looked like a dollhouse—and was amazed to see \_\_\_\_\_.

Which details complete the sentences with the **most** precise language?

- A. a red and white patterned rug on the floor and an oil painting of a large dog on the wall
- B. delicate objects on the floor and interesting items on the wall
- C. decorations placed on the floor and also hanging on the walls
- D. materials on the floor that looked realistic as well as many pretty pictures on the wall

16. Read the sentence.

When Megan waved at her mom, she smiled, and then started walking toward her.

Which revision of the sentence **best** corrects the vague pronouns?

- A. When she waved at her, her mom smiled and then started walking toward Megan.
- B. When she waved at her mom, she smiled, and then she started walking toward Megan.
- C. When Megan waved at her, she smiled, and then her mom started walking toward her.
- D. When Megan waved at her mom, her mom smiled and then started walking toward her.

17. Which sentence uses parentheses correctly?

- A. Choose a band instrument (that suits your personality).
- B. If you are outspoken (and I know some of you are) you may be interested in debate.
- C. Those of you (who like to play board games) should get together on the weekends to play.
- D. As soon as you decide (which club to join) contact the leader immediately.

18. Read the paragraph.

Scientists who study weather usually describe clouds as high, middle, or low level. High clouds are about 20,000 feet above the ground. \_\_\_\_\_, so these clouds are typically made of ice crystals.

Which details, if added to the paragraph, would maintain the formal style of the paragraph?

- A. It is big time wintry up there
- B. Air way up there in the sky is super chilly
- C. At that level it is good and crisp
- D. The temperature at that level is extremely cold

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**English Language Arts  
Test Booklet  
Grade 6  
Paper-Based Item Sampler**