
Grades 6–8 Reading Language Arts

Constructed Response Scoring Guide

Sample

General Information

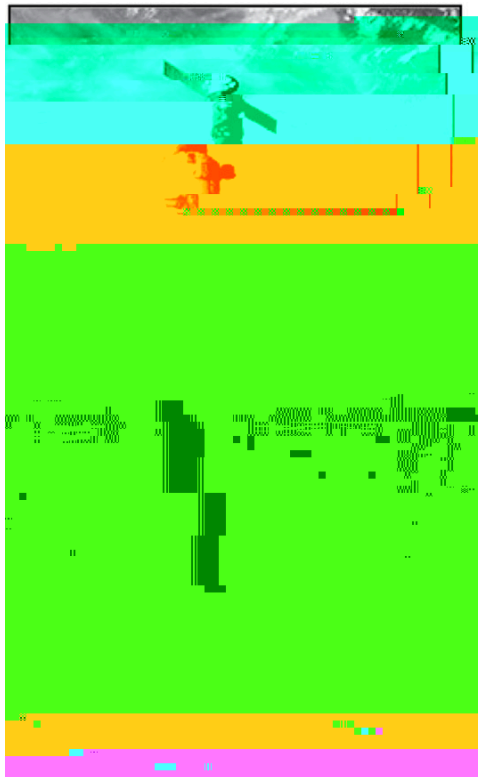
**Grade 6 Reading Passage
with Short Constructed
Response and Extended
Constructed Response**

Mission-Ready by Melanie Kletter

- 1 Life can be very unpredictable for astronauts living and working on the International Space Station (ISS). Parts of the station might stop working at any time. Space objects come flying at the station out of nowhere.
- 2 To be ready for all possibilities in space, astronauts go through a tough training regimen. NASA astronaut Ricky Arnold, a former science teacher, is in the midst of preparing for a long mission on the ISS.
- 3 “We are training every day,” Arnold told *Time for Kids*, “and no days are alike.” Although he has been to space before, his previous mission lasted only 12 days. “We are going to be up there for six months,” he said. “And things can change rapidly up there. We need to be prepared.”

A Unique Lab

- 4 The ISS is a giant flying space lab operated by the United States, Russia, Japan, Europe, and Canada. It is the size of a football field, but it zips around the Earth. Astronauts from around the world live and work together aboard the ISS. They spend much of their time conducting experiments. They also make observations of Earth and repairs to the station.



5 Mission prep begins about two years before liftoff. It covers many subjects, from astronomy and geology to aviation and photography. “[Astronauts] also learn about all the science experiments they will be doing in space,” says Tamara York, a training officer at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, in Houston, Texas. “The experiments come from all over the U.S. and the world.”

6 NASA currently relies on a Russian spacecraft to get crew to and from the ISS. Astronauts study the Russian language. They spend long periods of time at Russian facilities.

Space Conditions

7 One of the most difficult tasks astronauts aboard the ISS face is going outside the station to do repairs. Practicing for these spacewalks is a key part of training.

8 To prepare, astronauts spend time in NASA’s Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Houston. It is the world’s largest indoor pool. The conditions there are close to those in space. While diving, astronauts wear the space suit they would wear on a spacewalk.

9 Astronauts also spend time in a virtual-reality lab. They wear a headset while inside a space-like environment. “Technology has given us better training materials and methods,” York says. “We have more robotics and 3D virtual training.”

Safety First

10 Arnold says that much of his training focuses on preparing for problems that might come up in space. “All manner of emergencies can happen,” York says. “Very critical things can occur, and the astronauts need to be ready.” Astronauts learn what to do if there is a fire on the station, for example. They must know how to fix parts of the ISS. All astronauts need to learn how to solder metal. Arnold has even completed a round of training at a hospital emergency room. “If you need stitches, it’s going to be you or one of your buddies doing it for you,” he says.

11 Astronauts must relearn how to get dressed, go to the bathroom, and take care of their living areas in a weightless environment. They get tips from other astronauts.

- 12 “On my first mission, a guy who had flown before told me about the best way to set up my sleeping bag and toothbrush,” Arnold says.
- 13 Arnold notes that a safe mission always involves teamwork. “You are part of an international team working together to make something spectacular happen,” he says. “That sense of teamwork and purpose is the best part of the job.”

A New Class

- 14 It’s not easy to become a NASA astronaut. In 2017, 12 people were selected for NASA’s new astronaut class. The seven men and five women were chosen from a field of more than 18,000 applicants. Candidates need a degree in engineering, biological science, physical science, computer science, or math.
- 15 “We look forward to the talent of these astronauts fueling our exciting future of discovery,” Robert Lightfoot, NASA’s administrator, said in June, when the class was announced.
- 16 The new astronauts have already begun a two-year training program at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, in Houston, Texas. They will study spacecraft systems, aviation, spacewalking skills, team building, and the Russian language.

“Mission-Ready” by Melanie Kletter from TIME FOR KIDS, Time, Inc. © 2017.

Sample Student Responses

Score Point 0s

Its going to the stuff of a nasa astronauts lif

Score Point 2s

I think the main message the author is trying to construct is “Working on the ISS is difficult and is a struggle for people even if they already know a lot of science and technology. It takes a lot of time and effort for the people who really believe they want to be an astronaut.”

Supported sentences from article.

Paragraph 1, “Life can be very unpredictable for astronauts on the ISS”

“part of the station might stop working at any time.”

Paragraph 5 “Mission prep begins but two years before liftoff”

Paragraph 14 “12 out of 18,000 applicants were approved by NASA’s”

Score Point 2

The writer states the author’s main message is (“Working on the ISS is difficult and is a struggle for people even if they already know a lot of science and technology”). This is an acceptable answer. The writer includes relevant evidence to support the author’s main message (“Life can be very unpredictable for astronauts on the ISS”) and (“part of the station might stop working at any time”). Additional quotes from the article provide supplementary evidence to the author’s main message (“Mission prep begins but two years before liftoff” and “12 out of 18,000 applicants were approved by NASA’s”).

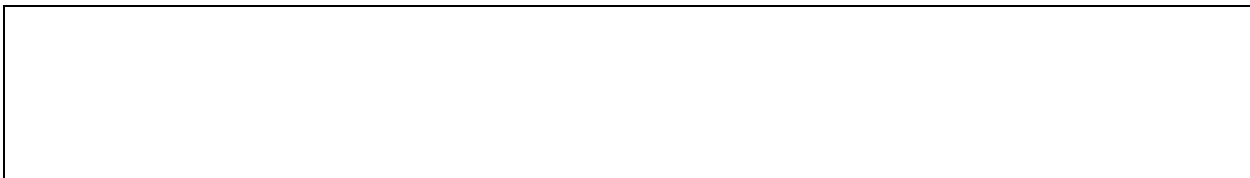
I think the main message is that it takes a lot of hard work and training to become a part of the ISS, “Mission prep begins about two years before liftoff.”

Score Point 2

The writer states the author’s main message is (“it takes a lot of hard work and training to become a part of the ISS”). This response is an acceptable answer. Relevant evidence is included as support (“Mission prep begins about two years before liftoff”).



<p>1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling idea/Thesis is evident but not developed A controlling idea/thesis is present but not developed appropriately in response to the writing task. • Organization is minimal and/or weak An introduction or conclusion may be present. An organizational structure that supports logical development is not always evident or is not appropriate to the task. • Evidence is insufficient and/or mostly irrelevant Little text-based evidence is presented to support the controlling idea/thesis, or the evidence presented is mostly extraneous and/or repetitious. Explanation of any evidence presented is insufficient and may be only vaguely related to the writing task. For pairs in grades 6 through EOC, evidence is drawn from only one text. The response reflects a limited understanding of the writing purpose. • Expression of ideas is ineffective The writer’s word choice is vague or limited and may impede the quality and clarity of the essay. Sentences and phrases are often ineffective, interfere with the writer’s intended meaning, and impact the strength and clarity of the message.
<p>0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A controlling idea/thesis may be evident. • The response lacks an introduction and conclusion. An organizational structure is not evident. • Evidence is not provided or is irrelevant. • The response reflects a lack of understanding of the writing purpose. • The expression of ideas is unclear and/or incoherent. <p><i>Please note that if a response receives a score point 0 in the Development and Organization of Ideas trait, the response will also earn 0 points in the Conventions trait.</i></p>
<p>Score Point</p>	<p>Conventions</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Student writing demonstrates consistent command of grade-level-appropriate conventions, including correct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentence construction • punctuation • capitalization • grammar • spelling <p>The response has few errors, but those errors do not impact the clarity of the writing.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>Student writing demonstrates inconsistent command of grade-level-appropriate conventions, including limited use of correct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentence construction • punctuation • capitalization • grammar • spelling <p>The response has several errors, but the reader can understand the writer’s thoughts.</p>



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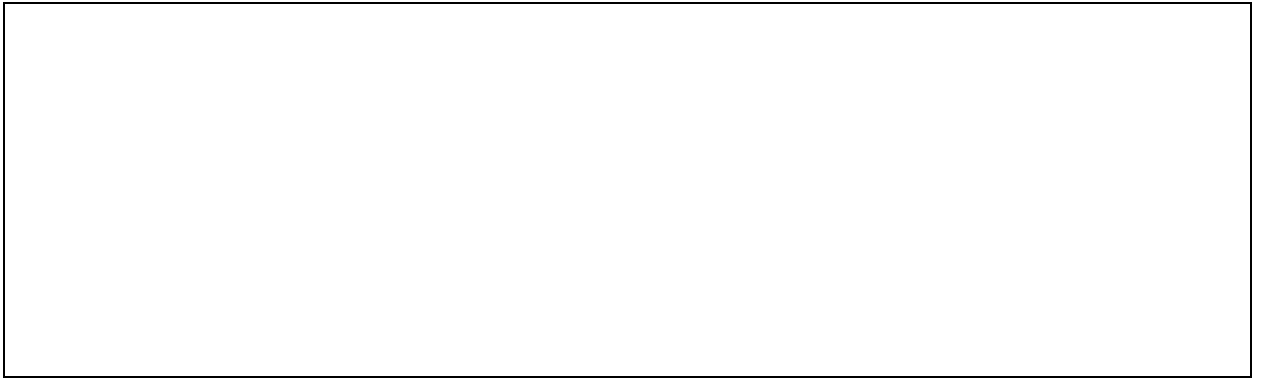
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“We are training everyday...” In the selection “Mission-Ready” by Melanie Kletter, she

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Score Point 1s

I like it, because it is fun.

Score Point 1

It is a good idea by
the people who
are interested

It's not European vacation or the mountains, but it is more fun than staying at home all summer.

Score Point 1

It is a good idea by
the people who
are interested