



Illinois ELA Assessment

Practice Item Answer Key

Grade 8 - Online and Text-to-Speech

The following pages include the answer key for all machine-scored items, followed by a breakdown of the writing rubric expectations for prose-constructed responses.

Item Number	Answer Key
1.	Part A: D Part B: E,F
2.	Part A: C Part B: D
3.	Part A: A Part B: A
4.	Part A: D Part B: A
5.	Part A: D Part B: B
6.	Row 1: John F. Kennedy Row 2: Hans-Peter Spitzner Row 3: Nikita Khrushchev
7.	Row 1: "The Cold War in Berlin" Row 2: The Berlin Wall Row 3: Both Row 4: "The Cold War in Berlin"
8.	Open Ended

#8 Open Ended

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score	A top response may include but is not limited to the following information:
1	<p>Both articles focused on the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Berlin Wall</i> focuses on East and West Germany after the wall was built, while “The Cold War in Berlin” supports it by providing background information before the wall was built. • The city of Berlin in Germany was separated by a wall into East Germany, which was communist, and West Germany, which was not communist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “East Germany was a communist state. The Soviet Union strongly influenced its politics, economy, and social structure. West Germany, on the other hand, was a capitalist state.” (<i>The Berlin Wall</i>, paragraph 4) ○ “The Soviet Union occupied East Germany and installed a rigidly controlled communist state. The other three Allies shared the occupation of West Germany and helped rebuild the country as a capitalist democracy.” (“The Cold War in Berlin,” paragraph 2) <p><i>The Berlin Wall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Berlin Wall</i> mostly focuses on East Berlin and West Berlin after the wall had been put up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “What the Berlin Wall really did was keep East Berliners and East Germans out of West Berlin.” (paragraph 8) • <i>The Berlin Wall</i> describes what the wall was made of. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “This barrier consisted of an 11.8-foot (3.6 m) cement wall, electrified and alarm-rigged fencing, barbed wire, armed guards in watchtowers, guard dogs, trenches, tank obstacles, and more.” (paragraph 6) • <i>The Berlin Wall</i> describes the differences between East Berlin and West Berlin after the wall was built. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “But West Berlin was not a prison. It was a prosperous and lively city. West Berliners could travel freely to West Germany. And from there, they could go nearly anywhere in the world.” (paragraph 7) ○ “What the Berlin Wall really did was keep East Berliners and East Germans out of West Berlin. East Germany was neither prosperous nor lively.” (paragraph 8) <p>“The Cold War in Berlin”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Cold War in Berlin” mainly focuses on East Berlin and West Berlin after Berlin had been divided, but before the wall was built. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Many East Germans did not want to live in a communist country and crossed into West Berlin.” (paragraph 3) • “The Cold War in Berlin” explains John F. Kennedy’s meeting with Nikita Khrushchev before the wall was built and how this meeting influenced the building of the wall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Not only was the summit unsuccessful in its goal of building trust, but it also increased tensions between the two superpowers—particularly in discussions regarding the divided city of Berlin.” (paragraph 4) • “The Cold War in Berlin” provides background information on why the city of Berlin was divided after World War II. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “At the end of World War II, the main Allied powers—the United States, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union—divided Germany into two zones.” (paragraph 1)
0	The response is incorrect or irrelevant.