

## *Part A: Writing – Description and Instructions*

### Grade 9 Achievement Test English Language Arts

#### Part A: Writing

##### *Description*

**Part A: Writing** contributes 50% of the total Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test mark and consists of two assignments:

- **Assignment I:**

- **Narrative / Essay Writing**

This assignment contains some material for you to consider. You must then respond in writing to the topic presented in the assignment. You should take about 70 minutes to complete Assignment I.

*Value: Approximately 65% of the total Part A: Writing test mark*

- **Assignment II:**

- **Functional Writing**

This assignment describes a situation to which you must respond in the format of a business letter. You should take about 40 minutes to complete Assignment II.

*Value: Approximately 35% of the total Part A: Writing test mark*

Before beginning to write, you will have 10 minutes to talk with your classmates (in groups of two to four) about both writing assignments or to think about them alone. During this time, you may record your ideas on the *Planning* pages provided.

**This test was developed to be completed in two hours; however, you may take an additional 30 minutes to complete the test.**

*Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet. You may make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.*

**2012**

##### *Instructions*

- You **may** use the following **print** references:
  - a dictionary (English and/or bilingual)
  - a thesaurus
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Record your ideas and/or make a **plan** before you write. Do this on the *Planning* pages.
- Write in pencil, or blue or black ink, on the lined pages provided.
- You are to do only **one handwritten copy** of your writing.

##### *Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors*

- **Format** your work using an **easy-to-read** 12-point or larger font, such as Times.
- **Double-space** your **final printed copy**. For the Functional Writing assignment, this should be applied to the body of the business letter but not to the other parts.
- **Staple** your printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in **all** work.
- **Indicate** in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached **word-processed** pages.
- You may make handwritten corrections and revisions directly on your printed work.

## ***Assignment II: Functional Writing***

*(suggested time—40 minutes)*

Read the situation below and complete the assignment that follows.

### **Situation**

You are Jamie Gardner, a grade nine student who attends Inspiration School in Newsome, Alberta. Along with many other students, you believe there is a need to establish a policy regarding the amount of daily homework students are assigned. This policy would promote the development of consistent expectations among students, teachers, and parents regarding homework throughout all schools in the Carver School Division.

While recognizing that homework provides students with opportunities to reinforce classroom learning, you and your classmates see the need for a homework policy that includes the following guidelines:

- cooperation among teachers so that the amount of homework assigned is manageable
- time spent on daily homework increases by 10 minutes with each grade, starting in grade one
- no homework on non-school days
- homework assigned each day is relevant and meaningful
- allows teachers and schools flexibility to accommodate the needs of all students

You have decided to write a letter to the chairperson of the Carver School Board, Mrs. Helen Westminster, to explain why this homework policy is needed. In your letter, be sure to highlight the expected benefits of this policy and consider how any potential problems could be addressed.

### **Assignment**

Write a business letter to Mrs. Helen Westminster, chairperson of the Carver School Board. In your letter, **present your ideas regarding the need to establish this homework policy**. Provide enough information to **convince Mrs. Westminster and members of the school board of the benefits of implementing this policy**.

When writing, **be sure to**

- **identify** the **purpose** of the letter
- **explain** the details of the **situation** and **request**
- **organize** your **thoughts** appropriately in sentences and paragraphs
- **use vocabulary** that is appropriate and effective
- **sign** your **letter** Jamie Gardner—**do not sign your own name**
- **address** the **envelope** on page 14

## Address Information

Use the following information for your letter and to address the envelope below.

**Mrs. Helen Westminster**

Mrs. Helen Westminster is the chairperson of the Carver School Board. The board office is located in the city of Carrington, Alberta. The board's post office box number is 5140, and the postal code is T2A 4S7.

**Jamie Gardner**

Jamie Gardner resides in the town of Newsome, Alberta. The postal code is T6Y 0W8. Jamie's home is located at 14522 on 187 Avenue.

## *Envelope*

