



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Practice Test Resource Material**

**Grade 8**

**Reading**

# New England Common Assessment Program

## Practice Test Resource Material

### Grade 8 Reading

Position Number	Item Type	Correct Answer	Content Cluster	GLE Indicator Number	Depth-of-Knowledge Level	Passage Name	Passage Type
1	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	C	Vocabulary	1	1	Word ID/ Vocabulary	N/A
2	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	D	Vocabulary	1	1	Word ID/ Vocabulary	N/A
3	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	D	Analysis/ Interpretation: Informational	1	1	"Porcupines"	Informational
4	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	B	Vocabulary	2	2	"Porcupines"	Informational
5	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	B	Analysis/ Interpretation: Informational	2	2	"Porcupines"	Informational
6	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	C	Analysis/ Interpretation: Informational	3	2	"Porcupines"	Informational
7	Constructed-response (4 pts.)	N/A	Analysis/ Interpretation: Informational	2	2	"Porcupines"	Informational
8	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	A	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	2	2	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
9	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	C	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	3	2	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
10	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	B	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	1	2	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
11	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	D	Vocabulary	1	1	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary

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Position Number	Item Type	Correct Answer	Content Cluster	GLE Indicator Number	Depth-of-Knowledge Level	Passage Name	Passage Type
12	Constructed-response (4 pts.)	N/A	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	1	3	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
13	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	B	Initial Understanding: Literary	1	1	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
14	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	B	Initial Understanding: Literary	2	1	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
15	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	C	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	1	2	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
16	Multiple-choice (1 pt.)	A	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	5	3	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary
17	Constructed-response (4 pts.)	N/A	Analysis/ Interpretation: Literary	3	3	"A Boy and a Man"	Literary

# NECAP Practice Test

## Grade 8

### Reading

#### Sample Constructed-Response Item (4 points)

- 7 Explain why porcupines do not have to fight. Use information from the article to support your answer.

#### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of why porcupines do not have to fight. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of why porcupines do not have to fight. Response lacks some relevant information from the article or is not fully developed.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of why porcupines do not have to fight. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal. <b>OR</b> Response only provides a personal opinion with no text support.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	Blank/no response.

#### Training Notes:

Porcupines do not have to fight because:

- Quills are stiff and cover the animal.
- Thirty thousand quills are on an adult animal's back and tail.
- Quills are needle-sharp.
- Quills slip easily and painlessly out of porcupine.
- Microscopic barbs are at the pointed end.
- Quills fly out with a lash of the tail.
- An animal that has had one encounter with a porcupine is not likely to attack it again.

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Sample 4-Point Response

Because of the stiff quills a porcupine has, there is no reason for it to fight. On an adult porcupine, there are about 30 thousand quills on its back. Each quill is as sharp as a needle and also has a microscopic barb at the pointed end. So, when a porcupine feels threatened by a person or other animal, it shakes its body or touches the thing it feels threatened by, and easily releases quills that are very painful for the receiver. Also, any animal that has had a painful experience with a porcupine will, most likely, never attack it again. They have learned from their first experience because the barbed ends of the quills can get stuck in an animal's body and become infected.

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Sample 3-Point Response

Porcupine do not have to Figh other animals because they have quills. There quill are very easy to come out because they have a barblike shape to them. The quills are very sharp, like a needle. Porcupines do not ever have to "Fight" because they are extreamnly protected by there quills. The liki lypess of a predator tryin to attack twice is very unlikely because the quills are very painfull.

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Sample 2-Point Response

They do not have to fight because there is no need to. To protect themselves, all they need to do is face their back towards their enemy and swing their club like tail and the enemy will run off with quills in its' snout.

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**Sample 1-Point Response**

They have quills that protect them from their enemies.



# NECAP Practice Test

## Grade 8

### Reading

#### Sample Constructed-Response Item (4 points)

- 12 Explain how you know it was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

#### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how the reader knows it was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man. Response includes relevant information from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of how the reader knows it was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man. Response lacks some relevant information from the passage or is not fully developed.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how the reader knows it was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man. Response uses limited information from the passage.
1	Response is vague or minimal. <b>OR</b> Response only provides a personal opinion with no text support.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
<b>Blank</b>	Blank/no response.

#### Training Notes:

#### Some ways it was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man:

- It was physically strenuous.
- It was hard due to weather and environment.
- It was mentally and emotionally challenging.

#### Examples from the passage that tell the reader it was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His toes are dug into the ice.</li> <li>• He has used his clothes as a lifeline.</li> <li>• He has lost track of time.</li> <li>• His eyes are shut tightly.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is sweating on the ice.</li> <li>• His hands ache and burn.</li> <li>• The pain is “unendurable” and he is afraid he cannot hold on any longer.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

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Sample 4-Point Response

It was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man because, for one, he had to take off all his clothes and lay in ice and snow. He also had to make holds for his feet so the man would not drag him in. We also know that the man was almost too heavy for him because he talks a lot of the strain and ache of his every muscle and Rudi thinks "But heavy, indescribably heavy!" This was not a mere man he was holding it was a giant or block of granite. The pull was unbearable." As the man moved up the line of clothes the pull was heavier and heavier and when he gets to the staff Rudi describes it as no longer a stick but a rod of hot lead.

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Sample 3-Point Response

The way that they described how hard it was for Rudi to rescue the man was. They said he had to dig with his hands and feet to make a hole that would help him keep himself up. Rudi said that it was like holding a piece of granite, and said that the man must be a giant. He also said that the ice was very cold on his bare skin.

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Sample 2-Point Response

I think it was hard for him to rescue him is because he had like no clothes on, and he was like laying on ice and the boy was heavy, he thought he couldn't do it because he didn't really have the right rope he had his clothes.

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**Sample 1-Point Response**

It was difficult for Rudi to rescue the man because it would take too long for help and Rudi had no rope so he had to think

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## Grade 8

### Reading

#### Sample Constructed-Response Item (4 points)

- 17 What are the problems Rudi faces in this passage? Explain how he solves each of them. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

#### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of the problems Rudi faces and how he solves them. Response includes relevant information from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of the problems Rudi faces and how he solves them. Response lacks some relevant information from the passage or is not fully developed.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of the problems Rudi faces and how he solves them. Response uses limited information from the passage. <b>OR</b> Response provides an explanation of the problems Rudi faces or an explanation of how he solves them. Response includes relevant information from the passage.
1	Response is vague or minimal. <b>OR</b> Response only provides a personal opinion with no text support.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
<b>Blank</b>	Blank/no response.

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#### **Training Notes:**

#### **Some problems:**

- A man has fallen into a crevasse and Rudy does not know how to help him.
- It would take too long to go for help; the man would freeze to death.
- Rudi is alone and is battling his own fear.
- Rudi may not have the strength to pull the man out of the crevasse.
- The weather is very cold.
- Rudi worries that the line may not be long enough.
- Rudi is slipping on the ice and does not know if he can hang on much longer.

#### **Some solutions:**

- Rudi removes articles of his clothing until he can make a line long enough to reach the man.
- Rudi makes two deep holes in the ice and digs his toes into them to keep from sliding.
- Rudi presses his body into the ice and digs his toes in harder when he starts to slip against the weight of the man at the end of the line.

**Student responses may vary. Any explanation that is logical and supported by information from the passage is acceptable.**



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Sample 4-Point Response

Some of the problems such faces are that he does not know what he should do to get the man out of where he is. But then he solves his problem by using his staff and using his staff as a rope. Then that is too short so he took off all his clothes to solve the problem by making the rope longer so the man could reach. Then he thought that he was showing fear and despair, while the one below facing almost death, remained calm and controlled. He said whoever it was down there was a real man and a brave man. Well he solved his problem by showing himself that he is a real man and a very brave man for what he did by saving that man.



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Sample 3-Point Response

Rudi faces many problems. He knows he should rescue the man but it will take too long to get to town for help. He doesn't know what to do. He solves this by making a chain of his clothes and pulling the man up. The pain was getting uncontrolable. He was slipping and about to let go at one point. This is when the man was almost out. Rudi held on as long as he could. Suddenly the man pulled himself up.

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Sample 2-Point Response

While he was mountain climbing he heard a voice from a crevasse. He had to get him out, but he had no rope. So instead of going to get somebody he took off all his clothing and used it as a rope. The pain was really bad, but he kept going and made the best out of it.

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**Sample 1-Point Response**

He, Budi, finds a man in a  
crevasse. How he solves it is by  
rescuing him.