

eMPower**ME**

STUDENT  
SAMPLE ITEM BOOKLET  
**Writing & Language**  
Grade 6





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# Sample Items

## Directions

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

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### Origin of Duct Tape

**1.** Duct tape is a strong tape with fabric built into it. **2.** Basic fabric tape, a different product, was used in construction over 100 years ago to wrap wires. **3.** It was also used to keep wounds closed after surgery.

**4.** Later, during World War II, the Johnson and Johnson Company developed a strong, flexible, waterproof tape for the military. **5.** To develop the tape, scientists added adhesives to fabric tape in order to make it stickier, and plastics to give it a stronger backing.

**6.** After the war, people began using this tape for many different purposes, including sealing heating and cooling pipes, also called ducts.

**1.** Which change makes the underlined portion of sentence 2 more precise?

- A NO CHANGE
- B which is a type of tape
- C an earlier strong tape
- D something really simple

**2.** How should the underlined word in sentence 4 be changed to provide the **best** transition from sentence 3?

- A NO CHANGE
- B Thus,
- C As a result,
- D Nevertheless,

3. In sentence 5, which word provides a clue to the meaning of “adhesives”?
- A “fabric”
  - B “plastics”
  - C “stickier”
  - D “backing”
4. How should the underlined portion of sentence 6 be changed?
- A NO CHANGE
  - B pipes (also)
  - C pipes also
  - D pipes. Also
5. Which choice would be the **best** to add as a concluding sentence for the passage?
- A Some say duct tape is called “duck tape” because it is water-resistant, just like a duck’s feathers!
  - B The military version of duct tape has a stronger rip strength than the version sold to households.
  - C Like basic fabric tape, the fabric backing in duct tape allows it to be easily torn and used without difficulty.
  - D Since then, duct tape has been used for everything from fixing a rover on the Moon to making wallets!

*This question has two parts. Be sure to answer both parts of the question.*

**6.** Which illustration would **best** emphasize the passage's main idea?

- A** a diagram of the steps involved in making duct tape
- B** a chart that lists the different benefits of duct tape
- C** a timeline of the transformation of fabric tape into duct tape
- D** a table that compares the properties of fabric tape and duct tape

Which statement provides the **best** support for the answer to the question above?

- A** Duct tape is a strong, waterproof tape with fabric built into it.
- B** The source for duct tape, fabric tape, was used to wrap wires 100 years ago.
- C** To produce duct tape, materials are added to fabric tape to make it sticky and give it backing.
- D** Duct tape has been used for many purposes, such as sealing heating and cooling pipes.