

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding the phrase "For this reason among others" to the beginning of sentence 6 creates an appropriate transition. In the preceding sentences the author provides facts about the Great Barrier Reef, so this transition connects the explanation that these facts contribute to the reef being a popular tourist destination.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the phrase "As a matter of concern" does not provide an appropriate transition between the facts about the Great Barrier Reef and the result of it being a popular tourist destination.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding the phrase "For further evidence" to sentence 6 does not provide a logical transition as there is no additional evidence provided in the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding the phrase "To wipe away any doubt" does not create an appropriate transition, as there is nothing in the preceding sentences that suggests doubts about the Great Barrier Reef being a popular tourist attraction.

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2	Option G is correct	A thesis statement is a statement that summarizes the main point or claim of a piece of writing. The author summarizes that the Great Barrier Reef is “a supreme example of the mysteries of the natural world” because of its plant and animal life. The author supports this thesis throughout the body paragraphs.
	Option F is incorrect	The focus of the paper is the Great Barrier Reef, so introducing the idea of “other barrier reefs” in the thesis statement is off-topic and ineffective.
	Option H is incorrect	This sentence is not an appropriate thesis statement because it is a detail rather than a summarizing sentence for the paper.
	Option J is incorrect	This detail about the growth of the Great Barrier Reef is not an appropriate thesis statement because it does not summarize the main point of the paper.

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3	Option A is correct	A topic sentence captures the meaning of an entire paragraph. This sentence effectively introduces the idea that a variety of creatures have come to inhabit the Great Barrier Reef. These creatures are discussed throughout the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Although paragraph 3 is about marine species that inhabit the Great Barrier Reef, the idea that these species are threatened is not discussed in paragraph 3.
	Option C is incorrect	It is evident based on paragraph 3 that there is great biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef; however, there is no connection made between biodiversity and the long-term existence of the reef in the paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	Paragraph 3 is about marine animals that inhabit the Great Barrier Reef, but there is no information about researchers studying the animals included in the paragraph.

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4	Option H is correct	In sentences 22 through 25, the author provides examples of how the water surrounding the Great Barrier Reef is teeming with life and lists the different large and small animals that live there. Sentence 26 is redundant because it simply restates what has already been stated in the preceding sentences.
	Option F is incorrect	In sentence 24, Candice provides evidence about plankton that supports the paragraph's topic sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	In sentence 25, Candice provides examples of larger animals that live in the water around the Great Barrier Reef, supporting the topic sentence of the paragraph.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the paragraph intact fails to eliminate the redundant sentence 26.

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5	Option D is correct	A concluding sentence captures the overall meaning of the paper. The author reminds readers of her main points: the Great Barrier Reef is a beautiful and unique place that attracts millions of visitors from around the world.
	Option A is incorrect	Throughout her paper, the author illustrates the significance of the Great Barrier Reef but does not focus on protecting the reef, so concluding with this idea does not summarize the author's ideas.
	Option B is incorrect	Speculation about the Great Barrier Reef is provided in this sentence, not a concluding sentence that summarizes the author's main points.
	Option C is incorrect	The author focuses her entire paper on the Great Barrier Reef, so concluding with the idea that other natural wonders should be explored is off-topic.

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6	Option F is correct	The author begins her paper with the pronoun "They" and it is unclear who "They" refers to. Adding the phrase "Teachers and leaders at our school" clarifies who is telling students that they should become more involved in the community by volunteering their time.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "continually" to "always" replaces a word with an equally effective word and does not clarify the unclear pronoun "They" at the beginning of the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing "telling us" to "instructing us" replaces a phrase with another that has a similar meaning and does not clarify the unclear pronoun "They" at the beginning of the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing "community" with "surrounding neighborhood" does not improve the clarity of the sentence.

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7	Option C is correct	This sentence correctly combines and connects the two ideas into a single sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.
	Option B is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way creates a run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly. A comma is necessary after "school" in order to avoid this error.
	Option D is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way creates a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma.

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8	Option F is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding this sentence connects the ideas about mentoring programs in paragraph 2 with the evidence about why mentoring programs are effective in paragraph 3.
	Option G is incorrect	Although mentoring programs are introduced in paragraph 2, the focus of paragraph 3 is on what the author has learned through her research on mentoring programs, not on her personal thoughts about mentoring programs.
	Option H is incorrect	A continuation of the ideas about helping students in paragraph 2 is presented, but then an idea that is not addressed in paragraph 3 is introduced.
	Option J is incorrect	Although mentoring programs are introduced in paragraph 2, the focus of paragraph 3 is on what the author has learned through her research on mentoring programs, not on her personal beliefs and opinions.

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9	Option D is correct	A counterargument allows an author to provide opposing viewpoints for the reader. In sentence 20, the author proposes setting up an academic tutoring program. By including a counterargument against her proposal after sentence 20 and then refuting the counterargument in sentence 21, the author effectively presents a counterargument to the reader.
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting the counterargument before sentence 5 is ineffective and confusing to the reader, because the concept of a mentoring program has not yet been fully explained.
	Option B is incorrect	It does not make sense to include a counterargument before sentence 10, as a counterargument should come after information or a claim it is intended to contradict. The author has presented a personal example in sentence 9 that is unrelated to the counterargument.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting the counterargument before sentence 13 interrupts the presentation of linked evidence about the benefits of mentoring programs. A counterargument should come after information or a claim it is intended to contradict.

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10	Option F is correct	Changing the word "benefitial" to "beneficial" corrects the misspelling in this sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "people" would insert unnecessary punctuation between two words.
	Option H is incorrect	A superlative is a form of an adjective or adverb that is being described as having more of a quality than all others. Changing "healthier" to its superlative form "healthiest" creates a usage error.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the misspelled word.

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11	Option D is correct	Replacing the comma after “pets” with a semicolon corrects the run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option A is incorrect	Replacing the comma after “pets” with a semicolon would correct the run-on sentence, but inserting a period after “without being judgmental” creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.
	Option B is incorrect	Inserting the semicolon after “without being judgmental” changes the intended meaning of the sentence to suggest that people, rather than pets, are being nonjudgmental.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting a semicolon after “compassionately” creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.

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12	Option H is correct	Deleting the comma after "appropriate" removes unnecessary punctuation that would incorrectly separate information essential to the meaning of the sentence from the rest of the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing the word "minimal" to "minamal" would introduce a spelling error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "are" to the past-tense verb "were" creates a grammatical error since the sentence is in the present tense.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 26 unchanged would not correct the unnecessary punctuation.

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13	Option B is correct	The lowercase "until" should be capitalized as "Until" since it is the first word in a quotation that is a complete sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Proper nouns, which are nouns that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event, should be capitalized. In sentence 30, "poet" is not a proper noun so it should not be capitalized.
	Option C is incorrect	The singular possessive pronoun "one's" is correctly used in sentence 30 and should not be changed.
	Option D is incorrect	The present tense verb "remains" is used correctly in the sentence and should not be changed to the past tense "remained."

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14	Option J is correct	Replacing the comma after "succeed" with a period and adding a comma after "Consequently" corrects the run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option F is incorrect	The run-on error is not corrected in this sentence. Instead, an unnecessary comma is added.
	Option G is incorrect	The run-on error is not corrected in this sentence. Instead, all punctuation except for the ending period is removed.
	Option H is incorrect	Adding a semicolon after "walked" creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.

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15	Option A is correct	Changing the verb "have run" to the past-tense verb "ran" corrects a verb-tense error in the sentence, as the events being described took place in the past.
	Option B is incorrect	Removing the comma after "year" would create a run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the past tense "was forced" to the present tense "is forced" creates a verb-tense error, as the events being described took place in the past.
	Option D is incorrect	Making no change would not correct the verb-tense error in the sentence.

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16	Option G is correct	Changing "whom" to "who" fixes a usage error in the sentence. The word "who" is necessary because it is in the subject position of its dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "September" would incorrectly separate the phrase "of 1921" from the word "September." The pronoun-case error needs to be corrected in the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing the word "proficient" to "proficiant" introduces a spelling error in the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing the past-tense verb "came" to the present tense "comes" introduces a verb-tense error into the sentence, as the events being described took place in the past.

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17	Option D is correct	As written, there are no errors in the sentence. Therefore, no changes are necessary.
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "performance" would introduce punctuation that unnecessarily separates phrases.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing the comma after "1926" to a semicolon would create a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the word "mechanical" to "machanical" introduces a spelling error in the sentence.

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18	Option F is correct	Changing "Similar" to "Similarly" corrects a usage error in the sentence. The word "Similarly" is an adverb that correctly modifies the rest of the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	The singular "female" is correctly used in the sentence, since it is modifying the word "pilots."
	Option H is incorrect	The past-tense verb "started" is correctly used in the sentence, as the events being described took place in the past.
	Option J is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "Club" would introduce unnecessary punctuation separating a clause and a phrase.
19	Option B is correct	The main idea of the article is that although most students who play baseball will never become professional baseball players, they can still learn important lessons and develop valuable characteristics and traits from playing the sport. Support for this idea is provided by this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	A detail about IMG Academies is provided in this sentence, but support for the main idea of the article is not presented.
	Option C is incorrect	Through this detail, the reader understands why Ketchum Marsh is so fascinated by baseball, but support for the main idea of the article is not presented.
	Option D is incorrect	Insight about Ketchum Marsh is provided in this sentence, not support for the main idea of the article.

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20	Option J is correct	The coaches at IMG care about the future success of the students, regardless of whether or not the students end up playing baseball in the major leagues. In paragraph 24, coaches are described as “positive and encouraging” and also honest and realistic. In paragraph 28, IMG baseball chief Ken Bolek explains that ““If we do a good job, stressing certain characteristics and traits that are necessary for anybody leaving here to be successful regardless of what the volition is, that’s the grand slam for us.””
	Option F is incorrect	The coaches at IMG are realistic about the chances their students have of playing professional baseball and concerned with helping the players reach their potential in life. There is no evidence that the coaches are concerned about their coaching abilities.
	Option G is incorrect	Some of the coaches at IMG have previously coached at a professional level. However, their focus at IMG is helping the students reach their potential, not becoming professional coaches.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence that the coaches at IMG are dismissive of the mistakes their students make. Rather, the coaches focus on helping the students reach their full potential in life.
21	Option A is correct	The author presents evidence that Bolek considers Marsh a success because he has an excellent work ethic that has helped him in life, not just in his baseball playing.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does mention that Marsh was a batboy when he was eight years old, but this does not provide evidence to support the opinion in the quotation.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Marsh’s training regimen is mentioned in paragraph 11, the author provides evidence in the article that supports the idea that Marsh has a strong work ethic in all aspects of life, not just in his training.
	Option D is incorrect	The author presents evidence that Bolek considers Marsh a success because he has an excellent work ethic, not because of Marsh’s future plans.

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22	Option H is correct	Throughout the article, the author provides information about IMG Academies, the coaches who work there, and the students who enroll in the school in hopes of fulfilling their dreams. The author’s purpose is to inform readers about this unique school and the students who attend it.
	Option F is incorrect	At the beginning of the article, the author acknowledges that some people dream of playing a sport such as baseball professionally. However, the author’s purpose is not to highlight the reasons people pursue careers in sports.
	Option G is incorrect	The author’s purpose is not to persuade readers to support IMG or other schools that specialize in training student-athletes.
	Option J is incorrect	The author’s purpose is not to convince student-athletes to enroll in schools such as IMG that provide a specialized focus on sports.
23	Option B is correct	Describing someone as the “scrappiest kid” is another way of saying that he or she has a lot of determination and grit, and having a “shot” at going to “the show” means the kid with grit and determination has a chance of playing in the big leagues.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no evidence in the quotation to suggest that baseball players understand their potential at an early age.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the quotation mentions “folklore,” the author is not suggesting that legends about baseball frequently inspire players to improve.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the reference to the “scrappiest kid on the sandlot” could suggest humble circumstances, the author’s intention in the quotation is to suggest that determination and grit could help a player get to the big leagues.

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24	Option J is correct	At each level of the pyramid depicted in the graphic, the number of players decreases. There are approximately 2,000,000 kids who play Little League in the United States, but only 750 individuals who play in the Major Leagues. This information is included to emphasize how each level of competition in baseball becomes more selective.
	Option F is incorrect	The graphic is used to illustrate that fewer athletes are able to play baseball at each higher level. It does not provide information about their preferences.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no information provided in the graphic to suggest that Little League baseball players participate in multiple sports when they reach high school.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence provided in the graphic to suggest that playing Little League is necessary in order to become a major-league player later in life.
25	Option A is correct	In paragraphs 17 through 20, the author describes the interaction between pitching coach Dave Shepard and player Cameron Varga to illustrate that the coach wants his players to always strive to improve.
	Option B is incorrect	The author provides the interaction in paragraphs 17 through 20 to illustrate that pitching coach Dave Shepard wants to help his player improve. He is not concerned about winning games quickly.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraphs 17 through 20, there is no evidence to suggest that player Cameron Varga is confident in his ability to succeed playing for the University of Florida team.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraphs 17 through 20, there is no reference to the speed of Cameron Varga's pitches.

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26	Option F is correct	In paragraph 8, the author describes Naomi and Kean falling “joyfully into the couch” at the end of their race around the house. Each child claims to be first, without arguing with the other. Cyrus finishes the race behind the other two children and proclaims his third-place finish with “total joy and celebration.” The author includes the description of the race to illustrate that the children value fun above competition.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author mentions that Cyrus is not as physically developed or as fast as the other two children, he mentions the children’s race through the house to illustrate that they value fun over competition, not to emphasize that his daughter is athletically superior to her friends.
	Option H is incorrect	The author does not mention the children’s enjoyment of racing through the house to highlight that they often disregard household rules.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no evidence that the author is concerned about the children’s safety while they enjoy running through the house.
27	Option D is correct	One central message in the article is that satisfaction comes from being dedicated and doing your best. The children all love to run and take satisfaction at the end of a race, regardless of who finishes first. Naomi and Kean both share the joy of coming in first place, and Cyrus is just as happy and satisfied with his third-place finish.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that avoiding competition is better than participating when failure is certain is not a message the reader can infer from the essay. All the children participate in the race, and none of them feel like a failure at the end.
	Option B is incorrect	A central message in the article is about the joy the children feel from participating and the satisfaction they get from their efforts. The idea that being rewarded for participating belittles the efforts of the winners is not supported in the essay.
	Option C is incorrect	The author emphasizes that it doesn’t matter who wins or loses; the idea that satisfaction comes from being dedicated and doing your best is the central message readers can infer from the essay.

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28	Option G is correct	The definition “prove or confirm to be true” best matches the meaning of <u>validated</u> as it is used in paragraph 3. The author contrasts the school environment, where exams and success at sports prove or confirm a person’s progress or value, with the “real messy world” where progress is not <u>validated</u> in such a concrete way.
	Option F is incorrect	The author does not refer to any declarations or legal measures in paragraph 3 of the article.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no reference made to approving “an expressed agreement” in paragraph 3.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author uses the word <u>validated</u> to refer to confirmation of truth, not to marking something with an official indicator.
29	Option B is correct	In paragraph 8, the author describes Naomi and Kean loudly proclaiming “I’m first, I’m first” in unison as they finish the race, followed by Cyrus joyfully shouting “I’m third!” The author uses quotations to emphasize Cyrus’s noncompetitive nature.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 8, Naomi and Kean finish the race together, and both shout “I’m first, I’m first.” However, there is no disagreement between the children at this point—they both celebrate feeling like they won the race.
	Option C is incorrect	The author celebrates Cyrus’s participation in the race positively in paragraph 8; he expresses no concerns for Cyrus.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author does describe Naomi and Kean as “fast runners” in paragraph 6, the quotations in paragraph 8 are intended to emphasize Clive’s noncompetitive nature.

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30	Option J is correct	By explaining the concept of being an “also-ran,” the author describes someone who enjoys participating in a contest even though he or she does not win. The quotation from paragraph 9 expresses the author’s positive viewpoint of “also-rans” who “finish third in a three-horse race.”
	Option F is incorrect	The author’s quotation from paragraph 2 does not support his viewpoint regarding being an “also-ran.”
	Option G is incorrect	The author’s description of his house in paragraph 7 does not provide any explanation of his viewpoint regarding being an “also-ran.”
	Option H is incorrect	The author’s description of Naomi and Kean in paragraph 6 suggests that they will be successful in competitions; however, it does not provide an explanation of his viewpoint about being an “also-ran.”
31	Option A is correct	In paragraph 3, the author contrasts his education with his experience in the “real messy world.” Based on the details provided, the reader can conclude that the author’s education did not fully prepare him for life outside the “sanctuaries of high school and University.”
	Option B is incorrect	Based on the details in paragraph 3, the reader can conclude that the author was successful at both sports and academics while in school. He presents no evidence that he was better at sports than academics while growing up.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author does state that he attended “an elite school” in paragraph 2, there are not enough details provided in paragraph 3 for readers to compare the educational priorities at elite and public schools.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author provides no evidence that students in England are required to attend school through the university level.

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32	Option H is correct	The main idea of the article is that people should celebrate their best efforts regardless of whether or not they succeed. In paragraph 8, the author describes Cyrus joyfully celebrating his third-place finish in a race, and in paragraph 9, the author states that he believes “in celebrating those that finish third in a three-horse race.”
	Option F is incorrect	Naomi and Kean are described as more physically advanced than Cyrus, yet they are all best friends. The idea that children develop friendships with those who have similar abilities is not a supported main idea in the selection.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author does describe active children in the selection, the emphasis is on celebrating the joys of effort and participation, not activity and fitness.
	Option J is incorrect	At the beginning of the article, the author describes success in competitions but then explains that this success did not prepare him for life as an adult. The idea that people who consistently win competitions as children have advantages over others is not supported in this selection.
33	Option D is correct	Ketchum Marsh in “A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers” attended IMG Academies, “a private sports school where dreams of baseball glory are nurtured.” The author of “I Believe in the Also-Rans” attended an “elite school” where “achievement and winning were all-important.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although Ketchum Marsh in “A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers” has less athletic ability than some of his peers, and the author of “I Believe in the Also-Rans” acknowledges that his athletic success did not prepare him for life in the “real messy world,” there is no evidence to support the conclusion that either individual is frustrated with his limited athletic abilities.
	Option B is incorrect	Ketchum Marsh in “A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers” grew up in Chatham, Massachusetts, and the author of “I Believe in the Also-Rans” grew up in England.
	Option C is incorrect	Although in “A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers,” Ketchum Marsh’s parents did send him to IMG Academies, there is no evidence to support the conclusion that the family of the author of “I Believe in the Also-Rans” emphasized the importance of athletics.

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34	Option G is correct	In the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," the coaches are realistic about the chances players have of reaching the big leagues. The coaches emphasize characteristics and traits that will help their players succeed in any endeavor, rather than focus on winning and athletic achievement. These ideas contrast with the attitude of being "better than others" and the idea that "achievement and winning were all-important" found in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans."
	Option F is incorrect	In the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," Ketch is emphasizing his passion for baseball. This quotation does not contrast with the attitude expressed in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans."
	Option H is incorrect	This quotation does not contrast with the attitude expressed in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans." Bolek is reflecting on how his job is about more than baseball in the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers."
	Option J is incorrect	The idea that many of the coaches have dedicated years to the game of baseball is expressed in the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers." This does not contrast with the attitude expressed in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans."
35	Option B is correct	The authors of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" and "I Believe in the Also-Rans" discuss competition and achievement. Both authors include anecdotes to support their main ideas. In the first selection, the author describes Ketchum Marsh and his experience at an elite baseball academy. In the second selection, the author describes a race between his daughter and two of her friends.
	Option A is incorrect	Neither the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" nor the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" provide definitions of key terms in order to add meaning to their texts.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" includes quotations from coaches who have coached in the big leagues and now work at IMG, the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" does not include quotations from any experts.
	Option D is incorrect	Neither the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" nor the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" use a cause-and-effect organizational structure to highlight the relationships between key ideas.

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36	Option F is correct	In "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," the author describes Ketchum Marsh's debut at IMG as "less than stellar." Regarding Ketchum, Coach Ken Bolek states, "There weren't a lot of things that just came naturally to him as an athlete." The author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" points out that his daughter's friend Cyrus "was slower to develop physically and was nowhere near as speedy as his two playmates." Neither Ketchum Marsh nor Cyrus is a natural-born athlete.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Ketchum Marsh in "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" struggles at times and Cyrus in "I Believe in the Also-Rans" is slower than his friends, neither individual is described as feeling easily frustrated by failure.
	Option H is incorrect	The fact that Ketchum Marsh's parents in "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" sent him to IMG suggests that they are supportive of his dreams. The author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" is supportive of Cyrus and the other children.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Ketchum Marsh in "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" does hope to play baseball professionally, the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" does not indicate that Cyrus has aspirations of becoming a professional athlete.

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37	Option C is correct	In paragraph 32 from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," Ketchum Marsh explains that it is unlikely for kids growing up with dreams of becoming a professional baseball player to actually achieve that reality. In paragraph 3 from "I Believe in the Also-Rans," the author compares the "sanctuaries of high school and University," where he achieved success in class and on the sports field, to the "real messy world," where success is not as easily or clearly achieved. Both paragraphs are included to illustrate the contrasting realities between adult life and early experiences.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 32 from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" and paragraph 3 from "I Believe in the Also-Rans," the authors focus more on potential challenges people face as an adult than on early disappointments leading to long-term failure.
	Option B is incorrect	Neither the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" nor the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" discuss the educational advantages of attending elite schools.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 32 from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" and paragraph 3 from "I Believe in the Also-Rans," the authors focus on potential challenges adults may face. Neither author focuses on the most important qualities needed to become a successful adult in these paragraphs.
38	Option G is correct	The term point of view refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. The narrator describes T. J. reacting to the men on the roof differently than the way the other boys react. While the other boys are "frightened by the authority" of the men who question them about the grass, T. J. is defiant and then determined to prevent the men from being the ones to destroy the rooftop garden.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the adults have discovered the garden, no explanation of how they found the garden is revealed in the selection.
	Option H is incorrect	The reader can conclude that the boys have worked hard on the garden, but there is no indication of how much time they have put into their efforts.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the boys did help T. J. plant the garden, how they agreed to help T. J. is not revealed in the selection.

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39	Option C is correct	In the first sentence of the excerpt, the main conflict—the men finding the boys’ rooftop garden—is initiated. The plot is set in motion immediately with this conflict established.
	Option A is incorrect	Foreshadowing is a literary element that offers a warning or indication of future events. In the first sentence, the story’s conflict is initiated, but there is no foreshadowing regarding the resolution.
	Option B is incorrect	The main character, T. J., is not introduced until paragraph 6.
	Option D is incorrect	A question is presented in paragraph 1, but it is answered in paragraphs 5 through 8 of the selection.
40	Option J is correct	Readers can conclude that the boys worked hard to carry soil up onto the roof of the building. From this context, readers can determine that <u>laboriously</u> means “Slowly and with difficulty.”
	Option F is incorrect	Although the soil is clearly important to the boys, there is no evidence that they paid money for the soil.
	Option G is incorrect	T. J. and the boys seem pleased with their rooftop garden, but the context does not provide support to “For good reason” as the meaning of <u>laboriously</u> .
	Option H is incorrect	Before scooping dirt off the roof, T. J. yells, “I won’t let `em lay a dirty hand on it.” Based on this context, readers can conclude that <u>laboriously</u> does not mean “quietly and in secrecy.”

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Item#	Rationale	
41	Option C is correct	Irony is a type of figurative language where the author expresses the opposite of what is expected. Despite T. J.'s assertion in paragraph 20 that "It's our earth. It's our land. Can't nobody touch a man's own land," T. J. is actually growing his garden on the roof of a building owned by someone else. Although T. J. believes he has a right to grow a garden on the roof of the building, the opposite is true.
	Option A is incorrect	The irony found in the quotation from paragraph 20 comes from T. J.'s belief that he has a right to grow his garden on the roof of a building owned by someone else. The irony is not in T. J.'s love of the outdoors.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no mention of the men and their concerns over the abandoned rooftop in the quotation from paragraph 20.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 31, the narrator observes that "the task of destruction is infinitely easier than that of creation," but there is not a direct connection regarding irony between this idea and the quotation from paragraph 20.
42	Option G is correct	A theme, or central message, of the excerpt is the idea that people take pride in their work. When T. J. learns that the owner of the building plans to destroy his garden, he tells the man, "We toted it up here, and it's our earth. We planted it and raised it and toted it up here." Later, in paragraph 27, he "fiercely" tells his friends, "They ain't gonna touch my earth." T. J. and the other boys are clearly proud of the work they have done.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the adults are not supportive of the boys' accomplishment of planting a rooftop garden, their response is in the interest of protecting their property, not because they have lost a sense of accomplishment.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 10, the narrator compares the adults on the rooftop to other authority figures such as police officers and teachers. There is no sense that the boys are relying on the adults to maintain order; instead, they wish to defy the adults.
	Option J is incorrect	Although T. J. creates a green space on the roof of the building, the space is only valuable to him and his friends. There is no message about the general value of green spaces.

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Item#	Rationale	
43	Option D is correct	In paragraph 26, the narrator describes a “decision working” in T. J.’s face. T. J. then turns and heads back up the fire escape in paragraph 28 to take action. He has clearly made a decision to destroy the garden so that the adults cannot do so, and when the other boys join him on the roof, he has them help him take action.
	Option A is incorrect	Although T. J. is defiant toward the men who want to destroy his garden, he acts out of pride and attachment to his work rather than out of difficulty following rules.
	Option B is incorrect	Readers can conclude that T. J. is the leader of the group of boys, but there is no evidence to support the idea that he enjoys this role.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the other boys are surprised by T. J.’s behavior, they follow his lead. There is no evidence to support the idea that they view him as immature.
44	Option J is correct	In paragraph 24, T. J. asks his friends, ““We can’t stop them?”” referring to the men who plan on destroying his garden. In paragraph 25, T. J.’s friend Blackie responds with finality, ““No. . .they own the building.”” Blackie’s response is intended to convince T. J. that resisting the adults is pointless in this situation.
	Option F is incorrect	Blackie lets T. J. know it is pointless to resist the men, but there is no evidence that he supports their claim or their decision.
	Option G is incorrect	Blackie reminds T. J. that the men who want to destroy the garden own the building. He then goes back up onto the roof with T. J. to help him. There is no evidence of the boys wishing to go against T. J.
	Option H is incorrect	The words ““They own the building”” are not used to indicate that the men’s actions are limited. Rather, Blackie’s statement is used to show that the men have the power to make the rules and follow through.

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Item#	Rationale	
45	Option A is correct	When T. J. realizes that he cannot save the garden, he decides to destroy it rather than let the men have the satisfaction of doing so. After the destruction of the grass plot is complete, T. J. picks up one "lonely blade of grass," puts it into his mouth and sucks "the greenness out of it." This blade of grass is a final remnant of the precious rooftop grass patch.
	Option B is incorrect	The harvest that the boys anticipated would have been watermelons grown in their earth, which is not represented by the single blade of grass.
	Option C is incorrect	The grass may have provided T. J. a sense of his past home, but the one remaining piece of grass is a remnant of what has been lost, not what has been found.
	Option D is incorrect	T. J. did work on the garden with the other boys, but the blade of grass represents the last remnant of their precious rooftop grass patch, not his friendship with the other boys.
46	Option G is correct	In lines 15 and 16, the speaker describes her father "erasing the indentations of the letters and numbers he had etched over time." Based on the context, <u>etched</u> most closely means "imprinted," as the indented letters would be imprinted on the desk.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the speaker's father made the letters and numbers over time and is reluctant to change them, readers can conclude that the <u>etched</u> letters were "imprinted" into the desk, not "perfected."
	Option H is incorrect	Although the father "remembered" the letters, <u>etched</u> refers to how the letters and numbers were "imprinted" into the desk that needed to be sanded down.
	Option J is incorrect	Readers can conclude that the letters and numbers that created indentations in the desk had been "imprinted" over time, but not necessarily "tarnished."

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Item#	Rationale	
47	Option B is correct	The theme, or central message, of the poem is that cherished objects can create connections between family members. The speaker received a cherished desk from her father, who had used the desk as a child and throughout college. The speaker passes down the beloved piece of furniture to her child, promising him or her that one day they'll work on the desk together.
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker desires the desk not because her father valued it, but because of the connection it creates between family members.
	Option C is incorrect	The desk is extraordinary to the speaker, and she believes her child will feel the same way about it someday. The speaker does not suggest that someone else may find the desk ordinary.
	Option D is incorrect	The speaker states that the desk stimulates her imagination. However, she does not suggest that it will be made new again by using imagination.
48	Option H is correct	The speaker's father used the desk as a child and in college, then refinishes and passes it on to the speaker. The desk then accompanies the speaker throughout her life, and she is excited to pass the desk along to her young child, who is just starting out in life. Thus, the desk represents new beginnings that come with each generation.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker's father refinishes the desk, and the speaker suggests that she and her child will eventually strip the finish and repaint the desk. However, the desk represents new beginnings that come with each generation, not simply changes in style.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker's father and the speaker both care about the desk, and the speaker hopes her child will feel the same way, the desk represents new beginnings that come with each generation rather than pride that comes from caring for possessions.
	Option J is incorrect	The desk does inspire the speaker's creativity, but it represents new beginnings as it is passed down through generations.

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Item#	Rationale	
49	Option D is correct	In line 35, the speaker refers to her child’s “bright green and lavender dreams.” The desk had previously represented the speaker’s dreams, and the author provides the reference in line 35 to help the reader understand that the speaker is ready to relinquish ownership of the desk to her child.
	Option A is incorrect	In line 28, the speaker refers to the desk sitting in her child’s room, but she best indicates that she is ready to relinquish ownership of the desk in line 35 when she refers to the desk inspiring her child’s dreams.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 29, the speaker indicates how the desk is currently being used, but doesn’t indicate that she is ready to relinquish ownership of the desk so that her child can make the desk his or her own.
	Option C is incorrect	In line 30, the speaker refers to activities that her child is not able to accomplish because he or she is too young. This does not indicate that the speaker is ready to relinquish ownership of the desk.
50	Option H is correct	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. In lines 22 through 25, a nostalgic tone is established as the speaker fondly recalls sitting at her desk “for hours, make-believing I was a college professor, bank teller, school teacher, the boss.”
	Option F is incorrect	Although the speaker refers to pretending to be a college professor in line 22, the tone that is established is not intellectual. Instead, a nostalgic tone is established.
	Option G is incorrect	In lines 22 through 25, the speaker does remember playing at the desk in her youth, but she does not quickly list random details.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker does refer to her childhood dreams in lines 22 through 25, but she is recalling them with a nostalgic tone rather than a hopeful one.

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Item#	Rationale	
51	Option A is correct	In lines 31 through 35, the speaker wants the desk to be stripped and made new again for her child, who the speaker hopes will use the desk to pursue his or her own "green and lavender dreams." The speaker wants her child to use the desk to find his or her own identity.
	Option B is incorrect	The speaker refers to her child's "bright green and lavender dreams" as representative of his or her own identity, not as prescribed colors for her child to paint the desk.
	Option C is incorrect	The desk is more than just a new piece of furniture to the speaker. It is a way for her child to find his or her own identity.
	Option D is incorrect	The speaker's child is too young to understand the speaker's offer of the desk, but the speaker does not indicate any doubt regarding her child's acceptance of the desk when he or she is older and understands what the desk represents.
52	Option J is correct	The speaker uses repetition in lines 19 through 21 to emphasize that her desk creates a timeless bond between her and her family.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the speaker refers to the desk in line 20 as a "piece of history," repetition is used in these lines to suggest the timeless bond created by the desk, not the idea that the desk contains messages written long ago.
	Option G is incorrect	The speaker does refer to the desk in line 19 as an "heirloom." However, repetition is used in these lines to suggest the timeless bond created by the desk, and not the idea that the desk is worth a great amount of money.
	Option H is incorrect	The repetition used in lines 19 through 21 does not indicate that the desk is outdated in its appearance.