

GRADE

4

English Language Arts

# Asseslet

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 Passage A and B.  
Then, respond to the questions that follow.**

## **Conservation Begins at Home**

### **Passage A: Information about Water Conservation**

Without water, most of the life on our planet would no longer exist. Plants, animals, and humans all need water to survive.

#### **Water is Limited**

Something many people don't think about is that water is a limited resource.

Only 1% of the water on Earth can be used by people. Most of Earth's water is salty ocean water or frozen water. As Earth's population grows, more people need to use this limited resource.

#### **Humans Pollute Water**

Some people and countries use the oceans or rivers as dumping areas for trash or harmful chemicals. Scientists have found out that for every square mile of ocean there are 46,000 pieces of plastic in it. There is an "island" twice as big as Georgia made of trash floating in the Pacific Ocean. It is known as "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch". This kind of pollution hurts the water supply.

#### **The Good News: People Can Protect Water**

There are many ways that we can protect our water supply. For starters, we can think about how long showers and baths waste water. Take shorter showers! Also, shutting off the water while brushing your teeth will save lots of water. Only wash your clothes when the machine is full. Water yards and plants early in the morning to avoid evaporation. Finally, write letters to elected officials to support efforts to reduce pollution in our waterways.

## **Passage B: Information about Energy Conservation**

Without electricity, our lives would not be the same. Think about it...no television, no video games, no air conditioning. That's just the beginning! Like water, electricity is a resource we should conserve.

### **How do we get electricity?**

Electricity can be produced from renewable or non-renewable resources.

Non-renewable resources are fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas. Fossil fuels will someday run out. Most of our electricity comes from burning coal.

Burning coal to produce electricity causes more pollution than any other non-renewable resource. Electricity can also be created from renewable resources, such as sunlight, wind, and moving water. Less than 1% of our electricity comes from solar power. Renewable resources can be used again and again. They are known as 'green' energy.

### **In what way do we use electricity the most?**

Almost half of the total energy that a household uses goes to heating and cooling. About 10% of the energy that a household uses goes to electricity for lights. About 20% of the energy that a household uses powers the electronics and appliances.

### **How can we conserve electricity?**

Pick the right light bulb! Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs use much less energy than older bulbs. One LED lasts as long as 50 traditional light bulbs. Other tips include installing weather seals around your doors and windows, and, of course, turning lights off when you leave a room is always a good idea!

## Selected-Response Questions

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

- 1 Which statement below describes the central idea of both passages?
- A Conservation is not important to our environment.
  - B It is more important to conserve water than energy.
  - C It is more important to conserve energy than water.
  - D Conservation is something we should consider doing to help the environment.
- 2 What is the meaning of the word **conservation** as it is used in both passages?
- A Destruction
  - B Storage
  - C Supervision
  - D Protection
- 3 Which statement below **BEST** summarizes the information in the passages above?
- A Using LED bulbs will help us conserve energy for the future.
  - B Each of us has a responsibility to conserve water and energy.
  - C Fossil fuels will run out someday and we will not be able to produce energy.
  - D Recycling is the only way we can conserve resources and save our planet.

## Constructed-Response Question

- 4 Why is conserving water and electricity important to the environment? 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, is it more important to conserve water, electricity, or both? Write an essay answering this question. In your essay, be sure to:
- Clearly state your opinion.
  - Support your opinion with details from **BOTH** passages.
  - Explain how these details support your opinion.

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