

# Alaska

## COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT STANDARDS BASED ASSESSMENTS (SBA)

### Writing Item Sampler

Grade 9



**Alaska Department of Education & Early Development**

### INTRODUCTION

The Assessment Item Sampler is designed to help teachers assist students to do their best on the Alaska Comprehensive System of Student Assessment, Standards Based Assessments in grades 3 through 9. Data Recognition Corporation, the contractor designing the Standards Based Assessments, produced this item sampler from questions developed for Alaska.

The Standards Based Assessments are designed to estimate the degree to which students have mastered the Academic Performance Standards for reading, writing, and mathematics outlined in the Grade Level Expectations. These assessments are written specifically for Alaska and are the foundation of the Alaska school accountability system. Results are valuable for districts, schools, and students. Results are used to measure a school's Adequate Yearly Progress in accordance with No Child Left Behind. Additionally, these assessments, because they are consistent across grade levels, provide the ability to gauge students' academic progress. This test, combined with other information from classroom and local assessments, provides districts with valuable student performance data and degrees of mastery.

The Assessment Item Sampler was developed to give students and teachers a practical way to become familiar with the kinds of test questions that will appear on the Standards Based Assessments. The Assessment Item Sampler is in no way a predictor of the test taker's ability to perform on the actual Standards Based Assessments, nor are the questions the same as those on the actual test. The questions on the item sampler reflect the type of questions one might see on the actual assessment. The length of the item sampler does not reflect the amount of time it will take for a student to complete the actual Standards Based Assessments. The purpose of the sampler is to help teachers become familiar with the Standards Based Assessments and give them a tool to use with students as they prepare for the assessment.

Additional copies of the Assessment Item Sampler can be downloaded from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development Web site by going to <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/sba.html>.

Read the article. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the article to answer questions 1 through 3.

**1** Andy Bradworth's job title is fan-mail assistant. **2** Bradworth has done this strange job for just over three years. **3** Currently, he works for a professional baseball player with the Los Angeles Dodgers. **4** Baseball players and other celebrities receive far too much mail to read and answer themselves. **5** So each month people like Bradworth get boxes of mail delivered to their homes. **6** In these boxes are all the letters a client has received during a given period of time.

**7** Bradworth's job is to read every piece of mail. **8** Sometimes fans ask for an autograph or a photograph. **9** Bradworth makes sure that the fans receive these items. **10** Other times, Bradworth comes across letters that he thinks his client should read personally. **11** These letters are then mailed to the celebrity with questions about how to handle the letters.

**12** Bradworth says that he can't imagine doing anything else. **13** Most of all, he loves how flexible the job is because he gets to spend more time with his children.

Reporting Category: Write Using a Variety of Forms

Grade Level Expectation: 4.1.1

1. Choose the **best** thesis statement for the article.
  - A Andy Bradworth is a professional assistant who answers fan mail.
  - B Baseball players are too busy to read all the mail that they receive.
  - C Some fans write to their favorite celebrity several times a year.
  - D Fans should not be disappointed if they do not hear from the celebrity right away.

## Writing Item Sampler: Grade 9

---

**Reporting Category:** Revise Writing

**Grade Level Expectation:** 4.4.3

2. Choose the **best** way to combine Sentences 8 and 9.
- A Sometimes Bradworth makes sure that the fans receive an autograph or a photograph.
  - B Sometimes fans ask for an autograph or a photograph, and Bradworth makes sure that the fans receive these items.
  - C Fans receive an autograph or a photograph, and sometimes Bradworth mails these items.
  - D Bradworth makes sure that the fans receive these items, sometimes an autograph or a photograph.

**Reporting Category:** Structures and Conventions of Writing

**Grade Level Expectation:** 4.3.2

3. Which sentence has a spelling error?
- A Sentence 3
  - B Sentence 4
  - C Sentence 10
  - D Sentence 11

## Writing Item Sampler: Grade 9

---

For questions 4 through 6, mark your answers in the answer booklet.

**Reporting Category:** Structures and Conventions of Writing

**Grade Level Expectation:** 4.3.5

4. Which sentence is written correctly?
- A Sasha never had sang in public before tonight.
  - B The horse has escaped from the barn before we knew it.
  - C When I last saw it, my book has lain on the kitchen table.
  - D For the past two years, Marcus has been our class president.

---

**Reporting Category:** Write Using a Variety of Forms

**Grade Level Expectation:** 4.2.2

5. When writing a letter of complaint to a company, you should remember to
- A explain your own personal history.
  - B give suggestions on how to run the company.
  - C include the action that you want the company to take.
  - D describe under what circumstances you purchased the product.

## Writing Item Sampler: Grade 9

---

**Reporting Category:** Revise Writing

**Grade Level Expectation:** 4.4.5

6. Which sentence uses informal language?

- A The life cycle of the viceroy moth is brief but interesting.
- B Atticus Finch is a perfect role model in the novel To Kill a Mockingbird.
- C Alexander Graham Bell invented really neat things.
- D Abraham Lincoln’s speech began “Four score and seven years ago.”



## Writing Item Sampler: Grade 9

---

**Reporting Category:** Write Using a Variety of Forms

**Grade Level Expectation:** 4.2.2

**Extended Constructed Response (6 points)**

8. Think of an important piece of advice someone gave you.

Write an essay telling what the advice was and explaining why this advice has been important to you.

**As you write your response, use the Writing Skills Checklist below to**

- help you plan your writing.
- check your writing when you are finished.

### **Writing Skills Checklist**

- Have you written complete sentences?
- Have you written well-developed paragraphs?
- Have you supported your writing with specific details?
- Does your writing stay on the topic and maintain a focus?
- Is your writing organized with a beginning, middle, and an end?
- Is your writing clear, and does it make sense to a person who reads it?
- Have you checked for correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar?

Number of lines is not representative of the test book. Students will have two additional pages of lines for their response.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Writing Item Sampler  
Grade 9**

**Copyright © 2005 by Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. The materials contained in this publication may be duplicated by Alaska educators for local classroom use. This permission does not extend to the duplication of materials for commercial use.**