

# Preface

The *Mississippi MCT2 Student Review Guide* for *Eighth Grade Language Arts: Writing* is written to help students review the skills needed to pass the MCT2 for Eighth Grade Language Arts. This comprehensive guide covers the required skills for Eighth Grade Language Arts as given in the 2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework -Revised Competencies specified by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

## How To Use This Book

### Students:

As an eighth grade student, you are required to take the MCT2 test for Language Arts. If you do not score well on this test, you may be placed in a remediation class and lose an elective. This book will help to prepare you for this test.

- 1 Take the pre-tests (one for Writing in this book and one for Reading in a separate companion book), which are designed to identify areas that you need to review.
- 2 Score the pre-tests. Using the pre-test evaluation charts, circle the questions that you answered incorrectly.
- 3 For each question that you missed on the pre-tests, review the corresponding sections in the book. Read the instructional material, do the practice exercises, and take the section review test at the end of each section.
- 4 After reviewing the skills, take the practice tests, which are found in the separate test booklets. These practice tests are written to look similar to the actual MCT2 Language Arts test; therefore, they will give you practice in taking the test.
- 5 After taking each practice test, use the practice test evaluation charts, which are found directly after each practice test, to identify areas for further review and practice. The practice test evaluation charts can be used in the same way as the pre-test evaluation charts.

### Teachers:

This review guide is also intended to save you, the teacher, time in the classroom. It can be used for classroom instruction or for individual student review. This student guide covers the skills in Competencies 3 and 4 of the 2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework Revised for eighth grade Language Arts that are tested on Section 2 of the MCT2 test. A companion book is also available that covers Competencies 1 and 2.

- 1 When teaching or tutoring individual students, use the strategy outlined above for students. By taking the pre-tests, students can identify areas that need improvement. The pre-test evaluation charts direct students to the sections they need to review for instruction and additional practice.
- 2 For classroom study, use this guide to supplement lesson plans and to give additional review for skills specified by the eighth grade Language Arts Framework Competencies. Purchase a class set of guides for use in the classroom or assign guides to students for out-of-classroom work.
- 3 Assign the practice tests as comprehensive review tests. Note, the practice tests are bound in separate booklets for your convenience.
- 4 Use the practice test evaluation charts found after each practice test to identify areas needing further review.
- 5 To establish benchmarks, you may want to use one of the practice tests as a pre-test. Then, after the students have completed all the exercises in the workbook, use the second practice test to gauge progress. You should see marked improvement between the initial and final benchmarks.
- 6 Please **DO NOT** photocopy materials from these guides. These guides are intended to be used as student workbooks, and individual pages should not be duplicated by any means without permission from the copyright holder. To purchase additional or specialized copies of sections in this book, please contact the publisher at 1-800-745-4706.

12. Read the following instructions Pat wrote for a school assignment.

People need to be aware that heat can damage and even destroy their old photographs. Photos should not be kept in the attic, the basement, or the garage because both heat and cold will damage the photos by causing cracking or separation of the image from the paper. Also dirt, dust, and oil from hands can cause permanent damage. Not only where the photos are stored but also how they are stored is important. Photos should not be kept in plastic sleeves like the ones for baseball cards nor the magnetic sheets that can stick to the photos. Direct sunlight will damage framed photos, and the best frames to use are wood or plastic, not metal. Writing on the back of the photo is a bad idea because the ink can contain acid that will eat through the photo. To keep photos intact for the future, people need to be aware of all these dangers.

Pat's teacher said that Pat's opening sentence was not appropriate for her paragraph.

Which of the following statements justifies why Pat's teacher was correct in her observation?

- F The sentence contains no examples.
- G The sentence contains no details.
- H The sentence is too general.
- J The sentence is too specific.

(F) (G) (H) (J)

13. Read the following sentences from a student's narrative paragraph.

Our family went to the beach for our vacation. One of our favorite beach activities was playing in the ocean on boogie boards. We also threw and caught a frisbee on the sand. At the end of the day, we enjoyed our dad's home-cooked meals. Then at night, we enjoyed talking and laughing as we sat on the porch before going to bed.

The student has decided to include descriptive details to improve the paragraph.

Which of the following sentences does not add descriptive details?

- A We fought the fierce waves to get to deep water in order to catch the right one and to reap the reward of riding it in to the shore.
- B We took turns throwing the frisbee to each other to see how many times we could throw it before someone missed.
- C Our dad grilled sweet corn on the cob and sizzling steak and cooked fragrant, flaky biscuits and fresh green beans.
- D We ended the summer day with relaxing on the cool screened porch, teasing each other, and laughing good-naturedly at ourselves.

(A) (B) (C) (D)



# Writing Pre-Test Evaluation Chart

On the chart below, circle each question that you answered incorrectly on the Pre-Test. Review the sections for each question that you missed.

If you missed question #:	Go to section(s):	If you missed question #:	Go to section(s):
1	16.2	21	11.1, 11.3
2	17.3	22	9.2
3	17.1	23	18.4
4	12.1, 12.4	24	16.1
5	11.1, 11.2	25	16.2
6	15.2	26	16.3
7	17.3	27	14.1
8	19	28	3.5
9	8.6	29	15.5
10	16.2	30	9.4
11	15.3	31	13.4, 16.1
12	15.1, 15.2	32	12.5, 13.4
13	17.3	33	11.2
14	18.2	34	15.1, 15.2
15	6.1, 6.2, 6.5	35	13.1, 13.2
16	16.2	36	14.2
17	4.5, 12.2, 12.4	37	8.4
18	18.2	38	8.2
19	18.3	39	15.5
20	2.1, 2.2	40	15.3