

NAPLAN — Year 7 Literacy

Set 2 — Sample Language conventions test answers

About the sample Language conventions test

The formats and response types in these practice items for spelling, grammar and punctuation are similar to those in the real tests. To prepare students for the test, be sure they understand the instructions.

In spelling, you may wish to hear the words for these items first, and use the errors to construct items relevant to your own students.

In grammar, students need to know that these questions are about formal, written language. In oral language, unconventional usages may “sound right” (e.g. “could of” may sound as right as “could have”, which is the conventionally correct form). When they are told to ‘correctly complete’ a sentence, students must think about conventional grammar, vocabulary and punctuation.

For teaching purposes, create additional items using examples from current class work.

Answers

Spelling	1 shriek; 2 confusion; 3 exhausted; 4 irresponsible; 5 aerodynamic; 6 haunted; 7 signature; 8 depression; 9 adolescence; 10 fascinated; 11 humid; 12 surface; 13 pressure; 14 calm; 15 torrential
Grammar and Punctuation	16 D; 17 A; 18 C; 19 C; 20 A; 21 A&C; 22 B; 23*; 24 A; 25*; 26A; 27 B**; 28 B; 29 A&B

*Model responses to open items

Item 23

Correct sentence: *To stop tourists drowning, the life-savers built a display at the airport.*

Justification: *The adverbial clause “To stop tourists drowning” is intended to modify the verb “build”. In the original sentence, it is positioned incorrectly as an adjectival clause to modify the noun “a display”.*

Item 25

Correct sentence: *You should have warned me.*

Justification: *The verb in this sentence is “should have”. Like other modal compound verbs (e.g. would have, might have, must have, could have), the two words function together. “Of”, meaning belonging to, is a preposition with no application here. It is confused with “have” only because, in the spoken, contracted form of the verb (“should’ve”), the final syllable sounds like “of”.*

****Note to Item 27.** In NAPLAN, commas and stops are placed inside quotation marks.

References

Bear, DR, Invernizzi, M, Templeton, S & Johnston, F 2008, *Words their way: Word Study for phonics, Vocabulary and spelling instruction (4th ed)*, Pearson, Upper Saddle River.

Ganske, K, 2008, *Mindful of words: Spelling and vocabulary explorations 4-8*, The Guilford Press, New York.

Resources

Resources on the QSA website that may be useful include:

- *Spelling Yrs 1–9: scope and sequence guide* — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/7284.html
- *A framework for describing spelling items* — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/1443.html
- *Grammar Yrs 1–9: scope and sequence guide* — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/7284.html
- *Teachers’ notes: Notes on grammar* — www.qsa.qld.edu.au/1443.html