



Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

Sample Test:  
The Inverted Pyramid

Reading Book

## Helpful Tips

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a short written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partial answer is worth 1 point.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a longer written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partial answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.

Answers to the short- and long-answer questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If you get a portion of the answer correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- Read the question carefully.
- If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.
- Write your answer on the lines provided in the Answer Book.
- Remember that it is necessary to include details and information from the passage in your answer.
- Be sure to answer every part of the questions.
- Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.
- Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.


These practice tests were produced by the University of Florida and the Florida Center for Instructional Technology and have not been validated by the Florida Department of Education.

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University of South Florida



## The Inverted Pyramid Newspaper Article

Newspaper reporters arrange most of the articles they write in what they call an inverted (upside-down) pyramid. An inverted pyramid story looks like this: 

They put the most important news at the beginning and then include the less important details as they write.

These skillful writers try to put the who, what, when, where, why, and how (5 W's and H) at the beginning. They call this part the "lead." Then they add the rest of the details in the order of their importance. The least important information they put at the end. An inverted pyramid story looks like this:

**Tallahassee** - A Tangelo County fourth-grader won this year's annual Florida State Spelling Bee yesterday when he spelled the word *paraphernalia* correctly. He is the youngest student to win the contest in its 50-year history.

**WHERE  
WHO  
WHAT  
WHY & HOW**

For his effort, Larry Johnson, a ten-year-old honor student at Lemonline Elementary School, was awarded a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond. In addition, he will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to represent the state of Florida in the National Spelling Bee, to be held in October.

**DETAILS**

Runner-up in the contest was Tabitha Waters, an eighth-grader at Grapefruit Middle School in Baywater. Tabitha was eliminated when she mis-spelled ennui. She received a \$500 U.S. savings bond.

**MORE  
DETAILS**

The winner of the National Spelling Bee will be awarded a \$20,000 college scholarship to attend a college or university of his or her choice after completing high school.

**MORE  
DETAILS**

Students from 38 Florida counties took part in the three-day contest. Following the event, all 38 contestants were invited to dine at the Governor's Mansion.

**MORE  
DETAILS**

Larry is the son of Farley and Beth Johnson of Newtown. He has a sister, Linsey, who is an eighth-grade student at Newton Middle School, and a brother, Bruce, who is a first-grader at Lemonline.

**MORE  
DETAILS**



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Sample Test:  
The Inverted Pyramid

# Answer Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_ / 15

Read the story “The Inverted Pyramid.” Now answer Numbers 1 through 7. Base your answers on the story.

1

Read this sentence from the article.

**Editors, who assign the amount of space an article gets, must be able to fit a reporter's article into a restricted slot.**

What does the word *restricted* mean?

- (A) few
- (B) huge
- (C) limited
- (D) many

**2** Why do newspaper writers put the who, what, when, where, why, and how in the "lead?" Use details and information from the passage to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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**3** Where do you find the most important information in a news article?

- (A) at the end
- (B) at the beginning
- (C) in the middle
- (D) in the headline

**4** If you were an editor and had restricted space, what paragraphs could be cut from "4th Grader Wins Florida Bee?" Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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5

Why is it helpful for a reader of a news story to know that a news writer is using an inverted pyramid pattern? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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6

What is the author's main purpose for writing "The Inverted Pyramid Newspaper Article?"

- (A) To tell how editors can easily omit details from a news article.
- (B) To tell about the 4th grader who won the Spelling Bee.
- (C) To tell about the news reporter's need for facts in what they write.
- (D) To tell how reporters arrange details of their news articles.



**7** In the space provided, explain how the writer of "4th Grader Wins Florida Bee" includes the 5 W's and H in the lead (the first two paragraphs). Use details and information from the news article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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Sample Test:  
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Answer Key

# Answer Key: The Inverted Pyramid

This book contains answers and explanations for The Inverted Pyramid Sample Test questions. Multiple-choice items are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer. Answers to short-response and extended-response “Read, Think, Explain” questions are scored with two-point and four-point rubrics respectively. For short- and extended-response questions, there is often more than one acceptable response. Partial credit is given for accurate but incomplete answers. The overall characteristics of top-score and partial-credit responses for the “Read, Think, Explain” questions are given in the general two-point and four-point rubrics below.

Sample top-score responses are provided for each “Read, Think, Explain” question.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

## Rubric for Short-Response Questions

- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and /or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

### Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

- 4 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information is clearly text-based.
- 3 Points:** The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.
- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has very limited understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The response is incomplete, may exhibit many flaws, and may not address all requirements of the task.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

1. C

2. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

The who, what, when, where, why and how are the most important pieces of information in a story. The reporter includes them at the beginning to help the reader get the main idea of the article more quickly. This is known as the lead.

3. B

4. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

If I were an editor, I would cut the last two paragraphs from the article. According to the diagram of the inverted pyramid, these paragraphs include only minor details. In this article the minor details are the names of the winner's family and the contestants' invitation to dinner.

5. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

If the reader knows they are reading an inverted pyramid story, they know that the most important information, the 5 W's and H, will be first. They can then decide whether they want to spend their time reading the less important information in the story.

6. D

7. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

In the first paragraph, the writer answers the questions of who and where with "Tangelo County fourth-grader." The fact he won the Florida state Spelling Bee yesterday tells what and when. How and why are answered as well in the first paragraph with the word paraphernalia, and with the fact he is the youngest student ever to win.