

GRADE

3

English Language Arts

Assesslet

Opinion Genre

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Directions

- Read all the directions for each question carefully and think about the answer.
- This Assesslet contains five items. Questions 1-3 are selected-response items where you choose the one **BEST** answer. Answer each question by filling in the circle **on your answer document**.
- Question 4 is a constructed-response item. Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Question 5 is an extended-response item. Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document**.
- Be sure to write your answers in the spaces provided **on the answer document**.

Read Passages A and B.
Then, respond to the questions that follow.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Waste can harm plants, animals, and people. We can cut down on waste by conserving. Three ways to conserve are to reduce, to reuse, and to recycle. Read the information in the table below. The table contains information about things that can be conserved and ways to do it.

Passage A: What to Conserve and Ways to Do It

What to Conserve	How: Reduce	How: Reuse	How: Recycle
Conserve water	A full bath tub uses 70 gallons of water. A quick shower uses 10-25 gallons.	Put a bucket in your shower to collect water. Use it to wash your dog.	Collect rainwater and use it to water plants.
Conserve trees	Read the news online.	Newspaper can be used for other things, such as packing boxes or washing windows.	Recycling newspapers could save millions of trees.
Conserve plastic	Enough plastic bottles are thrown away every year to circle the Earth four times.	Refill water bottles from the faucet instead of throwing them away.	Millions of plastic bottles are used hourly in the US. Only 1/4 of these bottles are recycled.
Conserve glass and cans	Each of us makes 4.5 pounds of garbage a day.	Use plastic containers to store leftovers.	Only 1/3 of glass bottles are recycled. Recycling one saves enough energy to power a computer for almost half an hour.

Passage B: The Importance of Conservation

We all know that conserving our natural resources is important to our environment. Understanding why it is important to conserve is a lesson we should learn early in life. Below are some tips on how to be a good steward of our resources.

Practice what you preach.

Set a good example for your friends. Turn the faucet off while you brush your teeth, turn off lights when you leave the room, and turn off the TV and computer when you are not using them.

Understand the world.

Understand what happens when it rains and how you get the water you use. Visit a treatment facility so you know how water is cleaned and recycled. Learn how you get electricity to your home so you appreciate being able to use it.

Show and tell.

Take a trip to a local utility company. Many utility companies offer tours and demonstrations. They want to help kids understand the importance of their conservation actions.

Just do it.

Kids learn best by doing. The more you do, the more conservation will become a habit for you.

Get excited.

There are a lot of books with conservation themes. Movies like *The Lorax* illustrate the importance of conservation. There are computer games available to make learning about conservation fun.

Make a difference in your own home and in the world.

If you want to make a difference in the world, start at home.

Selected-Response Questions

For questions 1-3, answer each question by filling in the circle on your answer document.

- 1 Which of the following statements **BEST** describes the central idea of both passages?
- A The most important resource to conserve is our water.
 - B It is most important to reduce waste to help conserve resources.
 - C Waste is not harmful to people or animals, but having too much waste is a problem.
 - D We should understand why it is important to conserve resources and learn ways to protect our environment.

- 2 In the following sentence, what does the word ***conserved*** mean?

The table contains information about things that can be conserved and ways to do it.

- A destroyed
 - B harmed
 - C ignored
 - D saved
- 3 Which statement **BEST** summarizes the information in the passages?
- A Each of us has a responsibility to conserve resources.
 - B It is important to take showers instead of baths to conserve water.
 - C Visiting utility companies helps us know how to conserve resources.
 - D Recycling is the only way we can conserve resources and save our planet.

Constructed-Response Question

- 4** What is one reason why it is important to conserve? Support your answer with at least one detail from each passage.

Write your answer on the lines provided **on your answer document.**

Extended-Response Question

- 5** In your opinion, does Passage A or Passage B give better information on how to conserve? Write an essay answering this question. In your essay, be sure to:
- Clearly state your opinion.
 - Include details from both passages in your response.

Use the scratch paper provided to plan your writing. Then, write your essay on the lines provided **on your answer document.**