

NY ELA Rehearsal Plus

Level **G**

REVISED

Extended Response Question for Test 1



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Student's Name

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Directions

Read the story. Then answer the question.

The Power of Prometheus

- 1 Mount Olympus, the home of the gods, loomed high in the clouds, miles above the world of humans. Olympus was covered with palaces grander than humans could ever imagine, and the grandest of them all belonged to Zeus, the king of the gods. This evening, as the sun set, Zeus stood on his marble balcony surveying the world beneath him. Using his perfect vision, he traced the roads and paths of the human cities, letting his eyes follow people on their daily chores. The more his eyes moved, the more his brow furrowed, and his expression grew hard and icy.
- 2 “What is troubling you?” asked his wife, Hera, as she joined him on the balcony.
- 3 Without looking up, Zeus explained, “I have been watching my people down there and realizing just how ungrateful they are. We gods have given them all the things they have: their food, their homes, their animals, and even the very elements of nature on which they depend. Yet do they stop to thank us?” He pointed at the people below who walked past the temples of the gods, neglecting to worship, as they hurried along to get to the markets or the theaters.
- 4 “They are only humans, after all,” said Hera, with a patient smile. “That means they are imperfect.”
- 5 “They may be imperfect, but they will learn respect,” said Zeus. “I am going to punish them for their insolence by taking away one of their gifts, so they will come to realize how much they depend on the gods’ generosity.” Zeus considered taking away the Sun, but that would make the world freeze, and destroy all life. He thought about taking away the Moon, but people did not rely on the Moon and might not miss it enough.
- 6 Suddenly Zeus knew exactly which gift of the gods he would take back. “I will take their fire,” he said firmly. Hera protested, saying that fire was an essential for humans, and depriving them of it would be cruel. Zeus had already

Go On

made up his mind, however, and as the sun disappeared behind the mountains, he said grimly, “Sometimes the powerful must be cruel.”

7 That night, in the world of humans, people were dumbfounded to discover that they had no fire. They tried striking their flints to make sparks, but nothing happened. They checked for embers in their hearths, but all the ashes were cold. The torches that lit their streets were all burnt out, and their candles were useless. The people huddled together against the night’s chilly air, and with much grimacing, ate their evening meals uncooked.

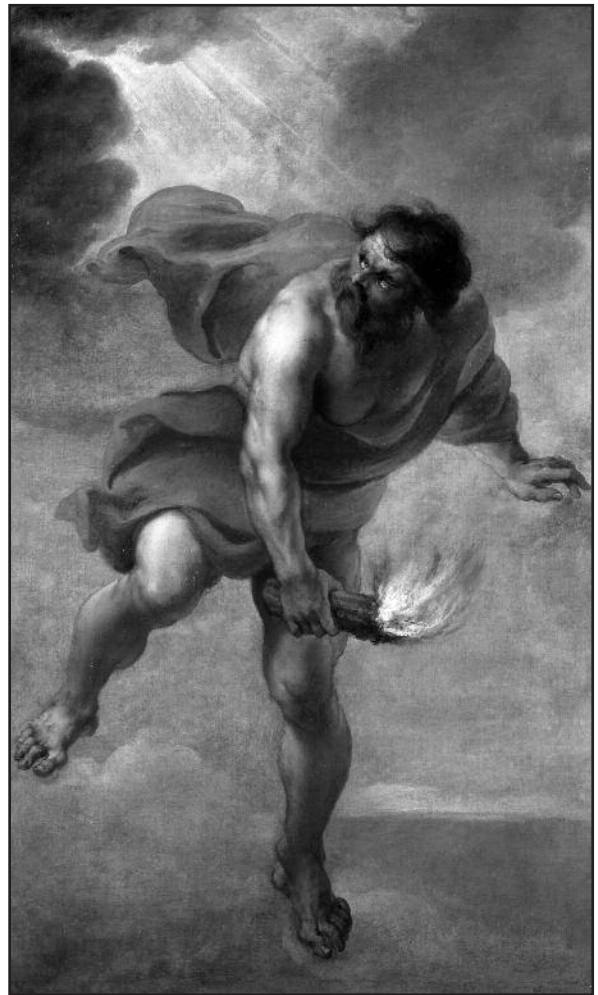
8 The titan Prometheus was that night journeying through the humans’ cities and noticed the unusual darkness, much blacker than ink. He heard the people lamenting their lack of fire and could hear their teeth chattering in the cold. “Where did your fire go?” he asked them.

9 “It just disappeared,” people reported, wringing their hands in despair. Someone in the masses added, “I saw a suspicious stranger here stealing our last burning ember. Before I could stop him, he flew away on winged sandals!”

10 “Winged sandals?” asked Prometheus in disbelief, but in a moment he understood what had happened. The stealthy stranger fit the description of Hermes, the messenger of Zeus. “Apparently the gift of fire has been taken back by Zeus,” concluded Prometheus. “But do not despair, friends—I will return it to you.”

11 “Why would a powerful titan such as you bother to be so kind to us poor humans?” asked an old woman wrapped in a blanket, her teary eyes reflecting the moonlight.

12 “Being kind is part of being truly powerful,” said Prometheus, hurrying on his way. As he walked, he began to ponder the enormousness of the task ahead. For the first time, he felt the chill of the night, and it made him tremble. He knew that nobody, not even the mightiest titan, had ever directly defied Zeus,



king of all gods. But a memory buried deep inside Prometheus's heart propelled him forward. Millennia ago, when the world was being formed, it was Prometheus who had created humans. They were, he felt, his children, and their well-being was his responsibility. Returning fire to them now was his sacred duty.

13 In the darkest dark of the night, Prometheus set out toward Mount Olympus. Using his every ounce of strength, he scaled the skyscraping mountain and crept soundlessly into the fabled marble city of the gods. The sights he saw were greater than even the titans could have imagined, but he kept his eyes locked on his goal: the marble palace of Zeus himself.

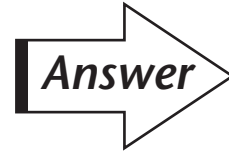
14 Creeping through the gates and into the majestic halls of the palace, Prometheus watched every shadow, his eyes round and unblinking. When he heard a great echoing rumble in a nearby chamber, he froze in place and tried to still his quick breaths. Then he realized he was hearing Zeus snoring.

15 Sneaking into Zeus's bedchamber, Prometheus saw the great king god sound asleep. The room was dark except for a warm orange glimmer in one corner, where the titan discovered the world's last glowing ember. Without a moment's hesitation, he scooped up the hot ember and walked on his tiptoes out of the chamber. When he was in the hallway again, he dashed for the exit. Prometheus was already climbing back down toward the world of humans when he felt eyes on him from the grand marble balcony. Looking up, he saw Hera, watching him and gently smiling.

16 In the morning, Zeus awoke to the sound of cheering and singing from below, and the smell of smoke and cooking food. He fumbled through his chamber in search of the confiscated ember and instantly knew he had been robbed of it. "No one has ever defied me before," he said, stunned and infuriated. "I will find the guilty party and teach him the true nature of power."

Planning Page

You may **PLAN** your writing for this question here if you wish, but do **NOT** write your final answer on this page. Your writing on this Planning Page will **NOT** count toward your final score. Write your final answer on Pages 7 and 8.



Scoring Rubric

Extended-Response (4-Point) Holistic Rubric

Extended-response questions assess both reading and writing standards. Scores for extended-response questions are based on four overarching criteria: content and analysis; command of evidence; coherence, organization, and style; and control of conventions. Extended-response questions are scored on the rubric below, which incorporates these four criteria.

Criteria **CONTENT AND ANALYSIS:**
the extent to which the essay conveys ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support analysis of topics or text

Score of 4 Essays at this level:

- clearly introduce a topic in a manner that follows logically from the task and purpose
- demonstrate comprehension and analysis of the text

Score of 3 Essays at this level:

- clearly introduce a topic in a manner that follows from the task and purpose
- demonstrate grade-appropriate comprehension of the text(s)

Score of 2 Essays at this level:

- introduce a topic in a manner that follows generally from the task and purpose
- demonstrate a confused comprehension of the text(s)

Score of 1 Essays at this level:

- introduce a topic in a manner that does not logically follow from the task and purpose
- demonstrate little understanding of the text

Score of 0 Essays at this level:

- demonstrate a lack of comprehension of the text or task

Criteria **COMMAND OF EVIDENCE:** the extent to which the essay presents evidence from the provided texts to support analysis and reflection

Score of 4 Essays at this level:

- develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, and details throughout the essay

Score of 3 Essays at this level:

- develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, and details throughout the essay

Score of 2 Essays at this level:

- partially develop the topic of the essay with the use of some textual evidence, some of which may be irrelevant

Score of 1 Essays at this level:

- demonstrate an attempt to use evidence, but only develop ideas with minimal, occasional evidence which is generally invalid or irrelevant

Score of 0 Essays at this level:

- provide no evidence or provide evidence that is completely irrelevant

Criteria COHERENCE, ORGANIZATION, AND STYLE:
the extent to which the essay logically organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information using formal style and precise language

Score of 4 Essays at this level:

- clearly and consistently group related information together
- skillfully connect ideas within categories of information using linking words and phrases
- provide a concluding statement that follows clearly from the topic and information presented

Score of 3 Essays at this level:

- generally group related information together
- connect ideas within categories of information using linking words and phrases
- provide a concluding statement that follows from the topic and information presented

Score of 2 Essays at this level:

- exhibit some attempt to group related information together
- inconsistently connect ideas using some linking words and phrases
- provide a concluding statement that follows generally from the topic and information presented

Score of 1 Essays at this level:

- exhibit little attempt at organization
- lack the use of linking words and phrases
- provide a concluding statement that is illogical or unrelated to the topic and information presented

Score of 0 Essays at this level:

- exhibit no evidence of organization
- do not provide a concluding statement

Criteria CONTROL OF CONVENTIONS: the extent to which the essay demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Score of 4 Essays at this level:

- demonstrate grade-appropriate command of conventions, with few errors

Score of 3 Essays at this level:

- demonstrate grade-appropriate command of conventions, with occasional errors that do not hinder comprehension

Score of 2 Essays at this level:

- demonstrate emerging command of conventions, with some errors that may hinder comprehension

Score of 1 Essays at this level:

- demonstrate a lack of command of conventions, with frequent errors that hinder comprehension

Score of 0 Essays at this level:

- are minimal, making assessment of conventions unreliable

Answer Key

Rehearsal Test 1

Test 1, Book 2

Question Type	Points	Common Core Learning Standard
Extended-Response	4	RL.7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Use the 4-point extended-response holistic rubric for this question.

Extended-response sample answer:

“The Power of Prometheus” is a story about kindness. Zeus, the king of the gods, is looking down at humans from his palace in the sky. He thinks that the people below are ungrateful for all the gods have given them and decides to teach them a lesson. After some thought, he decides to take away fire, even though his wife Hera tells him that this is cruel. The titan Prometheus determines that it was Zeus who took away the people’s fire and promises to get it back for them. The people wonder why Prometheus would do this for them, and he explains that “being kind is part of being truly powerful.” Prometheus sneaks into Zeus’ bedroom and takes the hot ember. As he is leaving, he realizes that Hera is watching him and smiling. In the morning, Zeus vows to find whoever took the fire and punish him or her.