

NAPLAN — Year 7 Literacy

Set 3 — 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.

Teachers in all subject areas should note the types of spelling skills that are involved in the spelling questions and use standard teaching and assessing practices to target these. In particular, they should use dictation exercises rather than NAPLAN format involving correction of intentionally misspelled words and they should use writing tasks in which the vocabulary and spelling demands are highlighted and assessed. Similarly for grammar and punctuation, teachers should take note of the skills involved in this sample text then derive more holistic lessons in which grammar and punctuation are taught and assessed as part of authentic tasks of written communication and formal oral expression.

Answers

Spelling	1 medal; 2 audience; 3 unrecognisable; 4 explosion; 5 mussels; 6 inventor; 7 half; 8 cities; 9 attend; 10 bravely; 11 crutches; 12 gadgets; 13 immediate; 14 illustration; 15 pleasure; 16 fragrance; 17 thumb; 18 complained; 19 category; 20 tomatoes; 21 postponed; 22 geologist; 23 brilliant; 24 fountain; 25 irregular; 26 knowledge
Grammar and Punctuation	27 C; 28 B; 29 D; 30 B; 31 D; 32 D; 33 C; 34 A; 35 A; 36 B; 37 C; 38 D; 39 A; 40 C; 41 D; 42 B; 43 B; 44 A

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.