**ELA SAMPLE Questions**

**Read the passages and answer the questions that follow.**

Passage 1 Origami



1. Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding. The word is a combination of two Japanese words: *ori* means “to fold” and *kami* means “paper.”
2. Traditional origami consists of folding one sheet of square paper into a sculpture. You cannot cut, glue, or mark the paper. One side of the paper is often colored.

**BENCHMARK TEST 2**

1. Historians believe that the Chinese had some form of paper folding (called *zhezhi*) first. The Chinese invented paper almost 2,000 years ago. Buddhist monks brought paper to Japan 500 years later. These monks made the earliest forms of origami. It was used for religious or ceremonial reasons.
2. Eventually, rich people began creating origami as well. Not everyone could do it. Paper was expensive and available to only a few. As paper became more available, origami became a popular practice.
3. Origami often depicts flowers, birds, and other natural things. A famous origami design is the Japanese crane. In Japanese culture, cranes are said to live for 1,000 years. Therefore, they represent good fortune and longevity. The Japanese refer to the crane as the “bird of happiness.”
4. People give origami cranes as gifts. They are hung together on strings. There are usually 25 strings of 40 cranes each. There is a legend about origami cranes. Anyone who folds 1,000 paper cranes will get their heart’s desire. In Japan, mothers pray for the crane

to protect their newborn children. They say: “O flock of heavenly cranes cover my child with your wings.”

1. Today, origami is popular all over the world. It is a peaceful art that takes concentration. It takes your mind off the everyday world. It has also become a symbol of hope and healing during challenging times.

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Student Name

**Writing Prompt**

You have just read a passage about the history of origami. Write a paragraph describing what the origami crane represents to the Japanese people.

You may use information from your own experiences and knowledge about the topic in your response.

Be sure to:

* + Answer the prompt completely.
  + Write at least one paragraph.
  + Use correct spelling and grammar.
  + Use correct capitalization and punctuation.
  + Provide evidence from the passage to support your response.

Write your response on a separate sheet of paper. You may use as much space as you need.

Student Name

**1** Which statement about the history of origami is correct?

Origami was popular because monks brought it to Japan and rich people enjoyed it.



**A**

The crane is a symbol of long life and rich people could afford to buy the paper, so origami became popular.



**B**

When paper became easy to get, origami became popular because it helps people relax.



**C**

Origami is a peaceful art because it was invented by monks.



**D**

**2** According to paragraph 4, why was origami only for monks and the rich?

The poor were not allowed to own paper. Most people could not read.



**A**



**B**

There wasn’t a lot of paper in Japan. Most people could not afford paper.



**C**



**D**

**3** What is the meaning of the word longevity in paragraph 5?



**A**

good luck

a long life



**B**

a lot of money happiness

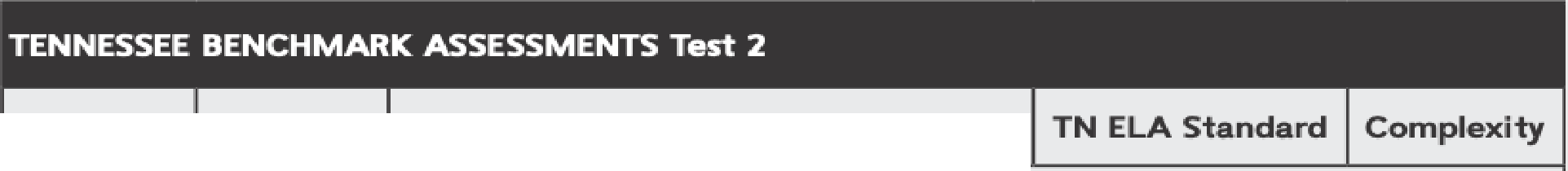


**C**



**D**

**Answer Key**



**Question**

**Content Focus**

**Subpart 1**

1

C

Main Idea and Key Details

3.RI.KID.2

DOK2

2

D

Text Structure: Cause and Effect

3.RII.IKl.8

DOK2

3

B

Context Clues: Paragraph Clues

3.RII.CS.4

DOK2

**Test 2 Rationales**

1

**A** is incorrect These are not the reasons why origami became popular. Bis incorrect These are not the reasons why origami became popular. C is correct. This is a good summary of why origami became popular.

Dis incorrect These two pieces of information are not linked by cause and effect

2

**A** is incorrect There is no mention of laws to prohibit owning paper.

**Bis** incorrect Again, this is not mentioned.

C is incorrect This is true, but it is not the best answer because it ignores "the rich" in the question. Dis correct. This is directly stated: "Paper was expensive and only available to a few."

3

**A** is incorrect The sentence immediately before this word mentions living for one thousand year-s.

There is a context clue in the word pa1rt *Jong.*

**B** is correct. The sentence immediately before this word mentions living for one thousand years; There is a context clue in the word part *long.*

C is incorrect Learners who choose this answer are confusing two meanings of the word *fortune.* In this,context it means luck, not money.

Dis incorrect Happiness is a possible answer from context, but it does not take account of the word part *long.*