Fourth Grade Essay Exemplary writing

**2019 MCAS  
Grade 4 English Language Arts   
Question 8**

Other grade level writing exemplary writing and at different score levels are at

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/2019/> and

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student>

Score explanation comments:

**Explains the top scores given**

**Idea Development - Score Point 4**

The essay is clear and fully develops the central idea that Jean-François was a "seeker of knowledge." Details from the article are effectively chosen in support of the central idea, such as how Jean-François "yearned to understand hieroglyphics" and how the "fire burning in his eyes" showed his enthusiasm. The essay also explains that Jean-François was not driven by glory or fame but by his dream, which supports the central idea: he "truly was a seeker of knowledge and would not give up until he reached his lifelong goal of decoding the hieroglyphs." Ideas are clearly expressed and the essay effectively organized, which demonstrates a full awareness of the purpose for writing.

**Standard English Conventions - Score Point 3**

The essay contains a variety of sentence structures that show a consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics. While there are minor errors and missing punctuation, they do not interfere with the overall understanding of the essay. Given its length and complexity, the essay demonstrates consistent control of Standard English conventions for this grade level.

Present and develop a central idea

Provide evidence and/or details from the passage

Prompt: Write an Essay that explains in what ways Jean Francois was a “seeker of knowledge.” Be sure to use information from the article to develop your essay.

Answer for Idea Development Score Point 4, and Standard English Conventions Score Point 3
The essay is clear and fully develops the central idea that Jean-François  was a "seeker of knowledge." Details from the article are effectively chosen in support of the central idea, such as how Jean-François "yearned to understand hieroglyphics" and how the "fire burning in his eyes" showed his enthusiasm. The essay also explains that Jean-François was not driven by glory or fame but by his dream, which supports the central idea: he "truly was a seeker of knowledge and would not give up until he reached his lifelong goal of decoding the hieroglyphs." Ideas are clearly expressed and the essay effectively organized, which demonstrates a full awareness of the purpose for writing.