

Session 1—Reading

Directions

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

- Arthur and the Sword in the Stone
- Bike Helmets Should Not Be Required for Older Riders
- *Little Women*
- Thomas Edison: The Father of Recorded Sound
- Unearthing the Woolly Mammoth

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.

SAMPLE

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 7.

Arthur and the Sword in the Stone

1 “Merlin!” exclaimed Sir Ector, hailing the wizened wizard who approached through the wheat fields. “It is so good to see you again, my old friend! Now, how is it that I may help you—and, more importantly, who is that child following in your shadow?”

2 “They are one and the same, good Sir Ector,” laughed Merlin. “This child is Arthur, and you may help me by looking after him while I am tending to other business. His parents are involved in some trouble with the Saxons by the coast of Cornwall, and they desire that young Arthur be kept and raised in a safe, peaceful, sheltered environment. This, I had hoped, you might be compelled to provide for him.”

3 Sir Ector looked curiously at the boy, who seemed to be only about 5 years old, and then at the old wizard Merlin and shrugged. “He does not look particularly strong for farm work, nor brave as an apprentice knight must be, but I expect I can find some use for him here. As you know, I’m already raising my own son, Kay, and perhaps Arthur would be a good companion for him.” Merlin and Arthur smiled, feeling that they had come to the right place.

4 Ten years passed quickly, as Ector and his sons tended their quiet estate.

5 Far away, in London, a group of royal advisors were fretting over the old High-King, Uther Pendragon, who had fallen ill and had no known heir. The governors of the territories began arguing amongst themselves, each hoping to take the crown upon his death. Meanwhile, courtiers throughout the city hoped to win the same through their schemes and flattery. It seemed that every public official in England wanted to become the new king, and they had no way to choose among them.

6 When High-King Uther died, the power struggle grew even more malicious. The leaders competing for the throne became crueler and more threatening each day. Just at the brink of a civil war, one of the advisors appeared at the castle reporting a most peculiar sight. He said that a mysterious boulder had appeared overnight in the middle of the city. Emerging from the stone was a golden sword, and an inscription beneath it explained that only the rightful king could ever withdraw the weapon.

7 Thinking it would be an easy challenge, and overconfident in their own abilities, the advisors, governors, and courtiers rushed to the boulder. Each took a turn at tugging on the golden sword, trying to free it from its stone scabbard. Each turned red from exertion and yielded, admitting that nobody in the world could possibly pull the sword from the stone.

8 Meanwhile, a few miles away and unaware of the political squabbling, Sir Ector had brought his boys to a tournament. Here, Kay would practice his skills in jousting in the hope that he would prove to be a worthy knight apprentice. Arthur, never the favored child, came along as an assistant to Kay. Arthur’s only job was to clean and carry the armor, weapons, and other equipment Kay needed for the event. While unpacking this gear, Arthur gasped. He’d forgotten the most important thing, his brother’s sword!

9 Fearing he would be in serious trouble for his mistake, Arthur raced off in search of a new sword. He had no money to pay a blacksmith. He was not strong enough to defeat a knight and take his sword. He did not have the knowhow to forge a new sword himself. It appeared he was out of luck and that he had disgraced his little family. Then

he saw something astounding. In the middle of London, the finest sword he had ever seen, glistening in gold, was sticking out of a stone. Without a moment's hesitation, young Arthur leapt onto the stone, grabbed the sword, and pulled it out. Thinking little of his feat, he raced back to the tournament grounds to present the beautiful sword to Kay.

10 When Arthur returned to the tournament, people all around stopped and stared at him. He was unsure what he had done to attract so much attention but soon realized the eyes were following the sword, not him. "Where did you get that sword?" asked person after person. Arthur simply shrugged and said he had found it. When he reached Sir Ector, the old man's eyes widened at the sight. Grabbing the sword, he searched it carefully and found, among its many decorations, a tiny inscription. This matched the carving on the boulder, explaining that this sword could only be retrieved and used by the rightful king.



11 News spread quickly and people came from all around to congratulate and then bow down respectfully before their new king. Even Sir Ector, who had often looked down upon Arthur, did the same. As Merlin later explained, Arthur was none other than Arthur Pendragon, son of the king, ready to take his rightful place on the throne and lead England toward greatness.

1 Which **best** describes Sir Ector's attitude toward Arthur at the beginning of the story?

- (A) Sir Ector believes that Arthur lacks valuable skills.
- (B) Sir Ector thinks that Arthur would make a good knight.
- (C) Sir Ector feels that Arthur is a better son than Kay.
- (D) Sir Ector suspects that Arthur is the son of King Uther.

2 Which words help the reader understand the meaning of "malicious" in paragraph 6?

- (A) "died" and "power"
- (B) "leaders" and "throne"
- (C) "grew" and "more"
- (D) "crueler" and "threatening"

Session 2—Reading and Writing

Directions

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

- The Secret Life of Cows
- Why Farmers Should Grow Organic
- Organic Farming Isn't the Answer

Then you will write about what you read.

Now turn the page and begin.

SAMPLE

Read this article. Then answer questions 40 through 43.

Organic Farming Isn't the Answer

by Shaun Whitman

- 1 In her article “Why Farmers Should Grow Organic,” Priya Patel makes a strong case for organic farming. She argues that organic farming can help protect people and the earth. Though Ms. Patel brings up some interesting points in her article, she neglects to mention some key facts.
- 2 Ms. Patel is correct in that organic farming can help reduce pollution. The lack of pesticides on organic farms will help keep our water and soil clean. However, Ms. Patel doesn't explain the real cost of such practices. The natural fertilizers and pesticides organic farmers use are often very expensive. Also, the natural methods organic farmers use are not as effective as chemical pesticides at keeping harmful bugs and diseases at bay. This means that organic farmers will often lose many crops.
- 3 These factors force organic farmers to raise the price of their produce. Look at the prices of regular bananas and organic bananas next time you're at the store. You'll probably notice that the organic bananas cost much more. This is because organic farmers must pass the cost of their practices along to the consumers to make a profit.
- 4 Ms. Patel also argues that organic foods are healthier because they have more nutrients. But this isn't the case. In 2012, researchers at Stanford University looked at more than two hundred studies that compared organic foods and regular foods. They found that organic foods do have fewer chemicals. But they also found that organic foods don't have any more vitamins or minerals than regular foods do. So, eating an organic pear is really no better than eating a regular pear.
- 5 Contact with chemicals is a concern for some people. However, they can take steps to make sure that regular produce is safe to eat. Thoroughly washing fruits and vegetables under running water removes dirt, chemicals, and bacteria. You can also peel the skins off fruits and vegetables. People with concerns may also be comforted by the fact that the government inspects produce. The government makes sure that the amount of chemicals on regular produce does not exceed a certain safety limit.
- 6 Organic farming does have its benefits. Some organic farmers have even enjoyed great success as the demand for organic foods increases. But many farmers cannot afford to go organic, and most would end up losing money on failed crops. In the end, encouraging all farmers to grow organic foods just isn't practical.

40

For which of his points could Shaun Whitman have made a stronger argument? Use details from the article to support your response.

41

Which fact about organic farming does “Organic Farming Isn’t the Answer” emphasize that “Why Farmers Should Grow Organic” does not? Use details from **both** articles to support your response.

42

How do Shaun Whitman and Priya Patel likely feel about paying more for organic produce? Use details from **both** articles to support your response.

43

Which statement from “Why Farmers Should Grow Organic” does “Organic Farming Isn’t the Answer” contradict? Use details from **both** articles to support your response.

In your response, be sure to do the following:

- tell which statement is contradicted
- use details from both articles

20 horizontal lines for writing a response.