Sample Items 9–12

Read the article and answer questions 9 through 12.

The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty is one of the world’s most famous statues. Lady Liberty stands with a torch in her hand. She has been welcoming ships into New York City’s harbor since 1886. Many people know that the statue was a gift from France to the United States. But the story is not that simple.

The idea to make a statue as a gift began in France. An artist named Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi wanted to build the statue, but he needed the money to do it. He formed a group in France. They decided to raise money in France to pay for the copper statue. However, Lady Liberty needed a base to stand on. That money was to be raised in the United States.

Many people in France gave money for the statue. Even schoolchildren contributed. A copper company gave Bartholdi all the copper he needed.

Bartholdi made the right arm and hand of the statue. It was put on display in Philadelphia and New York City. People became excited about the statue. Americans began to give money to complete it. But there still wasn’t enough money for the base.

Then Bartholdi came up with a good idea. In New York he spread the word that the statue might go to Boston or another city. The idea worked. New Yorkers didn’t want to be left out. The people of New York donated more money. Then Bartholdi could complete the base. Now Lady Liberty stands in New York Harbor. The people of France and the United States worked together. Like most great works, it took a long time. It also took a lot more work than most people think.
**Item 9**

**Selected-Response**

Which sentence from the article explains why enough money was finally raised for the base?

A. That money was to be raised in the United States.
B. People became excited about the statue.
C. Americans began to give money to complete it.
D. New Yorkers didn’t want to be left out.

**Item 10**

**Selected-Response**

What does the phrase *spread the word* mean in this sentence from the article?

In New York he *spread the word* that the statue might go to Boston or another city.

A. told a lie
B. kept a secret
C. wrote a large sign
D. told a lot of people

**Item 11**

**Selected-Response**

With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?

A. People often do not know the real story behind events.
B. No one knows how the Statue of Liberty was really built.
C. The money for the Statue of Liberty came only from France.
D. Americans do not care enough about their nation’s history.
Item 12

Constructed-Response

What is the main idea of the article?

Use details from the article to support your answer. Write your answer on the lines on your answer document.
Homework on the Weekend

Homework on the weekend is an important part of our education. First of all, we go to school to prepare for the real world. In the real world, most people work long hours. They may work nights and on the weekends. Sometimes, they don’t have a choice about weekend work. Learning is the same way. It doesn’t happen just during the school week. Doing homework on the weekend is another way to help you learn.

It’s true that there is no school on the weekends. Many students look at the weekend as a time to play or to do other fun activities. No one is saying you need to stay in and do a lot of homework. You need some time for fun. But an hour or so of homework should be fine. There is plenty of time over the weekend to get it done and go have fun as well.

Finally, many students want to go to a college or university. Students do whatever is necessary to help them get into college, even if that means doing homework on the weekend.
Weekends Are for Fun

Homework on the weekends is more harmful than helpful. One university study explored the effects of homework. The study leaders asked, Does homework help students do better in school? Homework had very little effect on younger kids especially. If homework isn’t helping us, why have it on weekends?

Homework can actually harm students. Young people need their weekends. They should forget about school. They should just be kids. Weekend homework is stressful for kids. It ruins their time off.

On weekends kids should spend time with their families. Sports and hobbies are also important. What happens if kids can’t do these things? They are tired and unhappy on Mondays. Tired, unhappy students don’t perform well. Therefore, teachers should not give homework on the weekends.
**Item 13**

**Selected-Response**

Why does the author of “Homework on the Weekend” MOST LIKELY mention college?

A. College students often work jobs on weekends.
B. Students in college have to study on weekends.
C. Weekend homework might help students get into college.
D. College is more like the real world than elementary school is.

**Item 14**

**Selected-Response**

Which sentence from “Weekends Are for Fun” explains why students would do better in school if they had no homework on weekends?

A. Homework had very little effect on younger kids especially.
B. If homework isn’t helping us, why have it on weekends?
C. On weekends kids should spend time with their families.
D. Tired, unhappy students don’t perform well.

**Item 15**

**Selected-Response**

Which sentence describes something the reader learns from reading BOTH passages?

A. Homework is important for young kids.
B. Students should think about their futures.
C. There should be no homework on weekends.
D. It is important to have time to play on the weekends.
Item 16
Extended Writing-Response

WRITING TASK

Both passages discuss the idea of giving students homework on weekends. Think about the ideas in BOTH passages. Then write an opinion essay about whether students should be given homework on the weekend. Be sure to use information from BOTH passages in your opinion essay.

Writer’s Checklist

Be sure to:

• Introduce your opinion.
• Support your opinion with reasons and details from the passages.
• Give your reasons and details in a clear order.
• Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the passages.
• Identify the passages by title or number when using details or facts directly from the passages.
• Use linking words, phrases, and clauses to connect reasons.
• Use clear language and vocabulary.
• Have a strong conclusion that supports your opinion.
• Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Now write your opinion essay on your answer document. Refer to the Writer’s Checklist as you write and proofread your essay.