



NMSBA Prep Grade 3 Reading Comprehension

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To the Students

Tips for Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions have a **stem**, which is a question or incomplete sentence followed by four answer choices. You should select only one answer choice. The following are some tips to help you correctly answer multiple-choice questions on the NMSBA test:

- Read each passage carefully.
- Read each question and think about the answer. You may look back to the reading passage as often as necessary.
- Answer all questions on your answer sheet. Do not mark any answers to questions in your test booklet.
- For each question, choose the best answer and completely fill in the circle in the space provided on your answer sheet.
- If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on. You may return to it later if you have time.
- If you finish the section of the test that you are working on early, you may review your answers in that section only. Don't go on to the next section of the test.

Tips for Answering Open-Ended Questions

Remember to:

- Read the question carefully. Be sure you understand it before you begin writing.
- Be sure your essay has a main idea. This should be in your introduction.
- Support your main idea with details, explanations, and examples.
- State your ideas in a clear sequence.
- Include an opening and a closing.
- Use a variety of words and vary your sentence structure.
- Check your spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Write neatly.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG

Louis Armstrong made kinds of music that people had never heard before. Louis's music was known as jazz music. The sounds of jazz made some people want to get up and dance. Jazz made other people laugh out loud or sing along. Sometimes jazz could make people think about important ideas or even cry over sad stories. Louis Armstrong was great at making all the sounds of jazz.

Louis was born in 1901. When he was a young man, he worked hard, and at the end of the day, he liked to rest and listen to music. He met a man named Joe "King" Oliver, who became Louis's best friend. Joe gave Louis a "cornet" (a kind of horn), which Louis could use to make his own music. Louis and Joe played together in a band and many people wanted to hear them.

Louis began to play music for people on boat trips and in parades. Soon, he was famous, and he traveled around the country, singing, and playing. No matter where he was, he always gave a good show. He brought people joy. All over, people enjoyed hearing his new jazz sounds. Louis even started his own bands, like the Hot Five, the Stompers, and the Allstars.

Jazz music remained popular for many years, though many people started listening to other kinds of music also. Louis worked hard to learn these new types of sounds and songs. He wanted to bring many different sounds into his own music. That way, many listeners could enjoy the songs he played. He never stopped trying to be the best musician he could be.

Louis had a funny nickname: "Satchmo." People gave him this name when they watched him play. When Louis blew into a horn, his face puffed up and his cheeks looked as wide as a shopping bag! People said his mouth looked like a satchel, or a bag. The nickname, "Satchel Mouth," was made shorter and soon became "Satchmo."

While Louis was famous, he spent much of his time helping people in need. He wanted to make sure all people were treated fairly. Many people were very sad when Louis Armstrong died in 1971, but his music and the joy he'd brought to so many never ended.

- 1 What is the author’s main purpose in writing “Louis Armstrong”?
- A to explain how to start playing songs
 - B to teach readers about a jazz musician
 - C to tell readers a funny story about a band
 - D to show how many people enjoy music

Stop and think again about what you learned from the article. Why did the author probably write it? Did he write it to explain how to play songs (answer choice A)? No, the author doesn’t tell people how to do that. Does the article tell a funny story about a band (answer choice C)? No. The article isn’t meant to be funny, and it talks more about one man than a whole band. The article does talk about people enjoying music (answer choice D), but that’s not the most important part of the article. The author wrote the article to teach readers about a jazz musician, Louis Armstrong (answer choice B).

- 2 What is another word for popular?
- A Played
 - B Loud
 - C Pretty
 - D Liked

Go back to paragraph 4 and find the sentence with the word popular. It says, “Jazz music remained popular for many years, though many people started listening to other kinds of music also.” You can figure out the meaning of the word popular by carefully reading this sentence. It doesn’t mean played (answer choice A). It doesn’t mean loud (answer choice B) because music isn’t always loud. It could mean pretty (answer choice C), but there’s a better answer. Popular means liked (answer choice D).

3 Why was Louis given the nickname “Satchmo”?

- A He liked to sit and listen to music.
- B He thought the name was funny.
- C His horn made a strange sound.
- D His mouth was as wide as a bag.

In the article, the author tells us about Louis’s funny nickname “Satchmo.” If you don’t remember why Louis got that name, just look back to the article. Louis did like to sit and listen to music (answer choice A) but that had nothing to do with his name. Louis may have thought that “Satchmo” was a funny name (answer choice B), but the author does not tell us that. Louis’s horn may have made a strange sound (answer choice C), but, again, the author does not say this is the reason for the funny nickname. Answer choice D is best. Louis was given the nickname “Satchmo” because his mouth was wide like a bag, or a satchel.

4 What did Louis first use to make music?

- A A cornet
- B A satchel
- C A Stomper
- D An Allstar

This question asks you to remember a detail from the article. Each of the answer choices was in the article, but only one of these things can make music. Read each choice carefully. Did Louis use a satchel (answer choice B) to make music? The article tells us that a satchel is a bag—and bags don’t make much music! Did he use a Stomper (answer choice C) or an Allstar (answer choice D) to make music? Again, no, because the article tells us that these were names of his bands. Louis first used a cornet (answer choice A). The article tells us that a cornet is a kind of horn.

5 What is this article mainly about?

- A Jazz is a popular kind of music.
- B Louis Armstrong was a great jazz musician.
- C Many people have learned to play jazz music.
- D It is hard to learn to play horns.

Think about what you learned from this article. What is the most important idea that you found in the article? The article does say that jazz is popular (answer choice A), but that is just one small part of the article. Answer choice C may be true, since many people do play jazz music, but that wasn't talked about in the article. The article talks about Louis Armstrong playing a horn, but it doesn't say whether horns are hard to play (answer choice D). Answer choice B is best. The article tells about one man, Louis Armstrong, who was a great jazz player.

- 6** If Louis Armstrong were alive today, what would you most like to ask him? Use information from the article in your answer.

You have to write out your answer to this question. You might write something like this:

If Louis Armstrong were alive today, I would ask him to name his favorite song. The article says that he was a great musician and loved music. I bet he could name a beautiful song. Then I would like to listen to this song.

[illegible]

“THIS LITTLE MOUSE”

This little mouse got caught in a trap,
And this little mouse she heard it snap,
This little mouse did loudly squeak out,
And this little mouse did run all about,
This little mouse said, “Do not bewail
And let us take hold and pull him out by the tail.”



- 1 What does this poem mainly teach readers?
 - A You should run away when there is danger.
 - B You should always listen to friends.
 - C You should stay away from some traps.
 - D You should stay calm when there's trouble.

- 2 What do you think the mice in the poem will do next?
 - A They will pull the trapped mouse out by his tail.
 - B They will open up the trap the mouse was in.
 - C They will get the trapped mouse to run very fast.
 - D They will push the trapped mouse's head out.

- 3 Why did the third little mouse squeak?
 - A The mouse could not talk.
 - B The mouse was frightened.
 - C The mouse was in a hurry.
 - D The mouse saw a kitten.

4 What would you do to help one of your friends who had gotten stuck? Explain your answer.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

from “POLLYANNA”

by Eleanor H. Porter

“I’m a stranger to you, of course,” she began at once. “But I’m not a stranger to your little niece, Pollyanna. I’ve been at the hotel all summer, and every day I’ve had to take long walks for my health. It was on these walks that I’ve met your niece—she’s such a dear little girl! I wish I could make you understand what she’s been to me. I was very sad when I came up here; and her bright face and cheery ways reminded me of—my own little girl that I lost years ago. I was so shocked to hear of the accident; and then when I learned that the poor child would never walk again, and that she was so unhappy because she couldn’t be glad any longer—the dear child!—I just had to come to you.”

“You are very kind,” murmured Miss Polly.

“But it is you who are to be kind,” demurred the other. “I—I want you to give her a message from me. Will you?”

“Certainly.”

“Will you just tell her, then, that Mrs. Tarbell is glad now. Yes, I know it sounds odd, and you don’t understand. But—if you’ll pardon me I’d rather not explain.” Sad lines came to the lady’s mouth, and the smile left her eyes. “Your niece will know just what I mean; and I felt that I must tell—her. Thank you; and pardon me, please, for any seeming rudeness in my call,” she begged, as she took her leave.

Thoroughly mystified now, Miss Polly hurried up-stairs to Pollyanna’s room.

“Pollyanna, do you know a Mrs. Tarbell?”

“Oh, yes. I love Mrs. Tarbell. She’s sick, and awfully sad; and she’s at the hotel, and takes long walks. We go together. I mean—we used to.” Pollyanna’s voice broke, and two big tears rolled down her cheeks.

Miss Polly cleared her throat hurriedly.

“We’ll, she’s just been here, dear. She left a message for you—but she wouldn’t tell me what it meant. She said to tell you that Mrs. Tarbell is glad now.” Pollyanna clapped her hands softly.

“Did she say that—really? Oh, I’m so glad!”

“But, Pollyanna, what did she mean?”

“Why, it’s the game, and—” Pollyanna stopped short, her fingers to her lips.

“What game?”

“N-nothing much, Aunt Polly; that is—I can’t tell it unless I tell other things that—that I’m not to speak of.”

It was on Miss Polly's tongue to question her niece further; but the obvious distress on the little girl's face stayed the words before they were uttered.

- 1 What was Pollyanna's main problem in the story?
 - A She couldn't walk.
 - B She was very sad.
 - C She was very sick.
 - D She couldn't talk.

- 2 Why did Mrs. Tarbell most likely go to Pollyanna's house?
 - A To tell Pollyanna she was going for a walk
 - B To talk to Pollyanna's aunt
 - C To tell Pollyanna she was glad
 - D To talk about the accident

- 3 What happened before Mrs. Tarbell's visit?
 - A Pollyanna kept a secret from her aunt.
 - B Pollyanna started to cry.
 - C Pollyanna talked with her aunt.
 - D Pollyanna had an accident.

- 4 How do you think Miss Polly was feeling at the end of the story?
 - A Curious
 - B Happy
 - C Upset
 - D Bored