

2018 STAAR Grade 7 Writing Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option C is correct	Adding this sentence effectively introduces the idea that Jayden’s birthday gift is a ride on a hot-air balloon, which is the focus of the entire story.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding this sentence introduces repetitive information because the idea has already been presented in sentence 5.
	Option B is incorrect	The description of the balloons is an unnecessary detail that does not tell what the story is about, resulting in an ineffective opening.
	Option D is incorrect	The idea that it was time for a birthday celebration does not add specificity and lacks the emphasis necessary for an effective opening.
2	Option J is correct	Combining the ideas from two short sentences to form a single complex sentence eliminates the repetition of “flames” and is an effective way to combine the sentences.
	Option F is incorrect	Combining the sentences by rearranging the ideas in sentence 13 creates an awkward sentence because the idea that the burner inside the balloon is heating the air is incorrect.
	Option G is incorrect	Although it is logical to combine the sentences, using the conjunction “because” is inappropriate and creates confusion by suggesting that the heated air is causing flames to shoot out of the burner, which is incorrect.
	Option H is incorrect	Combining the two sentences with a comma creates a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma, and is grammatically incorrect.
3	Option A is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding the transitional word “Finally” and the idea that “it was time for the riders to climb inside the basket” improves the transition because the information added logically supports the series of events described in the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding the information in this sentence introduces repetitive information because this idea is already presented in sentence 15.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding the information in this sentence introduces repetitive information because this idea is presented in sentence 17.
	Option D is incorrect	Adding the information in this sentence does not improve the transition because the information is inaccurate and is not supported by the ideas in the rest of the paragraph.
4	Option G is correct	Rearranging the ideas to clarify that the “air in the balloon grew hotter” eliminates the awkward phrasing in the sentence and clearly shows the connection of ideas.
	Option F is incorrect	The idea that “the air in the burner” grows hotter is incorrect and not an appropriate revision.
	Option H is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way introduces a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma, and creates a run-on sentence. A run-on sentence occurs when two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option J is incorrect	The idea that “the balloon grew hotter” is inaccurate and not an appropriate revision because it is the air in the balloon that grows hotter.
5	Option C is correct	Adding this sentence supports the ideas expressed in sentence 23 because specific details about what different objects look like are provided.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the idea presented in this sentence may be accurate, including the sentence does not specifically support the ideas expressed in sentence 23.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding this sentence repeats the idea already presented in sentence 23 and does not provide additional supportive details.
	Option D is incorrect	The information included in this sentence is vague, and inserting it after sentence 23 does not add any new supporting details.

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6	Option J is correct	Removing “and way” from the sentence eliminates the redundant idea “floated high and way above” in sentence 24.
	Option F is incorrect	Adding “floated” before “way above” adds a redundant word to the sentence and does not eliminate the redundant idea in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Adding “which was way up high” to the end of the sentence creates awkward phrasing and is not an accurate revision.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the redundant information has been removed from the sentence, adding “they were” creates a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
7	Option B is correct	A controlling idea is a statement that summarizes the main point or claim of a piece of writing. The ideas presented in this sentence highlight the information discussed throughout the paper, which results in an effective controlling idea.
	Option A is incorrect	The information in this sentence is redundant (“experienced the experience”) and vague, and revising it in this way does not adequately capture the controlling idea of the paper.
	Option C is incorrect	First-person language from the writer of the paper is used in this sentence, resulting in an ineffective controlling idea for this expository paper.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the ideas in this sentence support the information in paragraph 1, the controlling idea of the whole paper is not adequately presented.
8	Option F is correct	Details about the sneeze center are included in this sentence, clarifying the function of the “sneeze center,” which is introduced in sentence 6.
	Option G is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would create a disruption in the sequence of events discussed in the paragraph.
	Option H is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would create a disruption in the sequence of events discussed in the paragraph.
	Option J is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would create a disruption in the paragraph by reintroducing information that has already been established.
9	Option D is correct	A topic sentence is a sentence that captures the meaning of an entire paragraph. Including information about how there are “facts” and “myths” about the sneeze adds specificity and clearly introduces the topic of the paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	The details in this sentence are vague, and the information included lacks the emphasis necessary for a topic sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The details in this sentence are irrelevant to the information presented in the paragraph, resulting in an ineffective topic sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea presented in this sentence does not logically relate to the next sentence in the paragraph and is an ineffective topic sentence.
10	Option F is correct	The idea in this sentence is used to effectively support the information in sentence 19 because reasons for the myth are explained.
	Option G is incorrect	Adding this sentence would introduce a redundant idea because the information is already stated in sentence 19.
	Option H is incorrect	Adding this sentence would introduce extraneous information that is irrelevant to the idea presented in sentence 19.
	Option J is incorrect	Adding this sentence would introduce extraneous information that is irrelevant to the idea presented in sentence 19.
11	Option B is correct	Moving the subject “the iguana” closer to the verb “sneezes” and combining “more often and more efficiently” eliminates the awkward phrasing and creates a clear sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding “is what a WebMD article states” to the end of the sentence results in an awkwardly constructed sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision is incorrect and results in a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 23 unchanged would not correct the awkward sentence construction.

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12	Option J is correct	A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes. Moving “Worcestershire, England” directly after Griffiths’s name corrects the misplaced-modifier error in the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	The idea presented in this awkwardly constructed sentence is inaccurate.
	Option G is incorrect	This revision results in the introduction of a misplaced modifier, and the information in the sentence is incorrect because the idea presented suggests that the “Guinness World Record” Donna Griffiths “earned” is from “Worcestershire, England.”
	Option H is incorrect	A comma-splice error occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma. This revision is incorrect because a comma-splice error is introduced, resulting in a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
13	Option C is correct	Replacing “feeling” with “urge” in the sentence eliminates repetition and clarifies that the feeling of a sneeze is strong.
	Option A is incorrect	Replacing “feeling” with “tug” does not provide additional clarity about sneezes.
	Option B is incorrect	Replacing “feeling” with “impression” does not provide additional clarity about sneezes.
	Option D is incorrect	Replacing “feeling” with “encounter” does not provide additional clarity about sneezes.
14	Option G is correct	Changing “this is” to the conjunction “or” eliminates the run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly, and creates a correct, complete sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	This revision is not correct because there is no subject in the second sentence, thus creating a fragment, which is a group of words that is not a complete sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	This revision is not correct because there is no subject in the second sentence, thus creating a fragment that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	A comma-splice error occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma. Leaving sentence 5 unchanged would not correct the comma-splice error in the sentence.
15	Option A is correct	The singular pronoun “It” should be changed to the plural pronoun “They” to agree with the subject “old T-shirts” in sentence 10.
	Option B is incorrect	The spelling of “stitched” is correct and should not be changed.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding a comma after “together” would create a grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 11 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error in the sentence.
16	Option G is correct	Sentence 13 is a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Combining sentences 12 and 13 into one sentence eliminates the sentence-construction error.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the first sentence is a complete sentence, the second sentence is a fragment, which is a group of words that is not a complete sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	This revision is grammatically incorrect because including the phrase “you could use it” creates a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 13 unchanged would not correct the sentence-construction error.
17	Option C is correct	The period should be changed to a question mark because a direct question is asked.
	Option A is incorrect	The spelling of “lint” is correct and should not be changed.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “your” is used correctly and should not be changed from its possessive form. A possessive is a noun or a pronoun that shows possession.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 15 unchanged would not correct the punctuation error.

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18	Option J is correct	The past tense verb “used” should be replaced with the present tense verb “uses” to correct the grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	The comma after “plastic” should not be deleted because using it separates the first action from the others listed in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	The word “breaks” is used correctly and should not be changed.
	Option H is incorrect	The word “its” is used correctly and should not be changed from its possessive form. A possessive is a noun or a pronoun that shows possession.
19	Option B is correct	Inserting a semicolon after “landfills” eliminates the run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option A is incorrect	The spelling of “reduce” is correct and should not be changed.
	Option C is incorrect	The word “protects” is correct and does not warrant an apostrophe.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 22 unchanged would not correct the sentence-construction error.
20	Option G is correct	The “Great Depression” is a proper noun, a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event, and requires capitalization.
	Option F is incorrect	The spelling of “During” is correct and should not be changed.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing the comma to a semicolon would create a grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 29 unchanged would not correct the capitalization error.
21	Option D is correct	Changing “was fashioned” to “were fashioned” corrects the subject-verb agreement error in the sentence because the verb now agrees with the subject “scraps.”
	Option A is incorrect	Changing “broken” to the past tense verb “broke” introduces a grammatical error.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing “became” to the present tense verb “becomes” introduces a grammatical error.
	Option C is incorrect	The word “scraps” is spelled correctly and should not be changed.
22	Option F is correct	The correct spelling of the word “responsible” should replace the incorrect spelling “responsible.”
	Option G is incorrect	The comma in sentence 33 is necessary to separate the introductory phrase from the rest of the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “environment” would create a grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 33 unchanged would not correct the spelling error.
23	Option C is correct	The pronoun “you” should be changed to the plural pronoun “they” to agree with the subject “the Bennetts.”
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “room” is incorrect because there are not two independent clauses. An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	A comma-splice error occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma. Deleting “but” would introduce a comma-splice error, which creates a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 4 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error.
24	Option F is correct	The present tense verb “insists” should be replaced with the past tense verb “insisted” to correct the grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Inserting “hardly” after “wouldn’t” introduces a double negative, which occurs when two negative words are used in the same sentence. The double negative changes the intended meaning of the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “hair” to “no hair” introduces a double negative that changes the intended meaning of the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 5 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error.

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25	Option C is correct	The correct spelling of the word “available” should replace the incorrect spelling “available.”
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “shelter” is incorrect because there are not two independent clauses. An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The verb “were” in sentence 17 is past tense and consistent with the other past tense verbs in the story. Changing “were” to “was” would create a grammatical error.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 17 unchanged would not correct the spelling error.
26	Option F is correct	Sentence 21 is a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Combining sentences 20 and 21 with a comma eliminates the sentence-construction error.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the first sentence is a complete sentence, the second sentence is a fragment, which is a group of words that is not a complete sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	This revision is grammatically incorrect because it is a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 21 unchanged would not correct the sentence-construction error.
27	Option D is correct	The quotation marks at the end of sentence 28 are unnecessary and should be removed.
	Option A is incorrect	The past tense verb “spun” is used correctly in the sentence. “Spinned” is not a word and is not the correct past tense form of the verb “spin.”
	Option B is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “circles” is incorrect because there are not two independent clauses. An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The spelling of “obnoxiously” is correct and should not be changed.
28	Option G is correct	Including the adverb “more” before the adjective “quieter” is grammatically incorrect and, therefore, should be removed from the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	The past tense verb “led” is used correctly in the sentence. Changing “led” to “lead” creates a grammatical error.
	Option H is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “kennel” is incorrect because there are not two independent clauses. An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 34 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error.
29	Option D is correct	Changing “she had” to “with” eliminates the run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly, and creates a correct, complete sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	This revision is not correct because there is no subject in the second sentence, which forms a fragment, a group of words that is not a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The incorrect placement of a period disrupts the meaning of the second sentence and creates a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision does not form a complete sentence.
30	Option G is correct	Changing “rised” to the correct past tense verb “rose” corrects the grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	The spelling of “delicately” is correct and should not be changed.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “and” to “she” would create a run-on sentence, a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 44 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error.