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NYSTCE MS Teachers of Childhood 1-6 Certification Exam

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Question: 1

Which of the following would be most useful in assessing and documenting students' language progress throughout a school year?

- A. An audio/video recording of each student reading the same text at the beginning of the year and again at the end of the year
- B. A portfolio including pre-tests, post-tests, vocabulary work, journal entries, writing assignments, group projects, and other relevant work from throughout the year
- C. Score composites and details from state- and national-referenced exams or other standardized tests.
- D. A detailed narrative composed by the student's teacher, detailing strengths, weaknesses, and descriptions of the student's work.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Assessment is an ongoing process that involves formal testing and a host of other methods. Students are working at any given time in the school year on a multitude of skills sets, and all of these skills are interrelated and developing simultaneously at different rates. It is impossible to ever provide a "snapshot" of a student's abilities, because each student develops in a unique and complex manner. Choice "a" would only offer insight into a student's reading fluency. Choice "c" would show how a student could perform on standardized tests; however, many factors such as anxiety and test-taking speed affect those scores. Choice "d" relies on the teacher to interpret the students strengths and weaknesses and would require an almost impossible attention to detail. Choice "b" includes both formal and informal assessments as well as giving insight into writing, vocabulary and other skill sets in a comprehensive portfolio.

Question: 2

Following a typical developmental sequence, which of the following is expected of second graders in decoding and identifying new or unfamiliar words?

- A. Identifying new words and compound words via phonics, roots, suffixes, and analogies
- B. Identifying new word meanings through knowledge of familiar synonyms and antonyms
- C. Identifying new word meanings by comparing to known homophones and homographs
- D. Identifying new word meanings by roots, prefixes, suffixes, idioms, and dictionary markings

Answer: B

Explanation:

According to many academic standards, second graders should be able to determine the meanings of new or unfamiliar words by comparing them to synonyms (words with similar meanings) and antonyms (words with opposite meanings). First graders are expected to use phonics (letter-sound correspondences), word roots, word suffixes, and analogies (A) to decode words for reading. It is expected of third graders to use not only known synonyms and antonyms,

but additionally homophones (words sounding the same with different meanings) and homographs (words spelled the same but with different meanings) they know to discern new or unfamiliar word meanings (C). Determining word meanings by referring to word roots, prefixes, suffixes, idiomatic expressions, and familiar diacritical marks used in dictionaries (D) is expected of fourth graders.

Question: 3

A student is taking a reading test. The teacher has blocked out a number of words. Each blank is assigned a set of three possible words. The student must select the correct word from each set so that the text makes sense. The student is taking:

- A. A cloze test
- B. A maze test
- C. A multiple-choice quiz
- D. A vocabulary test

Answer: B

Explanation:

A maze test is a specific type of cloze test. In a cloze test, words are deleted, and the reader must supply the missing words using contextual clues and vocabulary that is familiar. A maze test is a multiple-choice application of a cloze test.

Question: 4

Which of the following reflects MLA guidelines for citing internet sources with regard to page numbers in in-text citations in research papers?

- A. A source from the internet should not be used if it does not include page numbers in any form.
- B. If a printout from a website has page numbers, citations should include these numbers.
- C. In-text citations of online sources in research papers should never include page numbers.
- D. If the source is a PDF file, the page numbers from the file should be in citations.

Answer: D

Explanation:

When an online source is in the PDF file format or another file format that has stable pagination, MLA guidelines advise to include applicable page numbers in in-text citations because these numbers are valid and will not change. Therefore, choice D is correct. If an internet source has no pagination, as often happens, the MLA does not advise avoiding the citation, so choice A is incorrect. Rather, it advises simply making the citation without page numbers. Although a printout of an internet source will by necessity have page numbers (for the printed pages), these page numbers will be inconsistent from one printout to another, unlike PDFs. Therefore, the MLA advises not including these page numbers even if you see them, so choice B is incorrect. As already explained, there are cases where an online source will have stable pagination, and the MLA recommends including page numbers in citations of these sources, so choice C is incorrect.

Question: 5

Among assessments of reading comprehension, which of these compares student scores to the average scores of a sample of students representing the same population?

- A. A norm-referenced state test
- B. An informal reading inventory
- C. A curriculum-based assessment
- D. A criterion-referenced state test

Answer: A

Explanation:

Norm-referenced tests compare student scores to the average scores of a normative sample of similar students that represents the target population. Informal reading inventories (B) use graded word lists, reading passages from authentic texts, and comprehension questions to identify student reading levels, strengths, and instructional needs rather than comparing student scores to normative group scores. Curriculum-based assessments (C) test student knowledge of the specific material included in the school's curriculum rather than comparing scores. Criterion-referenced tests (D) compare student performance against pre-established criteria for mastery of specific skills, not other students' performance.

Question: 6

Context clues are useful in:

- A. Predicting future action
- B. Understanding the meaning of words that are not familiar
- C. Understanding character motivation
- D. Reflecting on a text's theme

Answer: B

Explanation:

Context clues offer insight into the probable meaning of unfamiliar words.

Question: 7

A teacher designs lessons for the upcoming week. During the first part of the week, the teacher is going to divide the class into two sections. While one group is working independently on their projects, the other group will sit in a circle. The teacher has broken a story up into several sections, and each student will read a section aloud. The teacher will note for her records how many errors a student makes. She will also administer a brief

verbal "quiz" to which the students will respond in writing. The combination of verbal reading results and comprehension quiz results will give her a better understanding of each child's abilities and/or needs. What kind of assessment did this teacher use?

- A. Cloze-style
- B. Informal reading inventory
- C. Student response form
- D. Articulation assessment

Answer: B

Explanation:

The teacher used an informal reading inventory to gain insight into the students' abilities in a larger group setting. While some informal reading inventories, or IRIS, are administered between one teacher and one student, these inventories usually work best in a group setting. The benefit of this type of assessment is that it provides insight within the context of an entire class or large group in a short period of time. This assessment does not provide specific or generalized information about the students' progress, but rather allows the teacher to gauge her students' needs at any given point during instruction.

Question: 8

Phonemic awareness is a type of:

- A. Phonological awareness. Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize sounds within words.
- B. Phonics. It is a teaching technique whereby readers learn the relationship between letters and sounds.
- C. Alphabetization. Unless a reader knows the alphabet, phonemic awareness is useless.
- D. Syntactical awareness. Understanding the underlying structure of a sentence is key to understanding meaning.

Answer: A

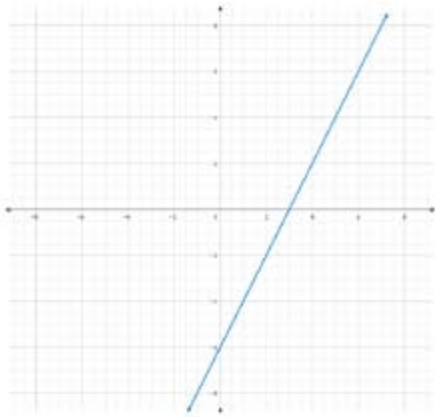
Explanation:

Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize sounds within words, so it is a type of phonological awareness. Segmenting words and blending sounds are components of phonemic awareness. Phonological awareness includes an understanding of multiple components of spoken language. The ability to hear individual words within a vocalized stream and the ability to identify spoken syllables are types of phonological awareness.

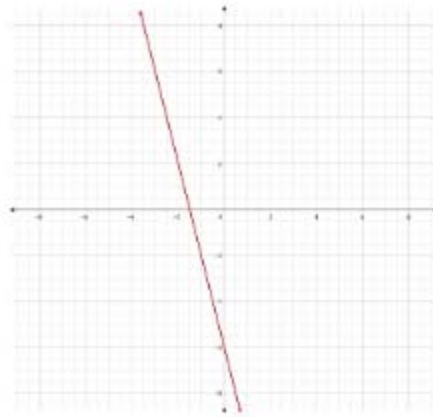
Question: 9

Which of the following is the graph of the equation $y = -4x - 6$?

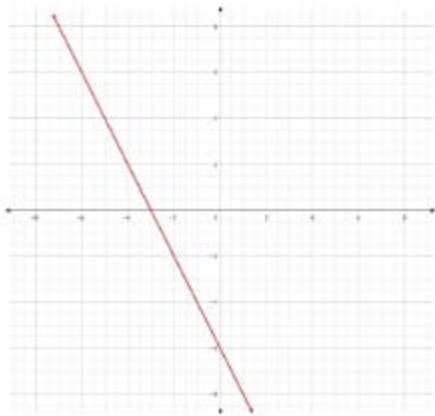
a.



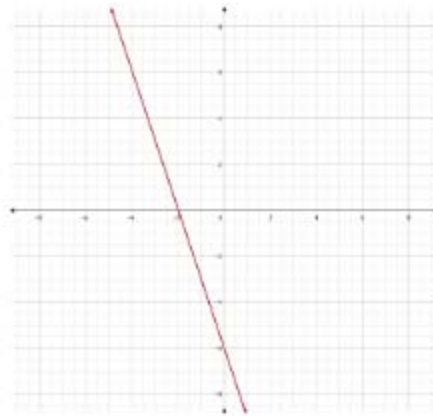
b.



c.



d.



Answer: B

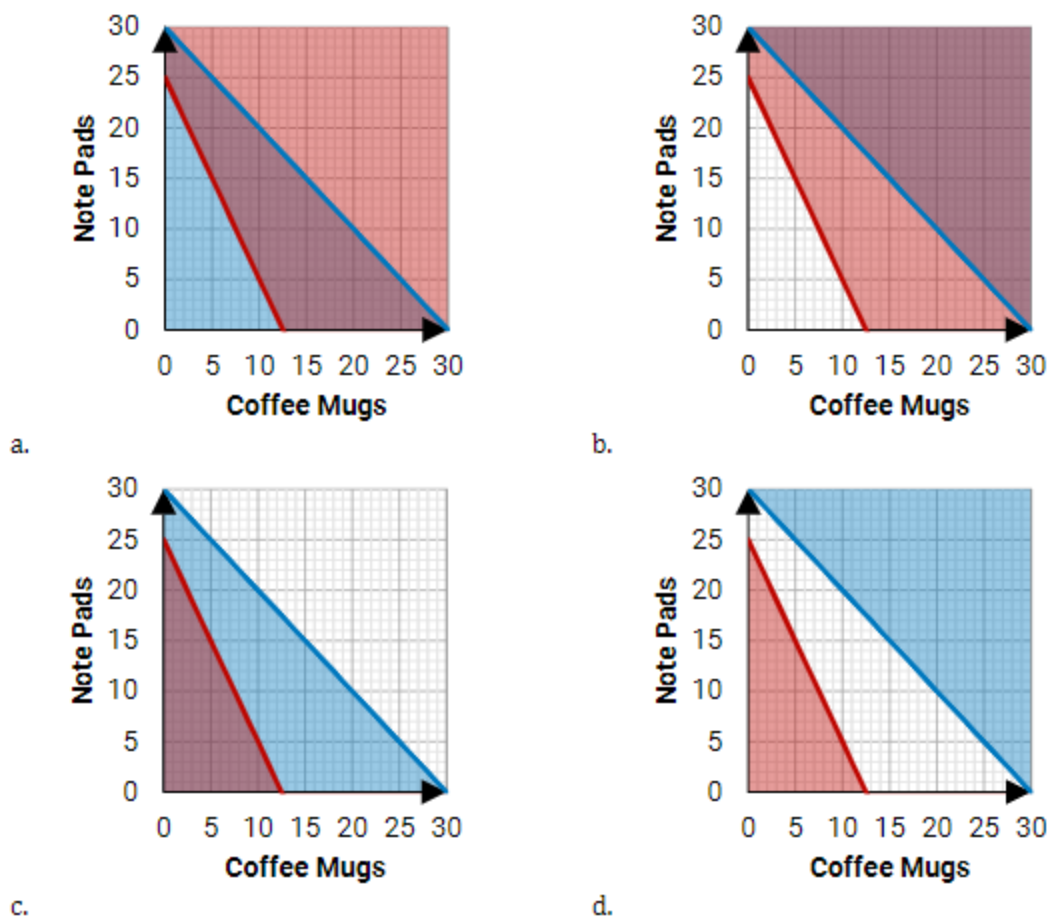
Explanation:

The equation $y = -4x - 6$ is in slope-intercept form, $y = mx + b$, where m is the slope and b is the y -intercept. All four graphs show the correct y -intercept, -6 , but only one shows the correct slope, -4 . The slope of a line can be found by picking any two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) on the line and calculating $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$. For choice B, we can choose points $(0, -6)$ and $(-2, 2)$, which gives us

$$m = \frac{2 - (-6)}{-2 - 0} = -4. \text{ None of the other graphs have a slope of } -4.$$

Question: 10

Kayla has a \$75 budget to purchase gifts for her colleagues. She wants to buy coffee mugs and note pads. She may purchase a maximum of 30 items. Each coffee mug costs \$6 and each note pad costs \$3. Which of the following graphs correctly shows the possible combinations of coffee mugs and note pads that she may buy?



Answer: C

Explanation:

The situation may be modeled by the system of inequalities $\begin{cases} 6x + 3y \leq 75 \\ x + y \leq 30 \end{cases}$ where x is the number of coffee mugs and y is the number of note pads. Some algebraic manipulation gives us the inequalities in slope-intercept form: $\begin{cases} y \leq -2x + 25 \\ y \leq -x + 30 \end{cases}$. All four choices graph these lines correctly, but only choice C correctly shades just the region that is below both lines, indicating that both conditions are met.



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