Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	The word *change* best helps the reader understand the word modification. The author provides the example of running and says that it "can easily fit into someone's busy schedule" and that people don't "have to . . . change their lives to enjoy" (paragraph 5) the benefit that running brings.
	Option A is incorrect	The word *example* helps the reader understand that running is just one of the individual sports that can easily fit into a person's busy schedule.
	Option B is incorrect	Running requires little equipment; the purchase of extra gear is not a modification that people need to make to start running.
	Option C is incorrect	The word *payoff* helps the reader understand that there are benefits to participating in running, but it does not help the reader understand what modification means.

Item Position	Rationale	
2	Option A is correct	The author supports the argument made in the selection by highlighting the benefits of running in paragraph 5; the benefits of swimming in paragraph 6; and the benefits of cycling, hiking, and skateboarding in paragraph 7.
	Option B is incorrect	Although many popular individual sports are discussed in the selection, the focus is on the benefits of these sports rather than on the amount of interest in them.
	Option C is incorrect	The author includes information on individual sports offered in schools in paragraph 9, but there is no mention of schools transforming individual sports.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author includes information about the historical view of team sports, not the historical view of individual sports.

Item Position	Rationale
3	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option C is correct	The likely main audience for this selection is people interested in living a healthy, long life. The author argues that one of the ways to achieve that is through participation in individual sports. In paragraph 2, the author says that "people interested in a long life would be smart to follow Kelly's example and pick up a solo sport." The author includes research findings about how swimming and running can help people live longer (paragraphs 5 and 6).
	Option A is incorrect	Although the selection contains information about healthy living through exercise, which physicians frequently advise their patients on, there is no indication that these facts are meant for doctors to share with their patients.
	Option B is incorrect	Physical education teachers may be interested in the topic of the selection, but they are likely not the intended audience, since the author discusses individual sports in schools only in paragraph 9.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author stresses both the physical and the mental health benefits of solo sports, not enough statistical information is provided in the selection to appeal to researchers.

Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option B is correct	The author mentions these activities because of how fun they are. The idea is that involvement in a fun activity will lead a student to "pursue [it] for life" (paragraph 9). As the author notes: "Fun is the biggest key. The kids dropping out of organized sports are doing so in large part because it isn't fun for them anymore" (paragraph 10).
	Option A is incorrect	The focus of paragraph 9—in which individual sports in schools are discussed—is getting students excited about individual sports, not the health benefits of these sports. The author does not state that these fun individual sports have more health benefits than traditional forms of exercise do. Benefits of exercise are discussed in paragraphs 5 through 8.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author reports that "some schools are even offering classes in hip-hop dance, kickboxing, and even Dance Dance Revolution," the reason is not because those sports are more widely available in school settings. It is because the schools "[recognize] the value of getting kids excited about individual sports" (paragraph 9).
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not present individual sports as requiring less training and being easier to perform than other kinds of exercise.

Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option B is correct	This is the best paraphrase because the key information from the original sentences is restated accurately and concisely.
	Option A is incorrect	The paraphrase in this option does not include the idea of all solo sports and seems to suggest that only swimming and skateboarding allow for social interaction.
	Option C is incorrect	In the original sentences from paragraph 7, "meeting up with friends" is connected to only the skate park, not the public pool.
	Option D is incorrect	This paraphrase is missing the information about chatting and meeting up with friends, and the word choice makes it seem as though social interactions occur only when people are swimming or skating.

Item Position	Rationale	
7	Option B is correct	A rhetorical question is a question that is asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than get an answer. The author uses the rhetorical question in paragraph 2 to draw the reader in and develop interest in the claims and supporting information in the selection.
	Option A is incorrect	The author wishes first to gain the reader's interest and then to share research that supports the idea that "fitness is a great predictor of longevity" (paragraph 2). However, the author does not question the certainty of the researchers.
	Option C is incorrect	The sentence that precedes the rhetorical question is about Cornelius Kelly, a swimmer in his 80s who "is healthy, happy, and still active" (paragraph 1). In the rhetorical question, the phrase "such a long, healthy life" indicates that the author will explain how Kelly achieved such a life, not that there is no explanation (paragraph 2).
	Option D is incorrect	By asking a rhetorical question, the author does not add a touch of humor; instead, the author attempts to gain the reader's attention and make the reader curious to know the answer.

Item Position	Rationale	
8	Option B is correct	The author's main claim in the selection is that solo sports enhance the well-being and health of individuals throughout their lives. In paragraph 5, the author tells the reader that "picking up an individual sport and pursuing it for life is an option for just about everyone."
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not claim that solo sports should replace team sports. In fact, paragraph 3 contains information about the benefits of team sports.
	Option C is incorrect	Learning to set goals for oneself is a benefit of individual sports the author mentions in paragraph 8, but it is not the author's main claim that solo sports teach people to set goals without depending on a team.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not include any statistical information that would support the claim that solo sports are the most enjoyable form of physical activity. The main claim is in regard to the health benefits of solo sports.

Item Position	Rationale	
9	Option D is correct	The author explains the inspiration for the sculpture by identifying why Cabrera chose to create the sculpture in the way that she did—in other words, pinpointing the cause of Cabrera's action. In paragraph 2, the author says that "Cabrera wanted to celebrate San Antonio's history from the point of view of the people who lived there." In paragraph 3, the author describes how Cabrera achieved the finished product: "Cabrera taught the participants how to create clay sculptures representing these histories and stories."
	Option A is incorrect	Paragraphs 2 and 3 are about *Cabrera's* appreciation for San Antonio's culture and history and what she did about it, not about the people's appreciation.
	Option B is incorrect	Only paragraph 3 is about the community residents sharing their stories.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no information about the importance of the materials used.

Item Position	Rationale	
10	Option D is correct	Many key words in the article, including the title of the sculpture, are in Spanish. In paragraph 2, the author states that Cabrera was inspired by "the love and respect Texas has for its Hispanic communities" and that Cabrera "wanted to celebrate San Antonio's history." Additionally, there is reference to "an early Spanish-language TV station" in paragraph 3.
	Option A is incorrect	In the article, there is no comparison made between how much other cities appreciate art and how much San Antonio appreciates art.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no suggestion in the article that Cabrera is a permanent resident of San Antonio.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author makes reference to "many visitors" in paragraph 1, the author does not say whether those visitors are tourists or local residents.

Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option C is correct	At the distance from which the photograph was taken, the reader can clearly see the size and appearance of the completed sculpture.
	Option A is incorrect	The photograph is not a close-up shot of the individual elements of the sculpture. Therefore, the reader cannot determine from the photograph whether the sculpture reflects local history and art.
	Option B is incorrect	In the photograph itself, there is no indication of how the sculpture was built.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no clue in the photograph as to how visitors should view the sculpture.

Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option C is correct	In the story, Manuel is lonely, so he goes out to the garage, learns about wood carving from his grandfather, and makes a connection with him, which makes Manuel feel less alone. Grandfather says, "Wood carving goes back generations in our *familia*" (paragraph 4).
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 8, Manuel and his grandfather carefully paint some finishing details on the *tortuga*. However, there is no mention of a challenge that must be mastered.
	Option B is incorrect	The *alebrijes* are wooden carvings of animals, and in this story, the art of carving them is a family legacy, but there is no focus in the story on honoring animals.
	Option D is incorrect	Manuel does learn about carving and painting, which requires artistic talent, but in the story this does not relate to trying to find a special talent. Instead, it relates to Manuel connecting with his grandfather.

Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option A is correct	The word *intrigued* is used in paragraph 1 to describe Manuel's reaction to seeing his grandfather working on the carvings. This word is an indication of Manuel's curiosity.
	Option B is incorrect	According to paragraph 1, Manuel is "restless," and the additional detail that he has been alone all morning indicates that he is bored. It is for that reason, not because he is creative, that he goes to see his grandfather in the garage.
	Option C is incorrect	Manuel's boredom causes him to seek out his grandfather in the garage, but it is Manuel's curiosity that leads him to help his grandfather.
	Option D is incorrect	Although in paragraph 8 Grandfather asks Manuel to help him pack the *alebrijes* for the market, the story ends before Grandfather goes to the market in the morning, so the reader cannot know whether Manuel goes with him.

Item Position	Rationale	
14	Option A is correct	Manuel is in Oaxaca visiting his grandparents; this setting provides the opportunity for him to spend time with his grandfather and learn about the tradition of carving *alebrijes*.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Manuel does not speak much of the local language and had been inside by himself, the author does not say that this makes him feel alone and out of place.
	Option C is incorrect	The garage is where Manuel spends time with his grandfather and learns about his family's customs and history, but there is no indication in the story that Manuel needs a new sense of purpose in his life.
	Option D is incorrect	Manuel is not in the garage to improve his creativity. He is there to appease his restlessness and find something to do.

Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	Tone is the way in which the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. The use of a question in each selection adds a feeling of wonder and excitement about a meaningful object: in the article, the author asks a question about a sculpture, which is described as a "stunning monument" (paragraph 1), and the author of the story has Manuel ask a question about Grandfather's *alebrijes*, or wood carvings, which are described as "little animal[s]" (paragraph 6) and "fantastical creatures" (paragraph 7).
	Option A is incorrect	Although both authors use questions to better inform the reader, neither the article nor the story has a tone that suggests a lack of understanding. Instead, the questions are used to add to the excitement of the discovery.
	Option B is incorrect	The object in the question is clearly described before each question is asked. In the story, before he asks Grandfather his question, Manuel says, "You are carving a little animal" (paragraph 6), confirming that the word he doesn't know, *alebrijes*, is connected to what he is seeing. This shows that what Manuel is asking about is not something mysterious, and he is not concerned about it; he is excited.
	Option D is incorrect	In both selections the tone is informative, and both authors seek to help readers become more familiar with the subjects they are writing about.

Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option B is correct	In paragraph 3 of "Art for the People, Art by the People," the author explains how participants were taught to make individual clay sculptures to represent "their family histories and cultures." By contrast, in "Grandfather's Legacy," Grandfather practices the art of wood carving, a tradition that, he says, "goes back generations in our *familia*" (paragraph 4). Grandfather says his handmade *alebrijes* are "one of a kind" and "*nothing* like those shoddy things at the souvenir shops" (paragraph 3).
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 3 of "Art for the People, Art by the People," there is a description of how the clay sculptures were made by individual participants; they were not manufactured, and there is no indication that people found it difficult to work with the materials. In "Grandfather's Legacy," Grandfather talks about the uniqueness of each carving, not the simplicity of the materials.
	Option C is incorrect	In "Art for the People, Art by the People," the author explains that Cabrera taught people how to create clay sculptures but does not mention how easy or how hard it was. In "Grandfather's Legacy," Grandfather allows Manuel to paint the completed *alebrijes* as well as help pack them to take to the market. However, there is no mention of Grandfather stressing the importance of skill in handling the materials.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author of "Art for the People, Art by the People" does say that the tree sculpture was "created with steel and clay" (paragraph 1), the author of "Grandfather's Legacy" describes *alebrijes* as created using wood, paints, and brushes, not a single material.

Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option A is correct	In paragraph 2 of "Art for the People, Art by the People," the author describes the inspiration for the tree sculpture made to celebrate San Antonio's history, and in paragraph 3, the author explains how "ordinary people" were invited to "create [smaller] clay sculptures representing [their] histories and stories." Their sculptures were then added to the tree, which is located near Mission Espada. In "Grandfather's Legacy," a grandfather teaches his grandson the art of carving *alebrijes*, which, he says, "goes back generations in our *familia*" (paragraph 4).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author of "Art for the People, Art by the People" does include the sculpture's location, the author does not use persuasive writing to encourage the reader to visit it. In "Grandfather's Legacy," there is no mention of people creating art for themselves.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the sculpture in "Art for the People, Art by the People" required planning, that is not the focus of the article. In "Grandfather's Legacy," Manuel and his grandfather work on the animal carvings only in the garage. Therefore, there is no evidence to support the idea that art can be made anytime and anywhere.
	Option D is incorrect	The author of "Art for the People, Art by the People" is promoting heritage and community, not individuality, which the author supports by stating, "In creating *Árbol de la vida*, Cabrera encouraged many voices to sing together" (paragraph 4). In "Grandfather's Legacy," there is no indication that the author thinks all art should be entirely unique to the artist's culture; rather, the story celebrates a family's tradition of wood carving.

Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option A is correct	In each selection, the steps the artists follow or followed are presented in sequential order. In paragraph 2 of the article, the author explains the inspiration behind Cabrera's art, and in paragraph 3, the author describes the process Cabrera used to get the community's help in creating art for *Árbol de la vida*. In the story, the author describes Grandfather as focused on a piece of wood with a rough "dome" shape (paragraph 2). Then the author states, "Grandfather worked until the chunk of wood came to resemble a turtle" (paragraph 8). Finally, Manuel and Grandfather painted and put "finishing touches" on the animal carving (paragraph 8).
	Option B is incorrect	The idea that artists improve with practice is not mentioned in either the article or the story.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no indication in either the article or the story of the time required for creating art.
	Option D is incorrect	The success of artists is not the focus of either selection.

Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option D is correct	The statement best represents the controlling idea of the selection because it does not focus only on one point of view, one detail, or one section of the selection.
	Option A is incorrect	The success of student projects is only a minor detail in this selection.
	Option B is incorrect	The history of participatory budgeting is a detail, not the controlling idea of the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	In the selection, the author explains what participatory budgeting is and shares people's positive and negative views on the process. The statement that participatory budgeting is the best way to plan school budgets provides only one viewpoint and fails to explain what participatory budgeting is.

Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option B is correct	This summary is complete and contains only important details, including the number of students who took part in the participatory budgeting process in Arizona, the amount of money that was involved, conflicting views on participatory budgeting, and the need for schools to evaluate whether the process has value for their students.
	Option A is incorrect	This summary includes a list of details from only paragraph 10, not both paragraphs, and the report of the parent's statement is inaccurate.
	Option C is incorrect	The statements in this summary do not accurately reflect the information in paragraphs 10 and 11. In paragraphs 10 and 11, there is no indication of whether the projects were successful. Moreover, only one parent is mentioned in the selection, and in this summary the view expressed by that parent is misrepresented.
	Option D is incorrect	This is not a complete or accurate summary. It contains details from only paragraph 10 and an opinion not found in the selection.

Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	In paragraph 6, the students were proposing ideas for projects.
	Option A is incorrect	Based on the context and details in paragraph 6, the reader can infer that the students did not literally throw the projects.
	Option B is incorrect	The details provided in paragraph 6 help the reader understand that students were proposing ideas, not that the students or the projects were falling heavily forward.
	Option D is incorrect	The students were proposing ideas, not giving their share of work on the project.

Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option D is correct	The author includes the quotation in this sentence from paragraph 10 most likely to help the reader understand that it is hard to predict what choices students will make.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 6 is about the experience of one participating student, not about the results of a participatory budgeting program.
	Option B is incorrect	This paragraph 7 sentence is about how students are typically selected for the committee, not about being open-minded about the results of the process.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 9, the author shares that some people have a negative opinion of participatory budgeting. Therefore, the idea that people should be open-minded about the results of a participatory budgeting program is not supported.

Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option A is correct	Tone is the way in which the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. By providing the date that participatory budgeting began and the number of cities where it has been used, the author establishes an informative tone.
	Option B is incorrect	The sentence from paragraph 3 is a simple statement, not a detailed description.
	Option C is incorrect	The only historical information given in the sentence is that participatory budgeting began in the 1980s. This does not constitute a history of the topic.
	Option D is incorrect	Numbers and dates are neither positive nor negative. However, numbers and dates can be informative.

Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option B is correct	The author includes information about students learning "financial concepts" to show that skills learned in participatory budgeting programs "[prepare] [them] for adulthood" (paragraph 6).
	Option C is correct	In paragraph 5, the author shares details about students who are involved in participatory budgeting programs, saying that such students "learn about democracy by experiencing it" and are "7 percent more likely to vote in future elections." After reaching voting age, students can vote in elections for the rest of their lives, so increased participation in the democratic process is a long-lasting benefit.
	Option A is incorrect	This detail is about the way in which students in Arizona gathered project ideas; it does not include information about the long-lasting benefits of participatory budgeting.
	Option D is incorrect	This detail is about the project some students voted to fund in New York, not about the benefits of being involved in the participatory budgeting process.
	Option E is incorrect	In this option, there is no suggestion that being part of participatory budgeting has long-lasting benefits. This option is about how one student reflected positively on her involvement in the process.

Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option A is correct	The author provides the reader with a relatable choice about how to spend money in a school's budget, since making such choices is essentially what students do when they take part in the participatory budgeting process.
	Option B is incorrect	The author asks for a personal opinion and does not invite the reader to research facts about school budgets.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no suggestion of the demands of creating a budget; the question is about making choices.
	Option D is incorrect	The sentence from paragraph 1 is an opinion question to the reader and does not discuss the effectiveness of voting on school budgets.

Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option C is correct	Categorization as an organizational pattern is the grouping together of information for a common purpose. The categories in this selection are about the benefits and challenges of participatory budgeting.
	Option A is incorrect	The author mentions only one way in which most students can get involved in participatory budgeting at school, in paragraph 7.
	Option B is incorrect	The author provides information about students involved in the participatory budgeting process. However, information is not provided about students who are involved in community projects.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not include information on how to set up a student action program.

Item Position	Rationale
27	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option C is correct	In sentence 2, Milagros is offering one example of what the writer described in sentence 1. This makes "for instance" an appropriate and effective transition to use here.
	Option A is incorrect	"In the meantime" is not an effective transition to use in this sentence because it implies that Twain wrote his book while something else was happening. This is not correct, given the context provided by sentence 1.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase "as a result" does not provide an effective transition in sentence 2 because Mark Twain did not write his book as a consequence of a previously stated fact.
	Option D is incorrect	"Above all" is not an effective transition because it implies that Mark Twain is of prime importance in a list of examples. This is not correct, because he is listed only as one example.

Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option A is correct	In this option, the writer places the phrase "after a few years" at the beginning of the sentence, which clarifies when Dobie took a break from teaching.
	Option B is incorrect	This revision is confusing because the placement of "after a few years" implies that Dobie took a break from working on his uncle's ranch rather than from teaching.
	Option C is incorrect	The revision of this sentence is awkward and unclear. Its structure suggests that Dobie took a break from working on the ranch.
	Option D is incorrect	In this option, the writer has not established the proper relationship between the break and the ranch work. They were not separate actions, as is suggested by the conjunction "and."

Item Position	Rationale	
30	Option C is correct	The word "developed" is the most appropriate word for this sentence because it helps the reader understand that Dobie's affection for Texas culture arose and grew during this time period.
	Option A is incorrect	"Originated" is not the most appropriate word to use in this sentence because this word means to initiate or invent something. There is no indication that Dobie was the first to have such a passion, and it makes no sense to invent or initiate a passion.
	Option B is incorrect	"Enlarged" means to make something larger. Revising the sentence using this word would imply that Dobie was working to grow a passion that already existed, and there is no support here for that claim.
	Option D is incorrect	Using the word "produced" in this sentence would suggest that Dobie made or created a passion for Texas culture, which is not correct. One's own passions are not products that one makes.

Item Position	Rationale
31	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option C is correct	With this sentence, the writer effectively introduces the ideas in the sixth paragraph, where he lists some of Dobie's books that people have enjoyed and mentions the recognition that Dobie received for writing these books.
	Option A is incorrect	This is not an effective topic sentence because the writer states a general fact about Dobie that is not relevant to the specific topic of this paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Here again, the writer states a fact about Dobie that is true, but it does not specifically relate to the information in the sixth paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	This is not an effective topic sentence because the sixth paragraph does not focus on how Dobie changed the world.

Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option C is correct	In sentence 2, Onir is listing "all" the things that felt ugly to him. This revision uses the noun phrase "the rolling clouds" to name one of those things. It replaces "the clouds rolled," which does not function as the name of a thing. This revision creates a clearer and more consistent list of the items that Onir finds ugly.
	Option A is incorrect	This option fails to clearly explain what Onir means by "It all." The revision introduces a jumble of ideas with a confusing structure.
	Option B is incorrect	This option also fails to carry out Onir's intent, which is to indicate three items that strike him as ugly: the carpet's color, the rolling clouds, and the place he is living. This revision does not effectively separate the last two items.
	Option D is incorrect	Sentence 2 is not effectively structured as a list, so a change is needed.

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option B is correct	By adding this sentence after sentence 4, Onir would move from describing his previous condition to describing his new situation. This creates an effective progression of ideas.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the new sentence after sentence 3 is not correct because in both sentences 3 and 4, Onir is telling about his previous home and life. This option places the transition to "now" too early in the paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	In sentence 5, Onir provides support for the information in the new sentence, so it would not make sense to place the new sentence after sentence 5.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 6, Onir closes the contrast presented in the paragraph. The new sentence should not follow sentence 6 because it would no longer serve to introduce the new setting just described.

Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option A is correct	The information in sentence 9 repeats information that was already given in sentence 8, so sentence 9 should be removed.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 10, Onir offers new and relevant information about Carl, so this sentence should not be removed.
	Option C is incorrect	In sentence 11, Onir shares his feelings about Carl and his dog for the first time in the paragraph, so this sentence should remain.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 12, Onir provides new facts about Carl's actions that are important to the paragraph. This sentence should not be removed.

Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option A is correct	In this sentence, Onir shares what his family learned about Carl from their neighbors, making this sentence good support for sentence 22.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence does not provide good support for sentence 22 because it does not give any information about Carl.
	Option C is incorrect	While the information in this sentence could have come from Onir's neighbors, it does not support sentence 22 because it is not specifically about Carl.
	Option D is incorrect	This information about the kids who live on Onir's street is irrelevant and does not support sentence 22.

Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	With this sentence, Onir highlights the main point of his story by expressing his gratitude for Carl's friendship and his appreciation for what he has learned from Carl.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, Onir mentions other friends and the fact that Carl is a great neighbor, but the sentence does not capture the main point of the story, which is that Carl has been a wonderful friend to Onir.
	Option B is incorrect	Onir compliments Carl in a grand way in this sentence, but he does not touch on their friendship, which is the focus of this story.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, Onir shares an observation about Carl, but this information does not capture or reflect the overall point of the story.

Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option B is correct	The base adjective "unfriendly" is correct here. The superlative form is incorrect since no comparison is being made.
	Option A is incorrect	"Environment" is the correct spelling of the word in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "human" should not be capitalized in this sentence because it is not used as a proper noun.
	Option D is incorrect	The singular form of the word "body" is correct in this sentence, since the claim is not about any specific group of humans.

Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option C is correct	In this option, the original fragment has been corrected by replacing the verb "wanting" with "wanted." The result is a complete sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	The second structure in this option is a fragment and is therefore incorrect.
	Option B is incorrect	The second structure in this answer choice is punctuated as a complete sentence. But it is actually a dependent clause that needs to be properly connected to the first structure.
	Option D is incorrect	This answer choice is a fragment, so it cannot be the correct option.

Item Position	Rationale	
40	Option D is correct	No change is needed in this sentence because the sentence is complete and contains no grammatical or mechanical errors.
	Option A is incorrect	"In 2015" is correct because the preposition "in" signals that the event described in this paragraph happened during that specific year. "From 2015" would not specify the time effectively.
	Option B is incorrect	"Preparring" is not the correct spelling of "preparing," so this change should not be made.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma after "spend" would create an unneeded break in this sentence, interrupting the connection between the verb and its object.

Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	The words “affects” and “effects” are homophones, which are words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spellings. “Effects” is the noun used when referring to the results of a process or event, so it is the correct word to use in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The past-tense form of the verb “had” is correct here, since the study was to take place after the trip occurred. The change proposed would result in an error in verb tense.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma is not needed before the prepositional phrase “during his trip” in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	“During” is the correct spelling of the preposition in sentence 6.

Item Position	Rationale	
42	Option D is correct	A semicolon is needed between two independent clauses when no conjunction is used. This change corrects the run-on sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	"Wedged" is the correct past-tense form of this verb in sentence 2. Changing it to "wedging" would create a verb form error.
	Option B is incorrect	"Themselfs" is not the correct way to spell "themselves."
	Option C is incorrect	"Through" and "threw" have different meanings and functions. "Threw" is the past-tense form of the verb "to throw." "Through" is a preposition that indicates the passage of something or someone. It is the correct word for this context.

Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option B is correct	Changing "feels" to "felt" keeps the tense consistent in this paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	"Suddenly" is spelled correctly in sentence 4.
	Option C is incorrect	The adjective "cool" modifies the word "draft." The comparative form of the adjective is not needed here because no comparison is being made to any other draft.
	Option D is incorrect	Sentence 4 contains a verb-tense error, so a change is needed.

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option A is correct	"Recognizing" corrects the misspelling "reconizing" in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "was" to "were" would create a subject–verb agreement error in sentence 5.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma after "indication" is unnecessary in this sentence since what follows is a prepositional phrase, not a clause.
	Option D is incorrect	"He" refers back to "one of the men," so it is the correct pronoun to use in sentence 5. "It" would not be suitable for referring to a person.

Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option D is correct	"Natural Bridge Caverns" is the correct way to capitalize this proper name.
	Option A is incorrect	The answer choice "natural bridge caverns" is incorrect because this is a proper name, and all the words in the name should be capitalized.
	Option B is incorrect	This answer choice is incorrect because it only capitalizes the first word of the name in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This answer choice is incorrect because it only capitalizes the first and last words of the proper name. All the words in the name should be capitalized.