

DeSSA & Smarter Newsletter

February 2015

Q: What is the CAT?

A: It stands for Computer Adaptive Test. It is one of two portions on the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

January:

1. Testing Overview
2. Question Types
3. Tools for Success

This Newsletter:

1. Smarter ELA CAT Practice Problems
2. Calculator Policy
3. Smarter Math CAT Practice Problems

Coming in March:

1. ELA & Math Performance Tasks
2. What to do the night before & the day of the test.

Smarter ELA: Elementary to Middle to High School

Grade 5

These are 3 of 7 questions that accompany a text called "A Cure for Carlotta" by Bart King.

1. Read the sentence from the text. Then, answer the question. "A Boy stood on deck and sniffed the salty sea air as the ship pitched back and forth."

What does the use of the word pitched suggest?

- A sudden dip
- B calm rocking
- C jerking motion
- D forward movement

2. Read the sentence and answer the questions. "Enzio was especially hungry for any details about America."

What effect does the author create by using the phrase "hungry for any details"? Select two options.

- A an empty feeling
- B a mood of uncertainty
- C a sense of curiosity
- D a feeling of anticipation
- E a longing for change
- F an atmosphere of anxiety

3. Which sentences BEST support the idea that the sea is important to Enzio and his family? Select two options.

- A "The boy's earliest memories were of being at sea with his father."
- B "Now Enzio and his family were on a giant ship crossing the Atlantic."
- C "Gone was the fishing boat."
- D "Enzio explained that his father had come from a long line of fishermen who had passed down the remedy for seasickness."
- E "He explained that they were sailing to meet his mother's brothers."

Grade 8

This is 1 of 7 questions that accompany a text called "Ansel Adams, Painting with Light" by Melanie G. Snyder.

1. First, read the dictionary definition. Then, complete the task.

(n) 1. caretaker

Circle the word in the paragraphs that most closely matches the definition provided.

"Ansel soon had plenty of opportunities to practice his photography. Starting when he was eighteen, he spent four summers in Yosemite National Park as a custodian for the Sierra Club headquarters. He led hiking expeditions through Yosemite and captured spectacular photographs with each hike.

"He created his photos carefully, as though they were paintings like those seen at the Expo. early in the twentieth century, photography was not considered creative art, but Ansel hoped to change that. He'd seen how the use of light and shade in paintings could bring them to life, and he wanted to use his camera to paint with light. He visualized the story he wanted to tell with each photo. 'The picture we make is never for us alone,' he said later. 'It is, and should be, a communication—to reach as many people as possible.' Photographs, he felt, could create the same strong feelings the paintings at the Expo had aroused in him."

Grade 11

This is 1 of 7 questions that accompany a text called "Sustainable Fashion" by Tyson Butcher.

1. Select the sentence from the text that best supports the conclusion that the clothing manufacturers have not been operating in an ecologically sustainable way.

A "Consider that Americans threw away an estimated 13.1 million pounds of clothing and textiles in 2010, or 5.3% of all solid wastes that made it into U.S. landfills that year (according to the EPA)."

B "Cotton is a very water-intensive crop that is typically grown with heavy application of insecticide; in fact, cotton accounts for more insecticide use than any other single crop in the world."

C "A wide array of natural fibers—some old, some new—have become increasingly popular with consumers and manufacturers, including wool, silk, jute, corn, flax, and soy."

D "One clothing company recycles plastic soda bottles and makes them into winter parkas."

Answers: 5.1: C; 5.2: C & D; 5.3: A & D; 8.1: custodian; 11.1: B

Grades 3-8 & 11 take Smarter Balanced ELA

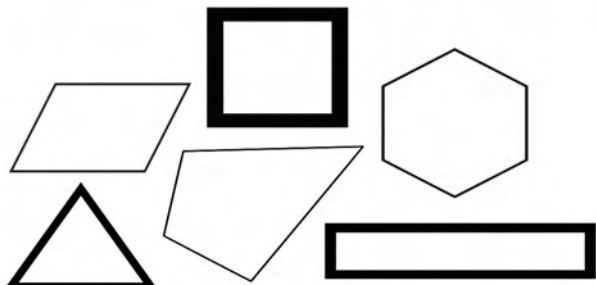


Math on Smarter Balanced

Grades 3-5 have NO calculator on the CAT portion AND the Performance Task portion. In grades 6-8 and 11, students have access to a calculator for some sections on the CAT and for all of the Performance Task.

Grade 3

1. Select all the shapes that are quadrilaterals.



2. A pencil has a mass of 25 grams. An apple has a mass that is 75 grams more than the pencil. What is the mass of the apple, in grams?

Grade 4

1. Tanya ran 400 meters on Tuesday. She ran 800 meters on Wednesday. What is the total number of meters Tanya ran on those two days?

2. A teacher gives 6 students some cards to play a game. She has 52 cards total. The teacher gives each student 1 card until all 52 cards are gone. How many students get exactly 9 cards? Circle the correct answer.

- A 2 C 5
B 4 D 6

Grade 6

1. Select ALL the expressions that are equivalent to $8(t + 4)$.

- $2(4t + 2)$ $(8 + t) + (8 + 4)$ $4t + 4 + 4t$
 $8t + 32$ $(8 \times t) + (8 \times 4)$

2. Divide. $16536 \div 24$. Write the quotient.

Grade 5

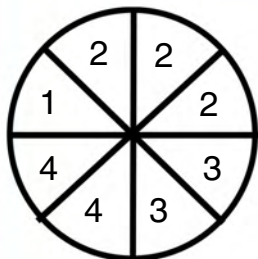
1. Which number is equal to 10^4 ?

- A 100
B 1,000
C 10,000
D 100,000

2. Write the quotient.
 $3125 \div 25$

Grade 7

1. The spinner has 8 equal-sized sections, each labeled 1, 2, 3, or 4. The arrow on the spinner is spun.



What is the probability of the arrow stopping on a section labeled with a 2?

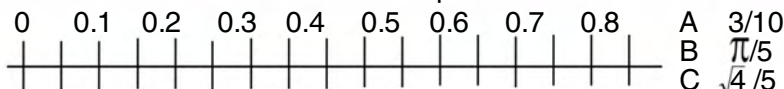
- $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

2. Which expression is equivalent to $-8(10x - 3)$?

- A $-80x + 24$
B $-80x - 24$
C $-80x + 3$
D $-80x - 3$

Grade 8

1. Move each number to its correct position on the number line.



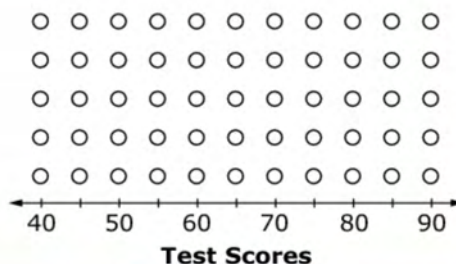
2. A square with side length s has an area of 324 square centimeters. This equation shows the area of the square.
 $s^2 = 324$
What is the side length of the square in centimeters?

Grade 11

1. Multiply and combine like terms to determine the product of these polynomials.
 $(2x - 3)(5x + 6)$

2. Create a dot plot for the given test scores.

90, 45, 85, 70, 85, 50,
75, 85, 65, 75, 60, 85,
80, 65, 80



Answers: 3.1: Quadrilateral means having 4 straight sides; 3.2: 100 grams; 4.1: 1200 meters; 4.2: B; 5.1: C; 5.2: 125; 6.1: 8t + 32 & (8 x t) + (8 x 4); 6.2: 689; 7.1: 3/8; 7.2: A; 8.1: order A,C,B; 8.2: 18 cm; 11.1: $10x^2 - 3x - 18$

Touchdown!