

PARENT / TEACHER EDITION

M-STEP READINESS CHALLENGE

VERSION 1 - ANSWER KEY AND SCORING GUIDE



Keep this booklet separate

Do not give this answer guide to either child before both tests are complete.

Score selected-response questions after completion. Use the rubric for Question 24.

This home score is diagnostic only and is not an official M-STEP scale score.

ADMINISTRATION AND SCORING

Administration Guide

Recommended administration

Session 1 - ELA: allow approximately 65-75 minutes.

Break: provide a supervised 10-minute break.

Session 2 - Mathematics: allow approximately 55-65 minutes.

An adult may read general directions but should not define tested words, explain passages, suggest operations, or identify incomplete multi-select answers.

If a child finishes unusually early, require a quiet review of marked answers for the remaining session time.

Point System

Component	Points	Scoring
ELA Questions 1-23	23	1 point each; multi-select is all-or-nothing
ELA Question 24	4	Use the constructed-response rubric
Mathematics Questions 1-20	20	1 point each; tables and multi-select are all-or-nothing
Total	47	Home readiness score only

Interpret carefully

The real M-STEP is computer adaptive and uses a state scale score. Do not convert this raw percentage into an official proficiency prediction. Use missed skills to select future practice.

ELA ANSWER KEY - QUESTIONS 1-12

English Language Arts Answers

1	B Main problem They miss the directions while planning their movie and fail to make a strong base.
2	B and C Text evidence Both details directly show that they began work without hearing or understanding the required steps.
3	C Theme The story connects inattention with extra work and careful listening with a successful repair.
4	C Evidence for theme Elliana clearly states the correct time for each kind of activity.
5	A Vocabulary in context The whispers repeatedly stop and restart; they continue without giving up.
6	B Sequence Juju's waffle comment follows immediately after the sculpture lands in paint.
7	A Inference The teacher requires the students to find their missed step and take responsibility for solving the problem.
8	B Author's craft The comparison creates humor and helps the reader picture the flattened sculpture.
9	C Point of view An outside narrator uses third-person names and pronouns.
10	B Summary This choice includes the cause, central problem, and resolution without irrelevant details.
11	B Central idea The passage explains several adaptations that support a hummingbird's high-energy life.
12	A and C Supporting details The heartbeat and wingbeat numbers are direct evidence of rapid body activity.

ELA ANSWER KEY - QUESTIONS 13-23

13 B | Vocabulary in context

The passage defines torpor as a deep, sleep-like energy-saving state.

14 C | Cause and effect

Torpor lowers body activity and energy use when cold or limited food creates a challenge.

15 A | Text structure

The headings separate information about body speed, wings, food, nighttime slowing, and survival.

16 B | Key detail

The passage states that insects supply protein and other nutrients.

17 B | Text evidence

This sentence directly supports the answer to Question 16.

18 A | Author's purpose

The exact numbers demonstrate the extraordinary speed of the bird's heart and wings.

19 B | Writing: introduction

It introduces both the topic and the responsibility involved in keeping a class pet.

20 A and D | Precise language

Darted and zipped both describe quick, exact movement toward the flower.

21 C | Spelling

Sidewok should be spelled sidewalk.

22 C | Grammar

The plural subject birds requires fly, not flies.

23 D | Research

A university wildlife program is the most relevant expert source for safe directions.

ELA QUESTION 24 - CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE RUBRIC

Question 24 Rubric - 4 Points

Points	Level	Description
4	Complete and well supported	Clearly explains both responses to challenge; uses one accurate detail from each passage; connects the evidence to the explanation; organized in complete sentences with only minor errors.
3	Mostly complete	Explains both passages and includes evidence from both, but one explanation or connection is general, uneven, or slightly unclear.
2	Partial	Explains only one passage well, or discusses both passages but supplies accurate evidence from only one; organization or conventions may interfere somewhat.
1	Minimal	Shows limited understanding; gives a relevant statement or isolated detail but does not adequately answer both parts.
0	Insufficient	Blank, copied without explanation, off topic, or demonstrates no accurate understanding of either passage.

Example of a 4-point response

After Elliana and Ari's sculpture collapses, they stop blaming the materials, read the directions, build a strong base, and reuse part of the failed project as the Waffle Bat. Hummingbirds face a different challenge because their fast bodies require a great deal of energy. When cold nights or limited food make that energy difficult to maintain, some hummingbirds enter torpor. Torpor lowers their heart rate, body temperature, and energy use until morning. Both texts show that a challenge can be handled by changing what you are doing instead of continuing the same unsuccessful action.

MATHEMATICS ANSWER KEY - QUESTIONS 1-10

Mathematics Answers

1 Yes, Yes, No, Yes | Comparison

398 is less than 403; 760 is greater than 706; 599 is not equal to 590; 845 is less than 854.

2 A | Ordering numbers

Compare hundreds first, then tens and ones: 405, 450, 504, 540.

3 A, B, and C | Place value

6 hundreds, 60 tens, and 600 ones each equal 600. The 6 in 263 equals 60.

4 C | Number line

Point P is on the sixth jump of 10 after 300: 360.

5 C | Pattern

The pattern adds 20 each time, so $185 + 20 = 205$.

6 B | Estimation

287 rounds to 300 and 416 rounds to 400; $300 + 400 = 700$.

7 B | Subtraction

$902 - 478 = 424$.

8 B | Error analysis

Subtraction is not performed by always taking the smaller digit from the larger digit; regrouping must preserve place value.

9 True, False, True, False | Equation reasoning

$368 + 257 = 625$; $700 - 286 = 414$; $8 \times 6 = 48$; $35 \div 5 = 7$.

10 C | Multiplication model

4 equal rows of 6 represent $4 \times 6 = 24$.

MATHEMATICS ANSWER KEY - QUESTIONS 11-20

11 C | Division

$32 \div 4 = 8$ crackers per child.

12 B | Unknown factor

$7 \times 6 = 42$.

13 B | Fraction model

Three of eight equal parts are shaded, so the fraction is $\frac{3}{8}$.

14 C | Fraction number line

Point Q is the third of four equal intervals after 0: $\frac{3}{4}$.

15 C | Area

$7 \times 4 = 28$ square units.

16 C | Perimeter

$5 + 3 + 5 + 3 = 16$ inches.

17 C | Elapsed time

2:35 to 3:00 is 25 minutes and 3:00 to 3:20 is 20 minutes; total 45 minutes.

18 B | Measurement

$7 \frac{3}{4} - 2 \frac{1}{4} = 5 \frac{1}{2}$ inches.

19 C | Money

2 quarters (50) + 3 dimes (30) + 1 nickel (5) + 4 pennies (4) = 89 cents.

20 B | Data

Thursday shows 9 and Monday shows 4; $9 - 4 = 5$.

SCORE SUMMARY AND DIAGNOSTIC PROFILE

Score Summary

Area	Earned	Possible
ELA selected response		23
ELA constructed response		4
Mathematics		20
TOTAL		47

Home Readiness Bands

Raw score	Home interpretation	Next step
43-47	Strong performance	Review individual misses and continue mixed practice.
37-42	Generally ready	Practice the two weakest skill groups.
30-36	Developing	Use targeted lessons before another readiness test.
0-29	Needs substantial review	Return to shorter skill lessons and retest later.

CORRECTION LOG AND SOURCES

Correction Log

Question	Skill	What caused the mistake?	Corrected answer

Source and design note

This original home assessment was informed by the Michigan Department of Education Grade 3 M-STEP paper/pencil sample item sets. Hummingbird facts were paraphrased from the Smithsonian's National Zoo resource. No official M-STEP questions were copied into this packet.

Michigan samples: michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/m-step/content-specific-information/paper-pencil-sample-item-sets
Hummingbird facts: nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/hummingbirds