



This document contains the answer keys, rubrics, and Scoring Notes for items on the Grade 8 Social Studies Practice Test. For support on how to use sample student work, refer to the [LEAP 2025 Social Studies Practice Test Guidance](#). Additional Practice Test resources are available in the LDOE Practice Test Library.

Session	Set	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Alignment
1	The Reconstruction Era in Louisiana	1	MC	C	8.2.6 Identify and describe economic, social, and political characteristics of Louisiana during the Antebellum/plantation economy, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction eras
1		2	MC	D	8.2.6 Identify and describe economic, social, and political characteristics of Louisiana during the Antebellum/plantation economy, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction eras
1		3	MC	C	8.8.1 Describe ways in which citizens can organize, monitor, or influence government and politics at the local, state, and national levels
1		4	MC	B	8.6.1 Compare the foundation, function, and powers of the Louisiana and United States Constitutions
1		5	MS	B, D	8.2.6 Identify and describe economic, social, and political characteristics of Louisiana during the Antebellum/plantation economy, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction eras
1		6	TEI	see TEI key	8.2.6 Identify and describe economic, social, and political characteristics of Louisiana during the Antebellum/plantation economy, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction eras
1	Louisiana Statehood	7	MC	B	8.2.2 Explain the importance of the Mississippi River as it relates to historical events throughout Louisiana's history
1		8	MS	A, C	8.2.5 Analyze causes and effects of major events and evaluate their impact on the growth and development of Louisiana
1		9	MC	C	8.6.2 Compare and contrast the preambles of the Louisiana and United States Constitutions
1		10	MC	D	8.6.1 Compare the foundation, function, and powers of the Louisiana and United States Constitutions
1		11	MC	A	8.2.6 Identify and describe economic, social, and political characteristics of Louisiana during the Antebellum/plantation economy, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction eras
1		12	CR	see rubric	8.2.5 Analyze causes and effects of major events and evaluate their impact on the growth and development of Louisiana

Session	Set	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Alignment
1	Progressivism in Louisiana	13	MC	A	8.2.7 Explain major social, political, and economic changes that affected Louisiana during the Progressive, Great Depression, and Huey Long eras
1		14	MC	C	8.8.1 Describe ways in which citizens can organize, monitor, or influence government and politics at the local, state, and national levels
1		15	MC	B	8.2.7 Explain major social, political, and economic changes that affected Louisiana during the Progressive, Great Depression, and Huey Long eras
1		16	MC	D	8.2.7 Explain major social, political, and economic changes that affected Louisiana during the Progressive, Great Depression, and Huey Long eras
1		17	MC	C	8.2.7 Explain major social, political, and economic changes that affected Louisiana during the Progressive, Great Depression, and Huey Long eras
1		18	MS	A, D	8.2.7 Explain major social, political, and economic changes that affected Louisiana during the Progressive, Great Depression, and Huey Long eras
1	The Fishing Industry in Louisiana	19	MS	B, C	8.3.2 Use maps, charts, and diagrams to ask and answer questions about Louisiana's geographic features
1		20	MC	C	8.9.2 Apply the laws of supply and demand to demonstrate the effects on Louisiana products and resources
1		21	MC	B	8.9.3 Analyze and explain factors affecting the production and allocation of goods and services in Louisiana, the United States, and the world
1		22	MC	C	8.5.1 Describe how natural phenomena impact the physical environment of Louisiana
1		23	TEI	see TEI key	8.5.1 Describe how natural phenomena impact the physical environment of Louisiana
1	Historic Native Americans of Louisiana	24	MC	B	8.2.2 Explain the importance of the Mississippi River as it relates to historical events throughout Louisiana's history
1		25	MS	A, B	8.2.4 Explain how differences and similarities among ethnic groups in colonial Louisiana contributed to cooperation and conflict
1		26	MC	C	8.4.2 Describe the causes and effects of cultural diffusion and its impact on diversity in early Louisiana
1		27	MC	D	8.10.1 Analyze how scarcity of resources affects the choices of individuals and communities

Session 1 Item 6

Drag and drop **four** phrases into the correct columns of the chart to show the actions taken by people in Louisiana to resist Reconstruction and the ways the federal government responded to this resistance. There are **two** correct answers for **each** column of the chart.

Actions Taken by Louisiana Citizens to Resist Reconstruction	Federal Government Responses to Resistance by Louisiana Citizens

interfered with African Americans' voting rights

refused to allow carpetbaggers to enter the state

divided the South into five military districts to ensure the states ratified and enforced the Fourteenth Amendment

enacted Black Codes to restrict the activities of African Americans and control the workforce

gave money to formerly enslaved African Americans to buy land

passed constitutional amendments to protect the rights of African Americans

OK

Scoring for Session 1 Item 6

Actions Taken by Louisiana Citizens to Resist Reconstruction	Federal Government Responses to Resistance by Louisiana Citizens
<p>interfered with African Americans' voting rights</p> <p>enacted Black Codes to restrict the activities of African Americans and control the workforce</p>	<p>passed constitutional amendments to protect the rights of African Americans</p> <p>divided the South into five military districts to ensure the states ratified and enforced the Fourteenth Amendment</p>
<p>refused to allow carpetbaggers to enter the state</p>	<p>gave money to formerly enslaved African Americans to buy land</p>

OK

Two points = four phrases in the correct columns
 One point = three or two phrases in the correct columns
 Zero points = one or zero phrases in the correct column

Scoring for Session 1 Item 12

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, identify **two** different challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state and explain why **each** challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.

Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly identifies two different challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state and correctly explains why each challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.
1	Student's response correctly identifies one challenge faced by Louisiana as it became a state and correctly explains why that challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state. OR Student's response correctly identifies two different challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state, but it does not correctly explain why either challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state. OR Student's response does not correctly identify any challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state, but correctly explains two reasons why challenges had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.
0	Student's response is blank or does not correctly identify any challenge faced by Louisiana as it became a state nor explain why the challenge(s) had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.

Scoring Notes:

Challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state and why each challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state:

- Some members of Congress feared the growing number and power of new states, which could prevent Louisiana from being admitted to the Union as a state.
- Louisiana's border disputes with Spain had to be resolved in order to establish clearly defined state boundaries and prevent future conflict(s) with Spain.
- Louisiana had to bring together diverse people and ideas to write a state constitution, which would then have to be approved by the U.S. Congress.
- Many people in Louisiana had previously lived under the laws of other countries and they had to write new state laws that would reflect U.S. laws.

Accept other reasonable responses.

Student Responses for Session 1 Item 12

Prompt

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, identify **two** different challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state and explain why **each** challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.

Response 1

Thomas Jefferson made the Louisiana purchase. What now? After President Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. Congress "divides the Louisiana Purchase into the Territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana," as states Source 1. But becoming a state is not easy. Louisiana must overcome many hardships before becoming a state.

The first problem that Louisiana must resolve is the border dispute in between Spanish Texas. Spain and the United States both border an area in between Texas and Louisiana. Tensions run high until they agree that the land will be neutral; belonging to neither one of them. As states passage 1, "U.S. and Spanish officers agree that the disputed area between the Territory of Orleans and Spanish Texas is a neutral ground and neither group would control it." This was the first hardship that Louisiana overcame.

The last difficulty that Louisiana faced was Congressional approval to become a state. This was important because without Congressional approval, Louisianians would not have the same rights and protection as citizens in the states. After petitions from the inhabitants of Louisiana, Congress approves Louisiana Statehood. "Congress approves the Statehood petition from the Territory of Orleans. This was a great success for the Territory of Orleans and ended their quest for statehood.

In conclusion, Louisiana statehood was a process and a struggle that was overcome. Although it faced Congressional dispute and high tensions from Spanish Texas, Louisiana was a state in the end.

Score: 2

The response earns a score of 2. It accurately identifies two different challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state, "The first problem that Louisiana must resolve is the border dispute in between Spanish Texas" and "The last difficulty that Louisiana faced was Congressional approval to become a state." The response provides complete and correct explanations of why each challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.

Response 2

As Louisiana became a state, it had to face numerous challenges in order to be admitted to the Union as a state. Initially, Louisiana had to overcome the opposition of Congress and people in the House of Representatives. Numerous debates over Louisiana Statehood arose over accepting Louisiana as a state. They worried that the United States would become too large, and weaken the power of the original states. Fearing that by accepting too many states, there would be no limit to the boundaries of the United States, many people opposed the acceptance of Louisiana. This opposition had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to become a state, as Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Senate all had to approve of Louisiana's statehood petition for it to become a state. Finally, Congress approved Louisiana's statehood petition in February of 1811. In addition, Louisiana still had another challenge to face. Even though its petition had been approved by Congress, Louisiana still needed a state constitution to become an official state. Each state in the United States needed its own state constitution. Therefore, Louisiana delegates wrote a state constitution and sent it to Congress to be approved. Finally, on April of 1812, Congress and President Madison approved Louisiana's constitution and Louisiana officially became a state.

Score: 2

The response earns a score of 2. It fully and accurately identifies two different challenges faced by Louisiana as it became a state, "Louisiana had to overcome the opposition of Congress and people in the House of Representatives" and "Even though its petition had been approved by Congress, Louisiana still needed a state constitution to become an official state." The response includes accurate explanations of why each challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to be admitted to the Union as a state.

Response 3

Louisiana faced difficulties while becoming a state. Source 2 says, "Some related directly to the history, culture, laws and racial characteristics of the Territory of Orleans." The people thought it was a horrible idea for Louisiana to become a state because of its different lifestyle. Eventually the United States put away with this problem because of the benefits Louisiana had toward the country. Source 1 proves that it took two years for the state to be ratified into an official state. All of the problems that contradicted the decision of Louisiana to become a state did not outweigh the great possibilities.

Score: 1

The response earns a score of 1. It correctly identifies one challenge faced by Louisiana in becoming a state, "The people thought it was a horrible idea for Louisiana to become a state because of its different lifestyle," and it explains why that challenge had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to become a state.

Response 4

one challenge is people worried about how big the United States would become.
second is that there would territorial disputes over Louisiana

Score: 1

The response earns a score of 1. It correctly identifies two challenges that Louisiana faced as it became a state, "people worried about how big the United States would become" and "there would territorial disputes over Louisiana," but it does not explain why those challenges had to be overcome in order for Louisiana to become a state.

Response 5

Louisiana had to face the purchase and the Congress for approval. In source 1 the United States and France agree to the Louisiana Purchase. That was in 1803. Then Congress approves the statehood petitions from the Territory of New Orleans which is in Louisiana. These two challenges were easy sort of for Louisiana because we are a strong state and still are today.

Score: 0

The response earns a score of 0. In the response, the student attempts to address the prompt and to support his or her ideas with evidence from the sources. However, the response contains incomplete and flawed information about the challenges Louisiana faced as it became a state and why those challenges had to be overcome.

Session 1 Item 23

Drag and drop **four** phrases from the list into the chart to show **two** correct causes and **two** correct effects of natural phenomena on the decline of the fishing industry in Louisiana.

Causes

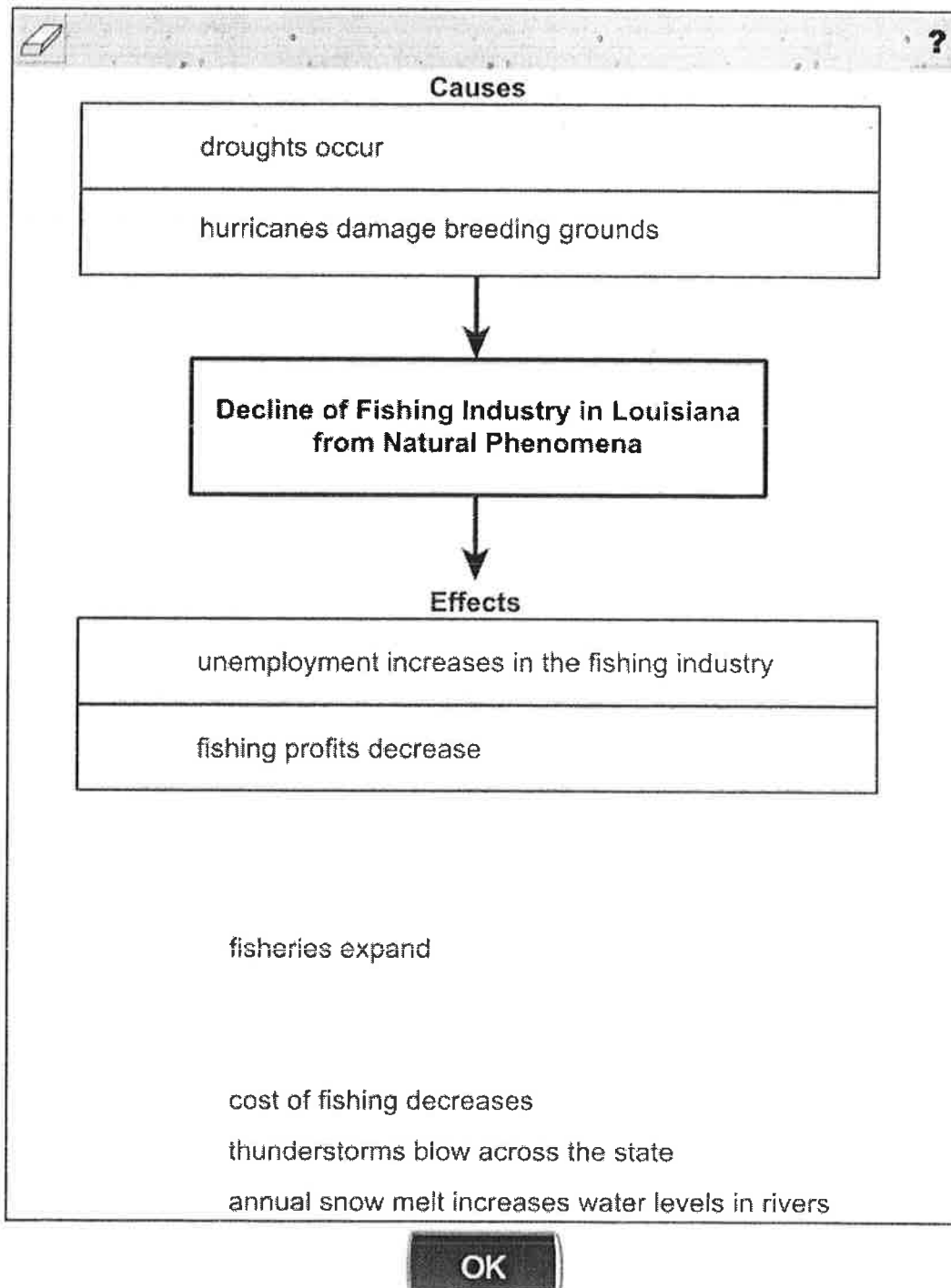
Decline of Fishing Industry in Louisiana from Natural Phenomena

Effects

- fishing profits decrease
- droughts occur
- fisheries expand
- hurricanes damage breeding grounds
- unemployment increases in the fishing industry
- cost of fishing decreases
- thunderstorms blow across the state
- annual snow melt increases water levels in rivers

OK

Scoring for Session 1 Item 23



Two points = four phrases in the correct positions
One point = three or two phrases in the correct positions
Zero points = one or zero phrases in the correct position