

NAPLAN Year 9 Language Conventions

Free Sample Practice Test — 10 Questions

Instructions: Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) for each question. Suggested time: 8 minutes. Answers and explanations are at the end of this sheet — no peeking until you have finished!

Section 1 — Spelling

1. The spy conducted a _____ mission behind enemy lines.
A) reconaissance
B) reconnaissance
C) reconaissance
D) reconaissance
2. The committee reached a decision by _____.
A) acquiescence
B) aquiescence
C) acquiescense
D) acquiescance
3. The desert climate would _____ the already severe conditions.
A) exacerbate
B) exaccerbate
C) exaserbate
D) exasebrate
4. She was known for her _____ in her professional life.
A) conscientiousness
B) conscentiousness
C) conscienctiousness
D) conscientiousnes
5. The politician managed to _____ public anger with a statement.
A) assuage
B) asswage
C) asswaige
D) assuadge

Section 2 — Grammar and Punctuation

6. Which sentence correctly uses the subjunctive mood?
A) The board insists that the CEO resigns immediately.
B) The board insists that the CEO is to resign immediately.
C) The board insists that the CEO resign immediately.
D) The board insists that the CEO should resigns immediately.
7. Which sentence correctly uses the passive voice in an academic register?
A) They conducted the experiment under controlled conditions.
B) The experiment was conducted under controlled conditions.
C) The experiment had been conducting under controlled conditions.
D) They have been conducting the experiment under controlled conditions.

8. Which sentence correctly uses 'which' in a non-restrictive clause?

- A) The theory which Darwin proposed changed biology forever.
- B) The theory, which Darwin proposed in 1859, changed biology forever.
- C) The theory, that Darwin proposed in 1859, changed biology forever.
- D) The theory which, Darwin proposed in 1859, changed biology forever.

9. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- A) Neither the hypothesis nor the conclusion are well-supported.
- B) Neither the hypothesis nor the conclusion is well-supported.
- C) Neither the hypothesis or the conclusion are well-supported.
- D) Neither the hypothesis or the conclusion is well-supported.

10. Which sentence correctly uses a participial phrase without a dangling modifier?

- A) Having reviewed the literature, the gap in research was identified.
- B) Having reviewed the literature, the researchers identified a gap.
- C) The gap was identified, having reviewed the literature.
- D) Reviewing the literature, a gap was identified.

Answers and Explanations

Q	Answer
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	B
9	B
10	B

1. Correct answer: B

Reconnaissance comes from French and has a double 'n' and a double 's': re-con-nais-sance.

2. Correct answer: A

Acquiescence starts with 'acqu' and ends in '-escence', not '-escense' or '-escance'.

3. Correct answer: A

Exacerbate comes from Latin and is spelled ex-a-cer-bate, with a single 'c' before the 'e'.

4. Correct answer: A

Conscientiousness is 'conscientious' plus '-ness', so both letters 's' are kept: con-sci-en-tious-ness.

5. Correct answer: A

Assuage has a double 's' and ends in '-uage', like 'language': as-suage.

6. Correct answer: C

After verbs such as insist, demand and recommend, formal English uses the bare verb: 'that the CEO resign', not 'resigns'.

7. Correct answer: B

The passive voice uses 'was' plus a past participle: 'was conducted'. Academic writing often uses it to keep the focus on the action rather than the person.

8. Correct answer: B

Extra information that could be removed is set off with commas and introduced by 'which'. 'That' is used only for information the sentence needs.

9. Correct answer: B

'Neither' pairs with 'nor', not 'or'. The verb agrees with the nearest subject: 'the conclusion' is singular, so the verb is 'is'.

10. Correct answer: B

A participial phrase must describe the subject of the main clause. In B the researchers did the reviewing. In A and D the phrase wrongly seems to describe 'the gap'.

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