

STAAR Spring 2024 English I Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	In paragraph 2, the author states that neglecting to cite sources is “a kind of theft,” which is dishonest, indicating that neglecting to cite sources is wrong, and states that, if we fail to give due credit, “we are dishonestly taking the work of others” and “trying to pass it off as our own.”
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that it is proper to cite sources does not necessarily connect to the implication that it is wrong when a person fails to cite sources.
	Option C is incorrect	A statement that a practice is widespread does not necessarily imply that it is wrong to not follow that practice.
	Option D is incorrect	The difficulty of gaining permission from writers to use their work supports the use of citations as a way of acknowledging writers but does not relate to whether it is <i>wrong</i> to <i>not</i> use citations.

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2	Option B is correct	Tone is the reflection of an author’s particular attitude, either stated or implied, toward a subject. Throughout the selection, the author conveys a moralistic tone, illustrated by the author’s use of the words <i>honesty</i> and <i>respect</i> in paragraph 7, to support the idea that citing sources is morally right.
	Option A is incorrect	A wish to receive credit for one’s work could be perceived as self-interest; however, in the context of the selection, giving credit is presented as a courtesy and a show of appreciation.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author explains that citation can reveal how artists inspire one another, this does not contribute to a tone of openness.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does comment on the actions of students; however, the overall tone of the selection is moralistic and focuses on “doing the right thing” (paragraph 9).

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Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option A is correct	The author states that “citing sources is simply the right thing to do.” The claim that citation is a moral obligation—and that anything less is wrong—is asserted throughout the selection, using examples and analogies.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author claims that citations can enhance learning opportunities, but it does not necessarily follow that citations enhance the quality of one’s writing.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not recognize any debate about how to cite sources. <i>Why</i> people should cite sources is the focus of the author’s claim.
	Option D is incorrect	The author implies that, compared to requesting permission from the writers, it is simple and efficient to cite one’s sources.

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Item Position	Rationale
4	The author uses the word <i>reciprocal</i> to describe cooperative working relationships based on mutually observed norms. Paragraph 7 goes on to explain that when creators give credit to other creators, they are more likely to receive credit for their own unique content.

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Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option A is correct	The author’s primary focus is on using citations when writing. The author does not recognize any debate about how to cite sources. Authoring a research paper requires proper citation of sources, so the author’s intended audience most likely addresses people writing research papers.
	Option B is incorrect	The author includes a quotation from a historian in paragraph 7; however, most of the selection is about citing sources, not following a career path.
	Option C is incorrect	Although someone who is trying to fact-check a book would agree with the importance of accuracy in citations, the author’s focus is on using citations when writing or creating other content, not when fact-checking a book.
	Option D is incorrect	The author primarily provides a rationale for giving credit, whereas the debate about what constitutes intellectual property is discussed only briefly.

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Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option D is correct	By using the word <i>theft</i> , the author is emphasizing the importance of acknowledging borrowed ideas.
	Option A is incorrect	Although theft is a crime, the author does not outline the legal consequences of plagiarism.
	Option B is incorrect	The debate about intellectual property is referenced in paragraphs 4 and 5; however, the author does not discuss problems resulting from debating what constitutes intellectual property.
	Option C is incorrect	Although most people would regard plagiarism of their work as “a kind of theft,” the author is highlighting the importance of citation and does not investigate how people feel when their work is not credited.

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Item Position	Rationale	
7	Option C is correct	The author’s main claim is that people have a moral obligation to cite and give credit to original creators. In paragraphs 4 and 5, the author concedes that there is not always a clear boundary for determining ownership of intellectual rights, since ideas can be copied, and they in turn often yield new and different ideas.
	Option A is incorrect	The author asserts in paragraph 6 that readers can more easily check and verify facts if writers cite their sources; however, this stance <i>supports</i> the author’s claim that all sources should be cited instead of countering it.
	Option B is incorrect	The author observes, in paragraph 2, that borrowing ideas in writing or art is like theft in the sense that it equates to taking something tangible or of value. But this observation supports rather than counters the main claim, which is that people have a moral obligation to cite and give credit to original creators.
	Option D is incorrect	The author’s suggestion in paragraph 5 that the use of any intellectual property requires citation supports rather than counters the main claim, which is that people have a moral obligation to cite their sources.

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

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Item Position	Rationale	
9	Option C is correct	This paraphrase addresses the two ideas expressed in the quotation: that citation is a recognized practice in writing and that it is correct to give people credit when using their ideas.
	Option A is incorrect	This paraphrase addresses only the idea that writers need to give credit to other writers. It does not capture the other idea expressed in the quotation: that giving due credit is a widespread existing practice.
	Option B is incorrect	The quotation does not address a debt owed to writers who acknowledge others.
	Option D is incorrect	The author states that citation is the most efficient way of giving credit; productivity in writing is not addressed in the quotation.

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Item Position	Rationale	
10	Option D is correct	Maud has a more practical view of the world than an imaginative one as Frank does. When viewing the Kinetoscope for the first time, Frank is in awe of this new machine (paragraph 9), but Maud shrugs and does not understand Frank’s interest in it (paragraph 10). Frank is similarly fascinated with the Ferris wheel and is committed to riding it, but Maud has “to put her foot down” because riding the wheel is out of their budget (paragraph 11).
	Option A is incorrect	This answer is only partly correct. Frank is more interested in the Kinetoscope than Maud is, but he is also more curious about the Ferris wheel than she is.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Frank does take his time viewing certain exhibits, Maud hurries only when Frank pulls her along.
	Option C is incorrect	Frank is more knowledgeable about both exhibits than Maud is.

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Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option C is correct	In paragraph 11, the narrator explains that people were afraid to ride the wheel because the <i>spindly</i> spokes “didn’t look as if they could support” the massive cars.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the words “hollow and light” could indicate that the spokes were unsafe, they do not describe the <i>spindly</i> appearance of the spokes.
	Option B is incorrect	The author wants to highlight the contrast between the long, thin spokes and the massive cars. Therefore, the word <i>spindly</i> cannot mean “arched and twisted.”
	Option D is incorrect	It is possible that the spokes are “straight and overlapping,” but the word <i>spindly</i> is used to describe the contrast between the size of the cars and the appearance of the spokes.

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Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option D is correct	An oxymoron is a combination of contradictory or incongruous words. The author uses the words "tiny men" to clarify Maud's reaction to what she sees in the Kinetoscope.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the words "tiny men" describe what Maud sees in the Kinetoscope, they do not explain the science or the construction of the device.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses the oxymoron to show the unique effect of the Kinetoscope, not to show that the images are photographs.
	Option C is incorrect	The shape of the Kinetoscope is described in paragraph 1, not paragraph 5, and the words "tiny men" are not used in paragraph 1.

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Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option C is correct	In the flashback, Maud is concerned about the cost of riding the Ferris wheel; this gives the reader insight into her mindset of practicality.
	Option E is correct	When, in the flashback, Frank explains to his family that he read all about the wheel in the paper, it emphasizes his love of technological innovations.
	Option A is incorrect	Ferris’s wheel was designed to rival the Eiffel Tower in Paris, which is in France; however, it is not indicated in paragraph 11 that Frank would like to visit rides or exhibits in France or any other foreign country.
	Option B is incorrect	The flashback does not include a display of Maud’s patience in waiting to watch the wheel.
	Option D is incorrect	In the flashback, Maud demonstrates frugality rather than generosity. In addition, the narrator does not specify that it was Maud who paid for admission.

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Item Position	Rationale	
14	Option D is correct	The author’s use of chronological organization in paragraphs 6 through 9 to follow the public’s reaction to the ride, from excitement to indifference, contributes to the thesis.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author comments on the steel frame of the wheel in paragraph 7, this detail does not explain how the Ferris wheel was built nor is it relevant information needed to develop the thesis of the excerpt.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraphs 6 through 9, the author shows how the Ferris wheel rose to and fell from popularity, not how Ferris himself became famous over time.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not discuss the development of the World’s Columbian Exposition in paragraphs 6 through 9.

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Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	This option is the most accurate and complete summary of the excerpt because it includes a description of the wheel’s initial popularity and details of its success and reuse, as well as its decline in popularity and subsequent destruction.
	Option A is incorrect	The details included in this summary are facts about the wheel, but they omit significant information about the wheel’s popularity and impact.
	Option B is incorrect	Because this option does not include any description of the Ferris wheel other than it survived a windstorm and does not refer to the public’s change of interest in it over the long term, it is not complete or effective as a summary.
	Option D is incorrect	This option includes details about people’s first impressions of the wheel, and it includes certain inconsequential details about the wheel, but it neglects important general information about the wheel’s history, impact, and destruction.

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Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option C is correct	The author establishes society’s preconceptions about technology by providing details about how people’s initial view of the wheel changed after their experience on the wheel. In paragraph 4, the first-time rider is quoted as saying, “ ‘Of course, you expect to be dizzy, seasick, disturbed by the motion of the cars. And you are disappointed.’ ” In paragraph 6, the author notes that people were doubtful of the wheel’s safety but “had to admit” that it was solid after a strong storm failed to affect it.
	Option A is incorrect	Although there is information about Ferris’s profit, the author does not include information about the development costs of the Ferris wheel; therefore, there is no indication of the impact of cost on society’s view of recent technologies.
	Option B is incorrect	Although previous disagreement over the safety of the Ferris wheel is implied by the statement that “everyone had to admit the wheel was safe” (paragraph 6), the author provides no information to indicate that most people believe that recent technologies will fuel controversy.
	Option D is incorrect	This idea is not supported by the information in the excerpt.

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Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option B is correct	The author includes the firsthand account of riding the wheel in paragraphs 4 and 5 most likely to describe the general public's expectations and impressions of the first ride.
	Option A is incorrect	The quotation in paragraphs 4 and 5 explains a person's first experience of the Ferris wheel. It does not demonstrate the science behind the workings of the wheel.
	Option C is incorrect	The quotation in paragraphs 4 and 5 shows that a person enjoyed the ride; it does not raise a question as to why the public paid to ride the Ferris wheel.
	Option D is incorrect	The author includes the quotation most likely to show a positive experience of a ride on the Ferris wheel, without any implication that the Ferris wheel might be unsafe.

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Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option A is correct	In <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , the author shows Maud’s reaction to the high price of a ride (“fifty cents . . . was out of the budget” [paragraph 11]), which indicates that despite the cost, many people were fascinated enough to pay for a ride. The author of “Big Wheels Keep On Turnin’ ” notes that Ferris made a \$100,000 profit from the wheel. These details support the idea that people were attracted to the wheel.
	Option B is incorrect	The selections include the idea that the ride was meant to rival the Eiffel Tower as an object of public fascination, not that it was designed to resemble the tower in appearance.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of <i>Finding Dorothy</i> does not provide information about the various locations in which the wheel was displayed after it was no longer considered “new.”
	Option D is incorrect	Although the wheel’s structure is visible from far away in <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , the details about distant views in “Big Wheels Keep On Turnin’ ” are about views from the wheel itself. In addition, neither of these details supports the idea that people are fascinated by novel inventions.

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Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option B is correct	The dialogue in <i>Finding Dorothy</i> is used to build the characterization of Frank and Maude, whereas the quotations in paragraphs 4 through 6 of "Big Wheels Keep On Turnin' " are used to illustrate people's experience of the Ferris wheel.
	Option A is incorrect	The author of <i>Finding Dorothy</i> includes some facts about a recent invention in the dialogue, but this dialogue does not include more information about other inventions than the quotations in the excerpt from "Big Wheels Keep On Turnin' " do.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of <i>Finding Dorothy</i> uses dialogue to demonstrate interactions between the characters. The quotations in "Big Wheels Keep On Turnin' " are from a magazine article and a personal letter, and they each focus on the sensation of going for a ride on the Ferris wheel, rather than any interpersonal interactions to be had.
	Option D is incorrect	In the dialogue from <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , Frank and Maude differ over how to view the fair's attractions, whereas there is no disagreement about the public's fascination with the fair's attractions in the quotations included in "Big Wheels Keep On Turnin'."

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20	Option A is correct	A theme expressed in both excerpts is that people have different responses to new discoveries. In <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , Frank and Maude display different reactions to new exhibits at the fair; in "Big Wheels Keep On Turnin'," some people were thrilled with the Ferris wheel, while others were hesitant to endorse it until it was proved safe.
	Option B is incorrect	Although this statement might be true in general, there is only slight evidence in one excerpt to support this as a theme: in paragraph 11 of <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , the narrator points out that "at first everyone had been afraid to ride" the Ferris wheel (paragraph 11).
	Option C is incorrect	George Ferris's success is noted in both excerpts; however, the notion that ambitious people get what they want is not a theme in either excerpt.
	Option D is incorrect	The Ferris wheel was a novel diversion and is featured in both excerpts, yet neither author includes commentary about activities that people participate in specifically to escape a routine.

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Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option B is correct	As noted in paragraph 11 of <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , Maud is budget-conscious and does not want to pay to ride the Ferris wheel; in contrast, the Dakota farm boy was so excited by the Ferris wheel that he urged his family to do anything to ride it.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Maud is interested in the Ferris wheel, the farm boy is presented as focusing only on the Ferris wheel and not on the exposition.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 10 of <i>Finding Dorothy</i> , the author shows that Maud prefers what is familiar, whereas the farm boy clearly preferred new experiences.
	Option D is incorrect	Maude displays caution and sense, whereas the farm boy seems to have been impractical, especially about the cost for a group to attend the exposition.

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Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option D is correct	Helen’s realization develops a theme that women can pursue adventure in the same way that men can.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Helen notes that something in the “blue October air” stirred her impulse, her enjoyment of the weather does not develop a theme of the excerpt.
	Option B is incorrect	Mr. Mifflin’s offer to help Helen on her journey might make the purchase of Parnassus more tempting to her, but it does not develop a theme of the excerpt.
	Option C is incorrect	The price of the van is a detail that is mentioned but does not develop a theme of the excerpt.

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Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option D is correct	The quotation implies that Andrew relies on Helen to manage basic aspects of his life.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no language in the quotation that indicates Andrew will be unhappy with Helen’s decision.
	Option B is incorrect	Based on the quotation, Helen is more practical than Andrew when it comes to managing the home.
	Option C is incorrect	The quotation supports the conclusion that Helen cares about Andrew but not that she considers his wants over her own.

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Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option A is correct	The author uses the farm setting to show Helen’s many responsibilities and her evolving desire for “more,” culminating in her decision to have exciting new experiences.
	Option B is incorrect	Explaining how Helen spends her yearly trip does not show how the setting of the farm develops a theme in the excerpt.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author includes aspects of farm life that Helen finds enjoyable, this aspect of the setting does not contribute to a theme of the excerpt.
	Option D is incorrect	Helen’s ability to manage many tasks does not show how the farm setting develops a theme of the excerpt.

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Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option C is correct	The most likely reason the author includes the detail about Andrew’s notes about “the magic of autumn” is to give the reader some insight into the character’s personality.
	Option E is correct	The most likely reason the author includes the detail in which Helen sits at Andrew’s desk and pushes away his notes is to show that she is ready to push aside Andrew’s wants and needs and put her own needs first.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Helen’s leaving might complicate Andrew’s life, there is no indication that she intentionally wants to make his life more difficult.
	Option B is incorrect	The detail about Andrew’s notes does not emphasize that his intelligence is unusual.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not include details within the quotation that indicate that Helen does not care about Andrew’s work.

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Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option B is correct	The author’s word choice in the quotation shows that Mr. Mifflin is attempting to make the sale sound more enticing by emphasizing that the van is ready to occupy and use.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s word choice in the quotation does not suggest that Mr. Mifflin is concealing anything from Helen. Mr. Mifflin is promoting the van’s features, using the colorful chatter of a salesperson, to make the deal sound enticing.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2, Mr. Mifflin offers to help Helen as she begins using the van, which would indicate that he believes in her success; however, the author’s word choice in the quotation does not indicate this.
	Option D is incorrect	Within the context of the excerpt, it might seem that Mr. Mifflin is honest and respectable. However, the author’s word choice in the quotation does not demonstrate whether anything Mr. Mifflin says is respectable and honest.

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Item Position	Rationale	
27	Option C is correct	The author’s use of a chronological structure allows the reader to better understand the reasons for Helen’s decision by providing context around the sudden opportunity of the Parnassus.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the reader can tell that the excerpt takes place during a single morning, the author’s intent is not to emphasize the short amount of time it takes her to decide what to do but to show how a pivotal event is meaningful for her.
	Option B is incorrect	Helen thinks about her past, which influences her decision to buy Parnassus; however, the inclusion of this information is not unique to a chronological structure and is not the reason the author chooses to use a chronological structure.
	Option D is incorrect	Helen’s attitude does not change over the course of the excerpt. She makes a novel choice, but it appears to be in keeping with her character.

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Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option A is correct	Helen’s reflections on her life, her choices, the magazine headline, and her note provide the reader with context to support the idea that, by defying expectations, Helen builds her independence and thus the confidence to make her own decisions.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Helen is interested in traveling, there is no evidence in the excerpt to support the idea that traveling increases understanding of others.
	Option C is incorrect	Despite being the one who always stays home and minds the farm, Helen jumps at the opportunity to have a new experience. However, the author does not provide evidence to support the idea that she or the other characters in the excerpt present themselves differently from their true natures.
	Option D is incorrect	This statement is not supported by any details in the excerpt, because the author presents the characters as vital and capable.

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Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option D is correct	The author includes this ironic detail to add humor. In her letter to Andrew, Helen notes that the magazine he has been reading would call her actions “the revolt of womanhood”; this makes for a lighthearted ending to the excerpt, especially since Helen then tells Andrew where to find warm underwear.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no evidence in the excerpt to support the idea that Helen has been influenced by Andrew or what he has read in his magazines.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, Helen notes, “I suppose he’ll think I’m crazy! He’ll follow me, I guess.” This detail suggests that Andrew is unaware of Helen’s thoughts of leaving the farm.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Andrew may be more informed about current events than Helen is, nothing in the excerpt indicates that Helen is even thinking about Andrew’s knowledge of such things.

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

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31	Option A is correct	In this sentence, the writer further develops the introduction by providing necessary information about the story's setting and Sawyer's role in that setting.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer does not help develop the introduction in this sentence because she introduces irrelevant information about Sawyer's swim team.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer adds details about the temperature of the room and Sawyer's clothing, which do not help develop the story's introduction.
	Option D is incorrect	The writer does not help develop the introduction of the story in this sentence because she repeats information that has already been given.

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Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	By combining the sentences in this way, the writer creates a concise and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence combination, the writer suggests that putting the can on its shelf is what caused her to shriek, when it was actually the raucous voice behind her that caused this reaction.
	Option B is incorrect	By combining the sentences in this way, the writer implies that the voice behind Sawyer tossed the can, which a voice cannot do.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence combination, the writer adds unnecessary words that create an awkward, confusing sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option C is correct	The writer’s use of the word “Suddenly” creates an effective transition between events in the first paragraph and the startling laugh Sawyer hears in the second paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	“Obviously” is not an effective transition for this sentence because it implies that Sawyer expected the loud laugh in the second paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “Likewise” is not an effective transition because it indicates that what happens to Sawyer in the second paragraph is similar to the events described in the first paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	The use of the word “However” creates an inaccurate contrast between the events of the first and second paragraphs.

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Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option B is correct	The information about the crack in Sawyer’s phone is irrelevant to the development of the paragraph, so sentence 23 should be deleted.
	Option A is incorrect	In sentence 22, the writer provides the setting for the action in this paragraph, so it should be included.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer uses sentence 24 to describe Sawyer’s behavior while she is in the break room, and this information is essential for the reader’s understanding of the fourth and fifth paragraphs.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 25, the writer explains why Sawyer was laughing so loudly, and this is crucial for making sense of her behavior.

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

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36	Option C is correct	This revision corrects the awkward and misleading structure of the original sentence by properly placing "as she left the store."
	Option A is incorrect	Using this sentence structure, the writer implies that Sawyer has left "the sudden realization," which is confusing and unintended.
	Option B is incorrect	This revision of the sentence is awkward and unclear because of the misplaced "as she left the store."
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because sentence 41 is awkwardly worded and misleading since Sawyer was not making a new friend "as she left the store."

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37	Option C is correct	Changing “participate” to “participating” creates the parallel construction that is needed for sentence 10 to be clear and effective.
	Option A is incorrect	The writer has unnecessarily repeated the words “people” and “by”, which has created redundancy in this sentence. Also, there is still a lack of parallel structure (“using” vs. “participation”).
	Option B is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the structure of the new sentence is awkward and indicates that cities, rather than people, are “using machines and participating in other activities.”
	Option D is incorrect	This revision is awkwardly worded and is unclear since the reader cannot tell whether “they” refers to cities or to the people who live in them.

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Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option D is correct	The fourth paragraph focuses on specific problems in urban heat islands. In this revision, the writer effectively introduces this topic by saying that the “higher temperatures are concerning for a number of reasons.”
	Option A is incorrect	This is not an effective topic sentence because the writer simply mentions one specific problem that is included in the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	This paragraph has nothing to do with research centers, which makes this an ineffective topic sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer describes how urban heat islands can be located, but that is not what the paragraph is about; it is about problems that arise in urban heat islands.

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39	Option A is correct	This option is correct because the writer properly places the phrase "with little soil" after "places," which the phrase is modifying.
	Option B is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way creates confusion. The writer does not make clear that it is the "places" that have "little available soil."
	Option C is incorrect	By using the phrases "planting trees" and "to plant," the writer has constructed a redundant sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	This revision results in a confusing and awkward sentence.

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40	Option B is correct	"Traditional" can mean "adhering to past practices," and the writer is describing materials that have been used for many years. Therefore, "traditional" is a more effective word than "old" for sentence 25.
	Option A is incorrect	The word "mature" means "fully developed physically," which makes this an ineffective replacement for "old" in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "regular" does not clearly convey the idea that these materials are ones that have been used most in the past.
	Option D is incorrect	The word "habitual" applies to behaviors that are not consciously chosen; it is not a suitable description of building materials.

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41	Option A is correct	This sentence is correct because the writer does not repeat the phrase "for cooling," which eliminates the redundancy.
	Option B is incorrect	This is not an effective revision since it introduces a new redundancy.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision results in an awkward sentence that also contains redundant information because "cooling" is repeated.
	Option D is incorrect	This revision is confusing because "cooling with" indicates that paved areas and buildings are a means for cooling, rather than the objects to be cooled.

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Item Position	Rationale	
42	Option C is correct	The writer effectively captures the overall meaning of the paper in this sentence by mentioning awareness, new practices, and the desire for a better life in the nation’s urban areas.
	Option A is incorrect	While it is true that urban heat islands may be a part of our world for now, this sentence is not an effective conclusion for this paper, which discusses ways to reduce the problem.
	Option B is incorrect	With this revision, the writer moves into first-person voice with a call to action that does not fit the tone of this paper.
	Option D is incorrect	While the paper mentions the importance of trees in reducing the problem, this revision does not reflect the broader scope and purpose of the paper.

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43	Option B is correct	Capitalizing " <i>Daily Gazette</i> " corrects the error in sentence 3 because the name of a newspaper is a proper noun.
	Option A is incorrect	"National" is not the correct spelling of "national."
	Option B is incorrect	The singular possessive pronoun "her" refers to Grandma. The plural possessive pronoun "their" is incorrect because it would refer to more than one person.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing "and watched" to "she watched" creates a run-on sentence.

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44	Option B is correct	To correctly form the possessive of the singular word "family," the apostrophe should come before the letter s.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "interrupted" to "interrupts" incorrectly puts the information in present tense. The story is written in past tense.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, a comma is necessary after "saying" because it introduces the dialogue.
	Option D is incorrect	The pronoun "it" refers back to "computer," which is a singular noun, so "it" should not be changed to the plural "them."

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45	Option A is correct	The pronoun refers back to the singular subject "Barrett," so "his" should be used for agreement.
	Option B is incorrect	When the adverb "though" is used in the middle of a sentence, it should be set off by commas, so this comma is necessary.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing "and Grandma" to "Grandma" creates a run-on sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The story takes place in the past, so "was" is the correct tense of the verb. It would not be correct to change the verb to present tense here.

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Item Position	Rationale	
46	Option C is correct	The preposition "with" is correct in this sentence because Grandma is connecting with other community gardeners. She is not connecting "between" them, which does not make sense.
	Option A is incorrect	"Showed" is the correct past-tense form of the verb in this sentence, so it should not be changed to "shown."
	Option B is incorrect	Adding a comma after "plants" is incorrect because this is not a compound sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The word "city" should not be capitalized because it is not a proper noun in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
47	Option D is correct	This sentence is grammatically and mechanically accurate.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "They" to "But" creates a fragment since the sentence would no longer have a subject.
	Option B is incorrect	"Account" is the correct spelling of the word.
	Option C is incorrect	The kids showed their grandmother how to do three things: set up, browse, and compose. The tense must be parallel in these three verb phrases, so "compose" needs to stay in the present tense.

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Item Position	Rationale	
48	Option B is correct	In this sentence, the writer is explaining that the tradition has moved down through generations, so the correct word is "passed," which is the past tense of the verb "pass." The homonym "past" is not a verb.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "is" to "are" would create a subject-verb agreement error.
	Option C is incorrect	"From" is the preposition that works most effectively with "passed down" and "generation to generation."
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because sentence 4 contains a spelling error.

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Item Position	Rationale	
49	Option B is correct	This option is correct because the writer is using present tense throughout the paragraph to discuss “modern-day” practices. Changing “wove” to “weave” keeps the verb tense consistent.
	Option A is incorrect	A comma is necessary in this sentence because it follows an introductory clause that involves a comparison.
	Option C is incorrect	“Intricate” is the correct spelling of this word, so it should not be changed.
	Option D is incorrect	“Beautiful” is the correct form of the adjective used in this sentence because no comparison is being made.

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Item Position	Rationale	
50	Option B is correct	"By" is correct because it indicates that the phrase that follows is the method the women use to make a profit.
	Option A is incorrect	"For" is incorrect because it implies a purpose rather than a method, and this is not the correct meaning of the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	"Despite" is incorrect because it would mean that the women make a profit even though they sell their wares, as if selling was a negative factor.
	Option D is incorrect	"About" is incorrect because it does not make a meaningful connection between "profit" and "selling their wares."

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Item Position	Rationale	
51	Option C is correct	A semicolon is the correct punctuation to use between two independent clauses when no conjunction is used. It corrects the run-on sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "are able" to "being able" would create a sentence fragment, so this cannot be the correct answer.
	Option B is incorrect	"Desipher" is not the correct spelling of the word "decipher."
	Option D is incorrect	"Enjoy" is the present tense form of the verb, which is needed for tense consistency in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
52	Option C is correct	There are two independent clauses in sentence 11, and they are connected with a comma, which creates a comma-splice error. This revision of the sentence corrects that error.
	Option A is incorrect	The second structure in this answer choice is a fragment and is therefore incorrect.
	Option B is incorrect	The second structure in this answer choice is written as a complete sentence, but it is not. It is a relative clause and needs to be connected to the first structure with a comma.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence contains two independent clauses, which have been fused together with no punctuation. This is a run-on sentence.