

GRADE

5

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.

Space Exploration

Passage A: Facts About the Moon

Not many people know that only 12 people have walked on the Moon. It took them about 4 days to get there. Apollo 11 was the first manned mission to the Moon. The trip there and back took just over 8 days.

Facts About Earth's Moon

- The Moon's gravity is about 1/6 of Earth's. If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth you will only weigh 16.5 pounds on the Moon.
- The Moon is about 240,000 miles from Earth.

More to Explore?

It may be a good idea to continue exploring Earth's Moon. Scientists have evidence of water on the Moon. They think that there is ice in some of the craters on the Moon. Studying this water could help us learn more about whether life ever existed outside of Earth. Furthermore, space research results in products that we use every day. We can thank the last mission to the Moon for cordless tools, satellite TV, and even better athletic shoes. In 2011, the U. S. Congress said the following about continuing to explore Earth's moon: "A sustained human presence on the Moon will allow astronauts and researchers the opportunity...explore further into our solar system, to Mars and beyond."

Passage B: Mars – Earth’s Neighbor

No human has ever walked on Mars. It will take about 200 days just to get to Mars. A simulated trip to Mars and back took 520 days. Today, astronauts are only allowed to spend 6 months in space. Furthermore, the lower levels of gravity can hurt muscles and bones.

Facts about Mars

- Mars has only a third of the gravity of Earth. If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you will only weigh 37 pounds on Mars.
- Mars is about 225 million miles away from the earth. It takes information over 3 minutes to reach Earth from Mars.
- There are huge dust storms. Dust may be bad for electronics.
- You will need to wear a space suit to walk around.

Why Explore Mars?

There could be several advantages to exploring Mars. Scientists think that, long ago, Mars had a climate like Earth’s: warm and wet. Learning more about how Mars has changed can give scientists clues on how the Earth is changing. NASA has already sent a rover to Mars to take pictures and gather data, but human astronauts could perform additional experiments. Some people even dream of establishing a colony on Mars. A colony on another planet could give humans a place to go if there is a disaster on Earth. Traveling to Mars is the first step in making a colony there. In fact, Buzz Aldrin, a famous astronaut and the second person to walk on the moon, said, “The first human beings to land on Mars should not come back to Earth. They should be the beginning of a build-up of a colony/settlement; I call it a ‘permanence.’”

Selected-Response Questions

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

- 1 Which statement below **BEST** states the central idea of the passages above?
- A We should build a new colony for people to live in space.
 - B Traveling in space is dangerous and should be considered carefully.
 - C Landing on the moon increased the desire to explore other places in space.
 - D Space exploration is important in discovering new information about our world.
- 2 In the quote by Buzz Aldrin in Passage B, what is the meaning of the word **permanence**?
- A Indefinite
 - B Lastingness
 - C Strength
 - D Temporary
- 3 Which statement below would support future space exploration?
- A Humans could get water from the Martian soil.
 - B Space research results in products that we use every day.
 - C Information can travel between the Moon and Earth in just over a second.
 - D Scientists think that, long ago, Mars had a climate like Earth's: warm and wet.

Constructed-Response Question

- 4** Would you rather go on a mission to the Moon or to Mars? 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** Write an essay that states your opinion about why space exploration is important for the future of our country. Use details and information from the passages to support your opinion. In your essay, be sure to include:
- a clear statement of your opinion to continue space exportation.
 - 2-3 examples or details from each of the passages to support your opinion.

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