

# Session 1—Reading

## ***Directions***

In this part of **ELAP Plus Third Edition**, you will read four passages:

- The Story of Iduna's Apples
- The Science of Sleep
- Mai's Surprise
- Earth's Changing Seasons

There are multiple-choice questions for you to answer after each passage. Refer to the passages as often as you need to. Then fill in the circle of the best answer to each question.

Now turn the page and begin.

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Read this article. Then answer questions 19 through 24.

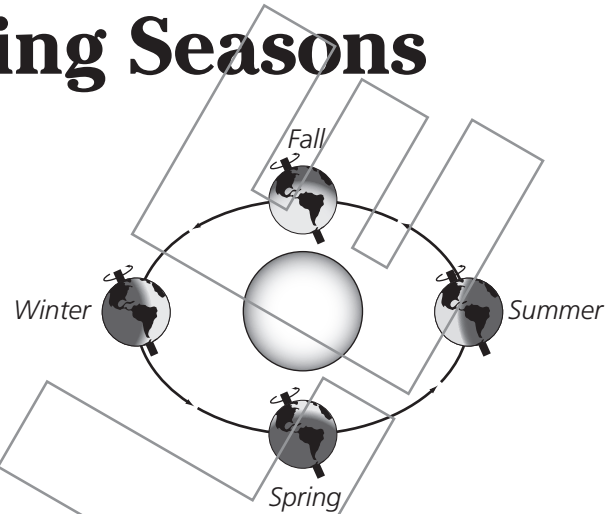
# Earth's Changing Seasons

1 In many parts of the world, people experience four seasons every year. The seasons bring different types of weather, which affects animals and plants. In the northern United States, the spring brings cool temperatures and rain. It is also when plants start to flower. In the summer, warm temperatures help even more plants and trees grow. Fall brings cooler weather, and many plants stop flowering. Winter brings cold temperatures and snow in this part of the country. So what causes these big changes? Earth's tilt and its movement around the sun make the seasons change every year.

2 One of the reasons that Earth has seasons is because the planet is tilted to one side. If you drew a line from the North Pole to the South Pole, you would see that the line is slanted. That shows that Earth is tilted. Scientists call this line Earth's axis.

3 Some parts of Earth are tilted toward the sun. You can better understand this by picturing a model of Earth on its axis. Think of a ball with a stick through its center. Imagine holding the stick and tilting it slightly to one side. As you tilt the stick, you will see that the ball tilts to one side too. To understand how the tilt affects the seasons, keep the stick tilted and hold the ball next to a lamp. By doing this, you will see that one part of the ball is tilted toward the lamp. You will also notice that part of the ball is tilted away from the lamp. When one part of Earth is tilted toward the sun, it experiences a warm season. During the summer, the United States receives more sunlight because it is tilted toward the sun.

4 However, you know that it is not always summer in the United States. The seasons



change. But if Earth's tilt does not change, why do the seasons change? They change because Earth moves around the sun while it is tilted. Earth is always moving around the sun. It takes Earth one year to make one revolution, or one complete turn, around the sun. During this year, Earth experiences all four seasons. If Earth did not turn, the seasons would cease.

5 To understand how this movement affects the seasons, think about the ball and stick again. If you move the tilted ball in a circle around the lamp, you will see that different parts of the ball point toward the lamp. The top of the ball might start out pointed toward the lamp, but the bottom part will point toward the lamp as the ball moves. Then the top part of the ball will point away. It is the same idea for Earth: as Earth moves around the sun on its axis, different parts tilt toward the sun and become warmer. The other parts point away from the sun and become colder. This explains why the northern part of Earth has summer at the same time the southern part has winter. It is all because of Earth's tilt!

6 As you watch the seasons slowly change this year, think about Earth's tilt. It's the reason you have four seasons each year!

- 19 What structure does the author use in the article?
- (A) chronology
  - (B) cause and effect
  - (C) compare and contrast
  - (D) problem and solution
- 20 Based on the article and the diagram, you can tell that
- (A) Earth travels around the sun once every year
  - (B) a ball and a stick can make a model of Earth
  - (C) winter usually brings cold weather across Earth
  - (D) seasons on Earth are different in the North and the South
- 21 Which sentence from the article **best** states the main idea?
- (A) "The seasons change." (paragraph 4)
  - (B) "Some parts of Earth are tilted toward the sun." (paragraph 3)
  - (C) "Earth's tilt and its movement around the sun make the seasons change every year." (paragraph 1)
  - (D) "It takes Earth one year to make one revolution, or one complete turn, around the sun." (paragraph 4)

## Session 2—Reading and Writing

### *Directions*

In this part of **ELAP Plus Third Edition**, you will read three passages:

- Amelia Earhart
- John Henry the Steel Driver
- Newtown's New Library

Then you will write about what you read.

Now turn the page and begin.

SAMPLE

Read these letters to the editor. Then answer questions 30 and 31.

# Newtown's New Library

## Part 1

Dear Editor,

1 I read the article in Wednesday's paper about the plan to build a new library in Newtown. While I support the idea of helping our town, I disagree with the library plan. I think reading is a wonderful thing that helps people very much. However, for many reasons, I think building a new library would not be the best thing for the town.

2 The first reason for not building the library is the most important. Building a new library would be very costly. It would mean spending a great deal of money for a new building. The town would also have to pay for moving all the shelves and books from the old library to the new one. It would make much more sense to keep the old library as it is. The money could be spent on many other things our town needs more.

3 Building a new library would also cause a problem with parking. Our downtown has very few parking spaces. Where would people park their cars and bikes when they visit the library? Their cars would take up parking spots in front of stores. This would hurt nearby businesses.

4 Another reason the town should not build the library is that fewer people read books than in the past. In many libraries, hundreds of older books sit on the shelves. Few people are interested in reading them. These books just take up space. More people are using computers than reading books. That is not to say people aren't reading, though, since many people read books using computers.

5 I think our town would benefit from other projects more than a new library. For instance, why don't we set up a biking path through town? That would be great for citizens and visitors who love to ride bikes. Bike riding is good for people's health. It is also a good way to get people into our town so they can visit our local stores and go to our neighborhood events.

6 I urge local people to carefully think about the library plan. It might not be the great idea it seems to be.

Sincerely,

Brian Thomson

**30** How does Brian Thomson organize his letter? Use **two** details from his letter to support your response.

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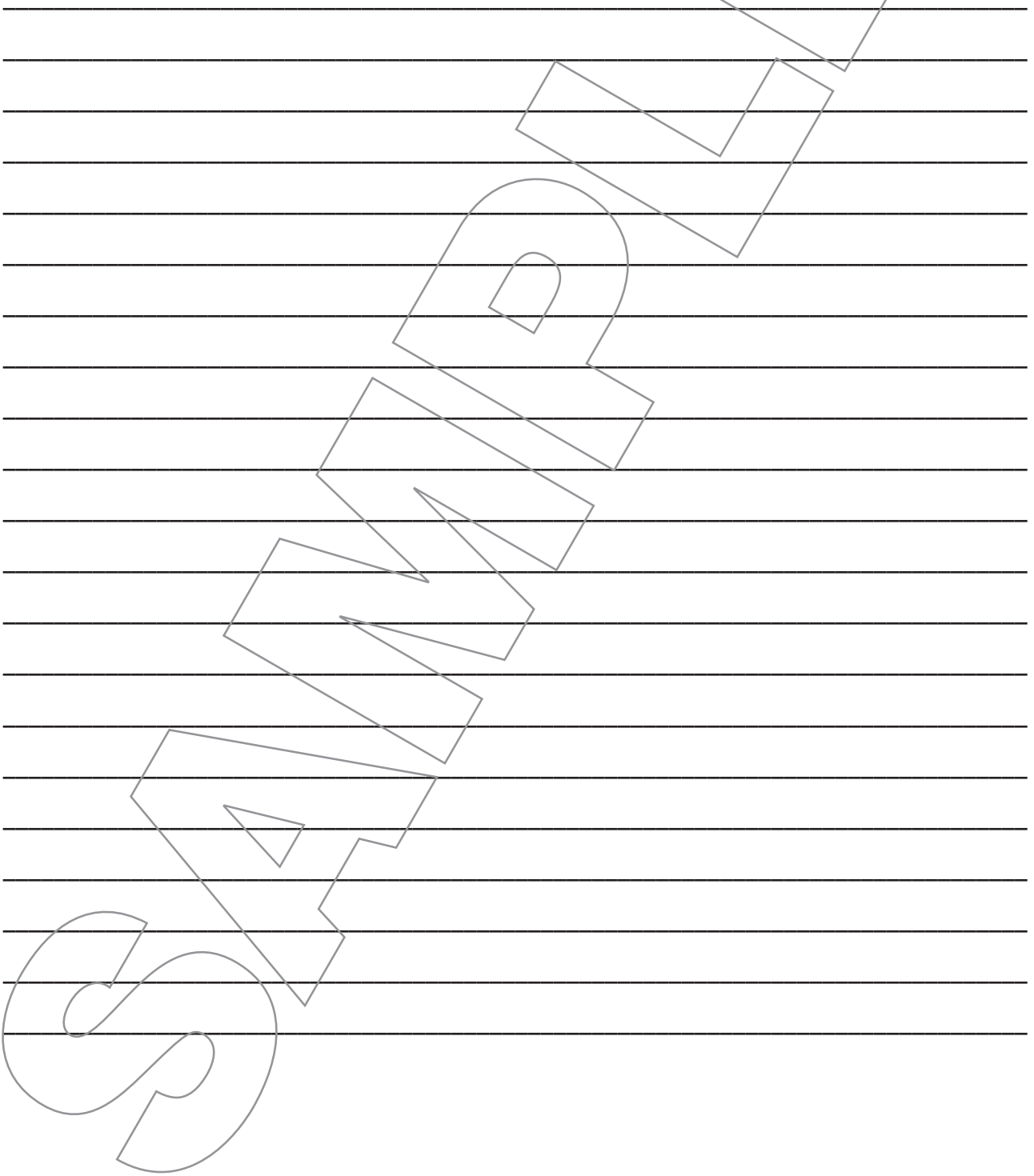
SAMPLE

**31**

What idea do Brian Thomson and Ranesha Davidson agree on? What do they see differently about this idea? Use details from **both** letters to support your response.

In this answer, be sure to include:

- what idea both writers would agree on
- how they see this idea differently
- details from the letters that support your response



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