



**MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION,
YOUTH &
INFORMATION**



**Grade 6
Language Arts
Sample Items**

Performance Task

Prepared by the Student Assessment Unit
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Introduction

This booklet consists of items originally found on the 2019 administration of the Primary Exit Profile (PEP) Language Arts Performance Task (PT). Four items are contained within this booklet. These items are intended to provide a guide that should support the preparation of students for the 2022 administration of the Language Arts Performance Task.

Grade 6 Performance Task

General Instructions:

This task has three parts: Part 1A, Part 1B, and Part 2.

There are two sources provided. Read the letter to the editor in Source 1 and the comments in Source 2. Then, use them to answer the questions that follow in Part 1A and Part 1B, as well as Part 2.

Overall Description of Task

Source 1

One Good Move Deserves Another

Dear Editor

Recently, the government of Jamaica announced their intention to ban sugary drinks in schools. This ban appears to be targeting drinks such as sodas as well as other drinks which may have been made with high levels of sugar. This is a good decision that the government has made. They have to help the citizens to make better choices.

Too much sugar can be unhealthy. Research has shown that the consumption of large amounts of sugar can contribute to medical conditions like obesity.

According to the Minister of Health, Dr Chris Tufton, "almost 70 per cent of Jamaican children consume one or more sugar-sweetened beverages per day." He also said that "the frequency of obesity in children 13 to 15 years increased by 68 per cent and doubled in boys, over the past seven years."

However, if the government is truly interested in improving the overall health of our children then they may want to consider doing more. This will ensure that our children are making healthy choices at school. This would include limiting how often fried food, pastry and salty snacks are served in school canteens. Students should participate in physical activities like playing football, netball and basketball. Playing games such as dominoes and scrabble are also helpful mind-building activities. Also, participating in a Debating Club can really help children to become confident individuals. The Debating Club will allow students to see different points-of-view in an argument. This contributes to the development of healthy minds.

The ban on sugary drinks is a good thing. But it is not enough if we are serious about making our children live healthier lives.

James Williams
Concerned Parent

Source 2

The following comments were posted in response to the letter to the editor in Source 1. Read them carefully before answering the questions in Part 1A, Part 1B, and Part 2.



Deborah

It's great to see the government taking a step in the right direction where sodas are concerned. Sodas have too much sugar which will negatively affect children's concentration. Parents need to be on board too.



Janet

The children and adults today watch TV or use their tablets Ipads/Ipods and don't get enough exercise like we did. I try to keep my grandchildren active as much as possible when they are at my house.



Celia

I am in my mid-sixties and we had any amount of sugary drinks in school and there were no problems then. What has changed?



Brewster

This is excellent news. There are too many incidents of young people being diagnosed with diabetes and kidney disease.



Lloyd

Good move. Sometimes you have to save some people from themselves.



Jennifer

Many schools will be quick to sell sodas instead of freshly made juices. Also, other schools ban sugary drinks yet they keep having cake sale. Is it the drink we intend to ban or the sugary content?



Donville

I agree that we should ensure that our children are healthy in both mind and body.

Part 1A

Instructions:

This part has TWO (2) questions. Read each question carefully then answer ONLY ONE question.

- Which **TWO** details from **Source 1** indicate the letter writer's support for the ban on sugary drinks?
 - They have to help the citizens to make better choices.
 - The frequency of obesity in children 13 to 15 years increased by 68 per cent.
 - The government of Jamaica announced their intention to ban sugary drinks in schools.
 - The ban on sugary drinks is a good thing.
 - Jamaican children consume one or more sugar-sweetened beverages per day.

OR

Read the statement below and use it to answer question 2.

Something other than sugary drinks may be causing children to be unhealthy.

- Which **TWO** persons from **Source 2** support the statement?
 - Janet
 - Lloyd
 - Celia
 - Deborah
 - Brewster

Strand:
Research

Objective:
Apply various reading strategies to interpret text information.

Item Description:
Students are required to read the given source and identify supporting details for the ban on sugary drinks.

Key Description:
A and D

Strand:
Research

Objective:
Identify and discuss connection with texts: text-to-self.

Item Description:
Students are required to read the source and evaluate the comments to determine the persons in support of the given inference.

Key Description:
A and C

Part 1B

Instructions:

Read each statement in the table carefully then indicate, by shading, whether each statement is supported by Source 1, Source 2, Both Sources or Neither Source.

Statement	Source 1 supports	Source 2 supports	Both Sources support	Neither source supports
More can be done to ensure that students make healthy choices at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ban on sugary drinks in schools is only for students 13 to 15 years.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Strand:
Research

Objective:
Summarize and synthesize the content of information read.

Item Description:
Students are required to read the sources and deduce which source(s) is supporting the given statement.

Key Description:
Both Sources support

Strand:
Research

Objective:
Summarize and synthesize the content of information read.

Item Description:
Students are required to read the sources and deduce which source(s) is supporting the given statement.

Key Description:
Neither source supports

Statement	Source 1 supports	Source 2 supports	Both Sources support	Neither source supports
Sodas are a type of sugary drink.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are different points-of-view on whether or not children should be allowed to have sugary drinks in schools?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Strand:
Research

Objective:
Summarize and synthesize the content of information read.

Item Description:
Students are required to read the sources and deduce which source(s) is supporting the given statement.

Key Description:
Both Sources support

Strand:
Research

Objective:
Summarize and synthesize the content of information read.

Item Description:
Students are required to read the sources and deduce which source(s) is supporting the given statement.

Key Description:
Source 2 supports

Part 1C

Instructions:

Read the information below then write your answer in the space provided.

Using evidence from **Source 1** and **Source 2**, explain what **may happen** to a child who consumes large amounts of sweet drinks on a daily basis.

Strand:
Research

Objective:

- Use a range of sources to locate information
- Answer written questions that focus on the evaluative level of comprehension

Item Description:

Students are required to read and evaluate the sources, then use evidence from the sources to explain what may happen to a child who consumes large amounts of sweet drinks on a daily basis.

Key Description:

Explanation about the onset of non-communicable illnesses (obesity/diabetes/kidney disease/heart disease) is given and supported by both sources.

Part 2

Instructions:

Read the task below, and the information about what to include in your essay then begin your work. You may also look at the answers you wrote to earlier questions.

Task

Write an essay explaining **THREE** things students at your school can do to remain healthy. Your essay **MUST** include evidence from **both Source 1 and Source 2**, as well as your **own experiences**.

When you write your essay remember that it should:

- *have an introduction and conclusion*
- *stay on the topic*
- *use details from the two sources to support your opinion*
- *give details from the sources in your own words*
- *follow rules of writing (spelling, punctuation, and grammar usage)*

Strand:
Writing

Objective:

- Apply stages of the writing process in producing a range of written pieces.
- Organize information located from various sources.

Item Description:

Students are required to read and evaluate the sources, then use evidence from the sources to write an essay explaining what students can do at their school to remain healthy.

Key Description:

- **Effective organization**
Opinion is clearly stated and response is adjusted to the purpose. Physical separation of paragraphs must be present.
- **Effective Elaboration**
The sources are integrated and relevant. (Three ways to remain healthy are explained)
- **Language Conventions**
Adequate vocabulary usage; correct punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and spelling.

