

Illinois ELA Assessment

Practice Item Answer Key

Grade 8 - ELA plus extensions, ELA plus TTS, ELA plus TTS and extensions

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
9.	Part A: B Part B: A
10.	Part A: A Part B: D
11.	Part A: B Part B: B
12.	Part A: A Part B: A

13.	Part A: B Part B: A
14	Part A: B Part B: B
15.	Drop-Down 1: impossible Drop-Down 2: more optimistic about solving
16.	1. Isabella discovers that the Cinco de Mayo festival has been canceled. 2. Isabella recalls many happy moments during past Cinco de Mayo celebrations. 3. Seeing the courtyard for herself, Isabella creates a list of all the tasks that need to be completed. 4. Isabella reflects on the people in the community with the skills to help make the festival happen. 5. Confident in the community's love for the festival, Isabella decides to reach out for help.
17.	Open Ended

#8 Open Ended
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

A top response may include but is not limited to the following information:

Both articles focused on the following information:

- *The Berlin Wall* 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.
 - “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.” (*The Berlin Wall*, 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)

The Berlin Wall

- *The Berlin Wall* mostly focuses on East Berlin and West Berlin after the wall had been put up.
 - “What the Berlin Wall really did was keep East Berliners and East Germans out of West Berlin.” (paragraph 8)
- *The Berlin Wall* describes what the wall was made of.
 - “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)
- *The Berlin Wall* describes the differences between East Berlin and West Berlin after the wall was built.
 - “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)

“The Cold War in Berlin”

- “The Cold War in Berlin” mainly focuses on East Berlin and West Berlin after Berlin had been divided, but before the wall was built.
 - “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.
 - “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.
 - “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)

#17 Open Ended
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

A top response may include but is not limited to the following information:

Students may continue the narrative using some of these plot events and details:

- Describes who Isabella calls and why she decides to call that person first. The person she calls could be any of the following characters, but is not limited to:
 - her mom or her sister because they are sad the festival is being canceled
 - Liam because his dad makes props
 - Ava because her mom owns a landscaping company
- Describes the steps they take to clean up the community center courtyard.
 - Isabella's list (paragraph 8) and illustration (after paragraph 8) include: remove debris and leaves, gather branches, repair the stage, fix broken picnic tables, and repaint the gazebo.
- May include a description of the Cinco de Mayo celebration
 - decorating, piñatas, food, music, dancing
- Setting and Character Continuation
 - Maintains the setting of the community center courtyard and Isabella's house