

# EQAO Test Sample Question and Response

Open Responses to a Reading  
Selection: News Report

# News Report

The October 2005 issue of Nature magazine reported that archaeologists found a 4000-year-old bowl of noodles at a site in western China. This discovery may be proof that China invented pasta. "These are definitely the earliest noodles ever found," said Houyuan Lu, a researcher in Beijing who studied the ingredients of the perfectly preserved pasta. The fist-sized clump of noodles was found inside an overturned bowl, which had protected the noodles from three metres of sediment. The delicate yellow noodle dough had been made from a local variety of millet instead of the usual wheat or rice grains. The dough had been pulled into 50-centimetre-long strands before being boiled. Archaeologists think that the noodles were buried during a flood that wiped out the Qijia culture in the late neolithic era.

Are noodles another Chinese invention along with paper and gunpowder?

This has been a hotly debated question. Some historians say the 13th century Italian explorer Marco Polo brought noodles from China back to his homeland.

Another historical interpretation is that Italians had noodles before that time.

Prior to the recent archaeological discovery, researchers only had information from written documents, personal accounts and menus: they had not been able to find any actual food to prove either hypothesis. This discovery may support the theory that noodles were first eaten in China. The people who live where the ancient noodles were found still eat millet noodles today.

# Poor Answer

- 6 Explain whether this archaeological find settles the historical question about who invented pasta. Use specific details from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

It is hard to determine the answer of this argument. The discovery of ancient noodles in ~~China~~ China helps to support them. But if the Italian records can be proven true and legitimate, the Italians have ~~the~~ the victory, if not then the Chinese.

**This response provides an opinion** (“It is hard to determine the answer”) **with vague support** (“the discovery of ancient noodles in China helps to support them. But if the Italian records can be proven true and legitimate, the Italians have the victory if not then the Chinese”).



# Better Answer

- 6 Explain whether this ~~archaeological find settles the historical question about who invented pasta~~. Use ~~specific details~~ from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

This archaeological find ~~does~~ settles the historical question about who invented pasta. Before archaeologists found the <sup>4000 year old</sup> noodles, the only evidence was from ancient menus, personal accounts, and written documents. The fact that the noodles were 4000 years old, and Marco Polo didn't bring noodles to Italy until the 13<sup>th</sup> ~~12th~~ century proves that noodles were ~~first~~ invented by the Chinese.

The response **provides an opinion** (“*This archeological find settles the historical question*”) and **uses specific and relevant information from the selection** (references to evidence and to Marco Polo) to support the opinion.

# Strategies for Reading Questions

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Keep your answer within the six lines provided.
- Answer the question using specific and relevant details and information from the reading selection.
- Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your own experience.
- Reread your response and correct any errors you notice.