

GRADE 7

Writing

Modified

Administered April 2014

RELEASED*

*This is a partial release of the STAAR Modified assessment administered in spring 2014. Selected passages and test items have been removed in order to support future test administrations within the STAAR program.

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DAY 1



What Can I Do?

Carter was born into a family of athletes. Carter tried soccer, basketball, and football, but he was always the worst player on the team. Finally Carter decided to give up on sports and try out for the band as a drummer. Eventually he was chosen to be in the school's honor band. He wrote this paper to tell about his experience and what he learned from it.

Read Carter's paper and look for the revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

What Can I Do?

(1) Everyone in my family is good at sports. (2) My father plays softball, golf, and tennis. (3) My mother is a swimmer. (4) My sister plays basketball on her school's team. (5) Then there's me. (6) I am the family klutz.

(7) My parents didn't know this about me at first, so they signed me up for soccer when I was five. (8) I had trouble from the start. (9) While the other kids chased the ball, I tripped over my shoelaces and skinned my knees. (10) Needless to say, I never scored a goal.

(11) In third grade I decided to try basketball. (12) Dad offered the neighborhood team to coach. (13) With his help I was sure I would be able to play basketball. (14) No such luck. (15) I never made a basket.

(16) Dad thought I should try flag football the next year. (17) Sadly, I did no better. (18) One day the quarterback tried to throw me a pass, and the ball hit me in the face. (19) That was the turning point for me. (20) I told Mom and Dad that I was finished with sports.

(21) When sixth grade rolled around, I signed up for the school band. (22) I wasn't really interested in music, but I figured I had nothing to lose. (23) Surprisingly, over time I became a good drummer. (24) It took a lot of hard work. (25) At the end of the year, I was invited to join the school's honor band. (26) I was one of only three drummers chosen for this band!

(27) My parents spoke of it with pride. (28) "I guess you've heard that Carter is in the honor band," Mom would tell people.

(29) "You know, my son is one of the best drummers at his school," Dad would announce to anyone who would listen.



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(30) I couldn't believe it. (31) After spending all those years trying to be an athlete, my talent was finally discovered. (32) I was good at music! (33) In the end I realized that maybe my ability had come from my family after all. (34) You see, Grandma and Grandpa recently told me that they had played in a rock band in the 1960s! (35) I don't know why I wasn't told about that sooner.

- 1** Sentence 12 does not make sense. What is the BEST way to revise this sentence?
- A** Dad offered the neighborhood team. That he would coach.
 - B** Dad offered to coach the neighborhood team.
 - C** Dad offering to coach it, the neighborhood team.

- 2** Carter would like to add the following detail to the fourth paragraph of his paper (sentences 16–20).

I left the field with a bloody nose.

Where is the MOST effective place to add this sentence?

- F** At the beginning of the paragraph
- G** After sentence 16
- H** After sentence 18

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- 3** What is the BEST way to combine sentences 23 and 24?

- A** Surprisingly, over time I became a good drummer that took a lot of hard work.
- B** Surprisingly, over time and with a lot of hard work, I became a good drummer.
- C** Surprisingly, over time I became, with a lot of hard work, a good drummer.

4 Carter can make sentence 27 clearer by changing **it** to —

- F** her
- G** my teacher
- H** my accomplishment

5 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 31?

- A** After spending all those years trying to be an athlete, I had finally discovered my talent.
- B** After spending all those years to try to be an athlete, discovering my talent had finally been done.
- C** After spending all those years to try to be an athlete. My talent was finally discovered.

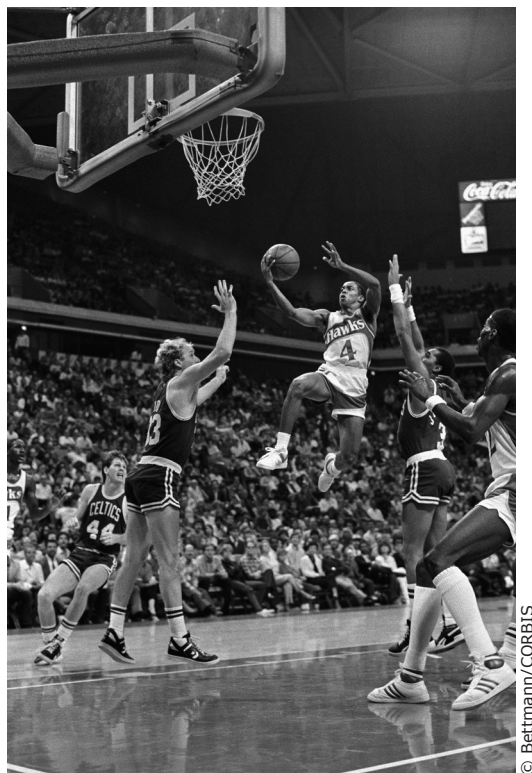




Spud

Parker read about an inspiring athlete. His name is Anthony Webb, but everyone calls him Spud. Although Spud was short, he was determined to play professional basketball. He worked hard in school to show his coaches that he could keep up with the taller players. Then in college Spud led his team to the NCAA tournament. No one thought he would make it to the pros, but he continued to be successful and was eventually invited to join a team in Atlanta.

Read this paper that Parker wrote about Spud Webb. Look for the corrections that Parker needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



Spud

(1) Anthony “Spud” Webb had a dream. (2) He loved basketball and wanted to play in the NBA. (3) But most NBA players are well over six feet tall and some are more than seven feet tall! (4) Young Spud was not tall at all. (5) People who knew him thought his dream was silly. (6) Spud didn’t care what anyone else thought. (7) He was going to play basketball.

(8) Spud knew he would have to work hard to compete with the bigger players. (9) So he practiced and practiced. (10) Over time he realized that he could do something better than most of the other kids. (11) He could jump very high. (12) Eventually he perfected an excellent dunk shot. (13) When his junior high coach finally agreed to let him play in a game, he scored 20 points. (14) Spud's success continued in high school. (15) Where he scored about 26 points a game and was named Player of the Year as a senior. (16) In college he led his team to one of the final rounds of the NCAA tournament.

6 What change should be made in sentence 3?

F Add **who** after **players**

G Add a comma after **six feet tall**

H Change **are more** to **is more**

7 What change should be made in sentence 8?

A Change **knew** to **new**

B Change **compeat** to **compete**

C Change **bigger** to **more bigger**

8 What change should be made in sentence 10?

F Change *realized* to **realizes**

G Change *that* to **this**

H Change *then* to **than**

9 What is the correct way to write sentences 14 and 15?

A Spud's success continued in high school, where he scored about 26 points a game. And was named Player of the Year as a senior.

B Spud's success continued in high school, he scored about 26 points a game and was named Player of the Year as a senior.

C Spud's success continued in high school, where he scored about 26 points a game and was named Player of the Year as a senior.

(17) Spud's accomplishments didn't convince the NBA that he was ready for professional basketball. (18) Most teams thought he was too small for their level of play. (19) However, in 1985 he was given an opportunity to try out for the Atlanta hawks. (20) He didn't just make the team; he played in the NBA for the next 12 years! (21) With his impressive ball-handling skills and amazing jumps, Spud became a crowd favorite.

(22) In 1986, Spud surprised players and fans when he won the NBA Slam Dunk Championship. (23) In this contest, players try to dunk the ball in creative ways. (24) At five feet seven inches tall, Spud was the shortest person ever to win this contest.

(25) Today Spud Webb tells kids, "You don't just wake up one day and play basketball in the NBA. (26) You have to work hard and practice." (27) Spud's story remind people that dreams really can come true.

10 What change should be made in sentence 19?

- F** Change *given* to **gave**
- G** Change *opportunity* to **oppertunity**
- H** Change *hawks* to **Hawks**

11 What change should be made in sentence 27?

- A** Change *remind* to **reminds**
- B** Change *dreams* to **dream's**
- C** Change *come* to **came**





No Place Like Home

Brent wrote this story about a dog named Tex. Tex gets out of his yard one day and begins to roam the neighborhood happily. Soon he hears a rumble of thunder from a terrible thunderstorm in the distance. Tex is in a panic. He has no idea how to get home, even though he sees a place that looks familiar. Finally Tex sees a car with his owner inside.

Read Brent's story about Tex's frightening day. Then answer the questions that follow.



No Place Like Home

(1) Tex ran down the street. (2) Soon he had passed the point where his owner always turned around during walks. (3) He was thrilled to be free. (4) There were so many new smells for his sensitive nose to enjoy. (5) Tex was in doggy heaven!

(6) A wide field stretched before him. (7) It reached all the way to a group of trees, which excited Tex. (8) Surely he would find a lot of squirrels to chase there!

(9) Tex was caught up in his adventure, that's why he didn't notice how dark the sky was getting. (10) He didn't see the angry black rain clouds. (11) Before Tex had a chance to find any squirrels, the low rumble of thunder sounded in the distance. (12) Then fat raindrops began to fall fast and hard. (13) They splashed on the dusty ground and turned it into mud.

12 What change should be made in sentence 4?

- F** Change ***There*** to ***Their***
- G** Insert a comma after ***smells***
- H** Change ***sensative*** to ***sensitive***

13 What is the correct way to write sentence 9?

- A** Tex was so caught up in his adventure that he didn't notice how dark the sky was getting.
- B** Tex was caught up in his adventure. And didn't notice how dark the sky was getting.
- C** Tex was so caught up in his adventure. That he didn't notice how dark the sky was getting.

(14) Tex was alone in the woods in the middle of a terrible thunderstorm. (15) In a panic he begun to search for the scent trail that would lead him home. (16) Unfortunately, the rain had mixed all the smells, so poor Tex had no idea which way to go. (17) He wandered about in the mud, running away from the scary lightning and howling at the thunder. (18) He just wanted to be at home.

(19) A wet and tired Tex somehow found his way, back onto Main Street. (20) The area was starting to look more familiar, but Tex still didn't know his way home. (21) Just when he thought there was no hope, Tex saw car lights coming toward him. (22) The Vehicle slowed to a stop, and a man climbed out. (23) Tex leaped into the air! (24) The man was his owner! (25) Tex was saved.

(26) As Tex rode home in the car, he let out a happy sigh. (27) He now knew that there was no place like home.

14 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 14?

- F** Change *woods* to **Woods**
- G** Change *in the middle* to **he was in the middle**
- H** Make no change

15 What change should be made in sentence 15?

- A** Change *begun* to **began**
- B** Change *to* to **too**
- C** Change *him* to **himself**

16 What change should be made in sentence 19?

- F** Change ***found*** to **finding**
- G** Delete the comma
- H** Change ***Street*** to **street**

17 What change should be made in sentence 22?

- A** Change ***Vehicle*** to **vehicle**
- B** Delete ***and***
- C** Change ***climbed out*** to **climbs out**



DAY 2



WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository



READ the information in the box below.

Students at Purdy High School in Missouri decided to work together to create a recycling center. Within four years they had helped improve the environment in their town and raised \$6,000 for school activities and scholarships.



THINK carefully about how much people can accomplish when they work together.



WRITE an essay explaining the importance of working with other people.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION
ON THE LINED PAGE LABELED "WRITTEN
COMPOSITION" IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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