

On the CD, the students will hear:

Look at the directions on Page 2. Directions: Listen to the passage. Then answer Question 1. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet. The question will be read only once.²

Now listen carefully.

The title of the passage is “A Musical Decision.”

A career in music can be rewarding, but difficult. If you aspire to become a professional musician, you should weigh both the advantages and disadvantages of a career in music.

First, there are a variety of advantages to a career in music. There are several types of musical careers where musicians can take pleasure in expressing their musical talent. For example, some musicians perform on stage. Others create music used by the television and movie industries. Many musicians have the opportunity to travel to many new destinations. Furthermore, those musicians fortunate enough to achieve fame might enjoy the benefits that accompany being a well-known superstar.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages to a career in music. Becoming a successful musician can take a very long time, much dedication, and many hours of hard work. Success and fame are not certain. For many musicians there is pressure to always perform well, too. Finally, in addition to often being away from home when traveling on tour, making a lot of money is not guaranteed.

Weighing the advantages and disadvantages of any career choice is important. If music is your passion, then perhaps a career in music is for you.

Pause for about 5 seconds.

Look at Question 1. Listen to these sentences from the passage again.

“A career in music can be rewarding, but difficult. If you aspire to become a professional musician, you should weigh both the advantages and disadvantages of a career in music.

First, there are a variety of advantages to a career in music. There are several types of musical careers where musicians can take pleasure in expressing their musical talent.”

Which phrase tells the main idea of the passage?

- A Can be rewarding
- B The advantages and disadvantages of a career in music
- C Several types of musical careers
- D Their musical talent

Pause for about 15 seconds.

¹ Listening is a section within a Listening, Reading, Writing / Global Theme NYSESLAT Session.

² Only one passage and one item are presented here as a sample.

In the Test Booklet³, the students will see:

Directions

Listen to the passage. Then answer Question 1. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet.

A Musical Decision



1 Which phrase tells the main idea of the passage?

- A Can be rewarding
- B The advantages and disadvantages of a career in music
- C Several types of musical careers
- D Their musical talent

**TARGET OF MEASUREMENT:
TOM.L.7–8.1**

Students can identify words, phrases, or sentences that *signal* important individuals, *main ideas*, supporting ideas, concepts, evidence, events, multiple points of view, literary devices, and/or the message or theme in grade-level spoken discourse.

HOW ITEM MEASURES TOM.L.7–8.1:

This item requires students to identify a phrase from grade-level spoken discourse that *signals the main idea*. In this item, “The advantages and disadvantages of a career in music” refers to the main idea of the passage.

**HOW ITEM TARGETS THE EMERGING
PERFORMANCE LEVEL**

This item requires students to identify, with moderate support, a phrase in grade-level spoken discourse that *signals the main idea*. In this item, moderate support is provided by repeating a brief excerpt from the passage which includes the language in the answer choices.

KEY: B

WHY “B” IS CORRECT: Students who select “B” are able to identify a phrase from the passage excerpt that signals the main idea.

WHY OTHER CHOICES ARE INCORRECT: Answer choices A, C, and D are other phrases from the passage that indicate other ideas in the passage, but not the main idea.

³ During each of the Listening sections, students listen to two passages, which may be short or long, and answer a series of 3–6 questions associated with each passage. The questions for each passage progress in difficulty based on the Performance Level Descriptions (PLDs). Not all PLDs are represented with each passage. Only one passage and one item are presented here as a sample. For more information, please see NYSESLAT Webinette Series on EngageNY at <https://www.engageny.org/content/nyseslat-webinettes>.