Full-length practice directions

June 2026 public booklet with one new constructed-response task.

Name _____ **Date** _____

1. Open or print the complete NYSED booklet and the answer materials for this administration. Use the original diagrams or organizers wherever a response requires them. Use the reference materials specified in the booklet.

Open the public exam booklet **Answer booklets and reference links**

2. Work through the public booklet in order. When you reach Part 3, substitute the practice insert on the next page for that response. Do every other question as printed. Keep any shared original stimulus available for surrounding questions.

3. Use the time allowance and materials printed on the public booklet, with local accommodations as applicable. Show your response to the replacement on this insert or a labeled sheet. Use the state answer materials for the remaining questions.

If you have seen the public form before, tell your teacher which questions you recognize. This assembled form is for local practice.

The practice room • original fiction

New material for the full-length practice assembly.

Name _____ **Date** _____

The piano tuner chalked a cross beneath the middle C of every practice-room piano except the one in Room Nine. That key had a small hollow in its face. His daughter knew it in the dark. When the school sold the instruments, she helped carry benches down the stairwell, listening to the strings answer each hard step from the landing. In the new building the keys shone like rows of identical teeth. At lunch she shut her eyes, held her hand above the keyboard, and waited for her fingers to recognize the old hollow. Nothing. She almost walked out. Instead she played the crooked little scale her father used when he finished tuning. From behind the folding partition someone tapped its last three notes on a desk. She played them again, slowly, and waited for the answer.

Write a developed text analysis establishing a central idea and analyzing how the author uses one writing strategy to develop it. Use specific textual evidence and explain the relationship between that evidence and your interpretation.