

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option C is correct	The controlling idea of the article is that the development and spread of modern sports was due to various societal factors, including free time among the upper classes in the 1700s (paragraph 1), the standardization of rules for sports (paragraph 2), and the creation of sports leagues (paragraph 3).
	Option A is incorrect	The author mentions schools' impact on the development of modern sports in paragraph 8. This factor is not mentioned anywhere else in the article; therefore, it cannot be considered a controlling idea.
	Option B is incorrect	The author mentions competition in paragraph 5 while referencing records and performance evaluation; however, this is a detail, not a controlling idea.
	Option D is incorrect	The author discusses the establishment of modern sports in Britain in paragraph 1 and how they spread to other countries in the "World Sports Cultures" section of the article but does not organize the article around these facts.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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2	Option D is correct	The author organizes the article using classification of the features of modern sports to emphasize the influence society has had on sports (rules, records, and sports cultures).
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not compare older and newer sports in any detail throughout the article.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does use some chronological order in the article but does not trace the development of one particular sport.
	Option C is incorrect	Some of modern sports' advantages over past sports are mentioned in paragraph 2 but not in connection with leagues, and leagues are discussed only in paragraph 3, not throughout the article.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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3	Option C is correct	In paragraph 3, the author states that a league "is a group of sports teams organized to compete against one another." The author also writes that "rules and leagues are generally controlled by an organization that directs the development of a sport." Students can infer from these facts that leagues try to ensure that games are consistent and fair.
	Option A is incorrect	The author states in paragraph 3 that "a league is a group of sports teams organized to compete against one another." This evidence does not support the inference that a sports league requires an athlete to perform at physically demanding levels.
	Option B is incorrect	The definition of a sports league in paragraph 3 provides information about sports teams. However, this evidence does not support an inference regarding league managers or recruiting practices.
	Option D is incorrect	Within paragraph 3, the author states, "As sports cultures grew and rules became established, this led to the creation of leagues and other organizations." There is no evidence to support the inference that sports league managers often create new rules.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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4	Option B is correct	In the "Records" section of the article, the author includes details about the role of tracking athletes' achievements across the years in modern sports. Recordkeeping allows people to compare an athlete's performance with those of others in the same sport. This activity confirms "the cultural values of modern society" by emphasizing "measurable progress and winning."
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author does mention that gymnastics competitions are judged by a panel, there is not enough detail to support the idea that judges are usually former athletes.
	Option C is incorrect	A student might assume that athletes compete because they enjoy their sport; however, the "Records" section does not include details that support that idea.
	Option D is incorrect	Although elite athletes typically train for many years, this idea is not supported by details in the "Records" section.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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5	Option B is correct	The author’s use of figurative language (“reflection of modern culture”) in the sentence from paragraph 5 achieves the purpose of showing that people encourage and admire achievement in not only sports but also many other areas.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s use of the word “reflection” in the sentence from paragraph 5 emphasizes a similarity, not a difference. There is no suggestion that sports records are unreliable.
	Option C is incorrect	In the sentence from paragraph 5, the author does not mention or refer to the amount of training an athlete undergoes to break a record.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not refer to how many people want to be successful athletes. Although it may be true that many people want to be athletes, in the sentence from paragraph 5, the author is comparing sports culture to a more general culture, thereby referring to people’s desire to make progress and win in other areas besides athletics.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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6	<i>Spect</i> , meaning “to watch,” is the Latin root of the word “spectators” in the sentences from paragraph 8.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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7	Option B is correct	The author presents the information in paragraphs 1 through 3 in logical order to emphasize how the organization of modern sports evolved. The reader can trace this evolution through the logical order of events and developments (paragraph 1: the establishment of modern sports in Britain in the 1700s; paragraph 2: the development of rules; paragraph 3: the creation of leagues).
	Option A is incorrect	The author explains in paragraphs 1 through 3 that modern sports evolved through innovations in sports culture, but technology is not discussed until paragraph 6, and the author does not discuss new technology's influence on rules.
	Option C is incorrect	The rules of a sport may differ in different parts of the world, but the author does not provide any information regarding these differences in paragraphs 1 through 3.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not mention or refer to how sports are studied in paragraphs 1 through 3. The author mentions "sports sociologists" in paragraph 2 but does not elaborate on the study of sports or any research methods these sociologists might use in their studies of sports.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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8	Option D is correct	The author’s use of language when describing aspects of modern sports helps the reader understand the relationship between sports and modern culture. In paragraph 3, the author uses terms to emphasize the organization of leagues and development of rules (“Rules and leagues are generally controlled by an organization that directs the development of a sport”). Modern culture evolved along a similar path with the birth of government and the development of modern society. In paragraph 5, the sentence “This aspect of sports culture is a reflection of modern culture, which favors measurable progress and winning” emphasizes the parallel nature of sports culture and modern culture by revealing the shared principle of “favor[ing] measurable progress and winning.”
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s use of language in paragraphs 3 and 5 reveals a knowledge of the history of modern sports; however, there is no explicit mention of the author being an athlete. Also, the author does not reveal any knowledge that could have been gained only by an active athlete.
	Option B is incorrect	Even though the author does not reveal every single detail of the development of sports culture, he provides many examples and shares a significant number of details in the article. Also, the author does not make any statements in paragraphs 3 and 5 that can be viewed as opinion or as expressing favor or disfavor for the details that he does share.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author does use terms that are used in the sports world (“league,” “records,” “statistics”), these terms are familiar to readers outside of the sports world too. In addition, the author defines words that might be unfamiliar, by including phrases that use everyday language. “A league is a group of sports teams organized to compete against one another” (paragraph 3) is an example of this strategy.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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9	Option A is correct	One of the author’s central claims is that children learn language more easily than adults do, so this statement should be included in a summary.
	Option B is incorrect	Although this is an interesting point of disagreement, it is a sidenote to the overall message within the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	This is a minor detail and does not need to be included in a summary of the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does assert that pen pal projects are one method of learning a new language; however, this specific activity does not need to be included in a summary.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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10	Option C is correct	Paragraph 1 includes details about different foreign languages encountered in a restaurant: a menu with Chinese characters, a family speaking Spanish, and a French song playing. The author included this anecdote to show the variety of languages used in America.
	Option A is incorrect	Although accents are discussed later in the selection, a range of accents is not noted in paragraph 1.
	Option B is incorrect	Data are shared in the selection, but that is not the author's purpose for including the anecdote in paragraph 1.
	Option D is incorrect	The anecdote in paragraph 1 does show a situation in which many languages are being used. However, this part of the selection is included to depict the linguistic variety found in America.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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11	Option D is correct	In paragraph 9, the word <i>acquire</i> means to attain over time, through practice. What is being acquired is a level of knowledge about language.
	Option A is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the acquisition of language cannot be purchased.
	Option B is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the gain in the context of the selection relates to language learning and not one's reputation.
	Option C is incorrect	This type of acquisition refers to a physical object, whereas the author uses the word <i>acquire</i> to refer to intangible language.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option C is correct	The author supports the claim by including international pen pal projects as a method of increasing understanding of other countries and cultures.
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not include personal stories to illustrate the benefits of language acquisition.
	Option B is incorrect	The section "Younger Is Better" includes information about accents; however, there are no examples of students listening to accents.
	Option D is incorrect	Results of linguistic studies are shared in the selection, but the author does not use them to support the claim that learning a new language can teach students about other cultures.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option D is correct	The author states that a baby’s brain is built to learn language and that people can learn a second language through pen pal programs and immersion; this information supports the conclusion that there are ways of learning language outside of school.
	Option A is incorrect	The author states that learning languages at a young age is beneficial but does not assert that it should be the primary focus of schooling.
	Option B is incorrect	Learning a language via a pen pal project is mentioned in the selection, but there is not enough evidence to support the conclusion that children learn best when talking with friends.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author presents immersion as a learning method, the author does not imply that some languages can be learned only via this method.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	In paragraph 2, the author claims that young children learn language easily and suggests that children should learn a new language while young. This claim is reinforced in the following sections through analysis of studies and the proposal of various methods of learning languages.
	Option A is incorrect	The author identifies various methods of learning language but does not claim that children should learn language in any particular way.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author states that some experts believe that older children’s maturity is important to their language learning; however, there is no support for the claim that such learning is more exciting to older children.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not discuss how long it takes to learn a language.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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16	Option D is correct	In paragraph 1, the author uses a flashback to show the boys' willingness to explore. Their adventurous natures move the story forward as the boys explore and interact with their surroundings.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Chip teaches Luther about snakes, the boys do not express any questions that they have for each other.
	Option B is incorrect	The boys encounter various conflicts in the excerpt; however, there is no conflict between the boys.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the flashback involves a venomous snake, the boys do not exhibit or discuss a fear of animals in the rest of the excerpt.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option B is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the word <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> . The author uses a simile to describe the setting for the reader in a unique way.
	Option A is incorrect	The simile is not used to give the boys' surroundings a sense of mystery; it is simply a comparison of a region to flat land.
	Option C is incorrect	The author uses the simile to make a general comparison, not a comparison to something popular.
	Option D is incorrect	The wording of the simile does not imply that the setting presents challenges.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option D is correct	The author shows that the boys thought ahead and brought food “for just this purpose,” and the phrase “if they waited long enough” demonstrates that they are committed to the task. The author’s language contributes to the optimistic mood in the story.
	Option A is incorrect	The author includes a description of the rabbits eating, but this description does not contribute to the mood of the story.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Luther comments that there are “Not as many as usual,” this is a statement of fact and does not create a feeling of surprise.
	Option C is incorrect	Earlier in the selection, the author discusses the pasture and ten acres of woods behind it. However, in paragraphs 7 through 9 the boys are inside the barn, and its size is not important to the events taking place.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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19	Option D is correct	The portrayal of realistic events is characteristic of realistic fiction.
	Option A is incorrect	A difficult problem is not part of the plot of the excerpt. Furthermore, conflicts can be present in multiple genres and are not unique to realistic fiction.
	Option B is incorrect	The inclusion of a beautiful setting does not distinguish a selection as realistic fiction.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not include characters who talk to animals, and such characters are not a distinguishing feature of realistic fiction.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option C is correct	The poet shows that Abby admires Xavier’s impressive talents by describing his skills as “mesmerizing” in line 4. Abby’s feelings about her brother’s skills develop the plot and reveal the incident that kick-starts the events of the poem.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader may infer that Abby and Xavier enjoy the beach, but lines 1 through 4 are about Abby’s admiration for her brother’s skills. For Abby, spending time at the beach is not as significant as watching Xavier demonstrate his “surfing skills.”
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does not reveal in lines 1 through 4 that Xavier does not live at home with Abby. That fact is not revealed until line 6. Also, this is a fact that is explicitly stated, rather than revealed through a character’s internal or external responses, and it does not develop the plot.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader can infer that Xavier spends a lot of time practicing water sports, but neither character expresses this internally or externally in lines 1 through 4.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option B is correct	The poet uses the context of the poem to show that <i>propelled</i> means “moved along easily.” Xavier demonstrates how Abby should move her arms in a “quick forward motion.” “Then you pull the water back with your hands’ ” in lines 17 through 19. The information that Xavier shares with Abby leads the reader to see that Abby will be moving through the water easily.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader may infer that Abby will be kept on course by following Xavier’s directions in lines 17 through 19, but the use of the phrases “move your arms” and “quick forward motion” are explicitly about moving rather than simply staying on course.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet uses the phrases “quick forward motion,” “pull the water back with your hands,” and “propelled through the ocean” to signify forward momentum. Xavier is teaching Abby how to surf, so it is not logical that he would teach her strategies that would cause her to spin out of control in the ocean.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader can infer from the phrases in lines 18 through 20 (“quick forward motion,” “you pull the water back with your hands,” and “through the ocean”) that Abby is moving forward, not being dragged back slowly. The poet does not provide context to imply that Abby is being dragged backward.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option B is correct	The poet uses the break between lines 24 and 25 to show the shift between Abby learning to surf and Abby going into the ocean to surf.
	Option A is incorrect	Abby’s excitement in line 25 could be seen as confidence, but the poet provides no evidence of uncertainty in the poem.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet does not show Xavier or Abby resting on land. While on land, Abby is watching Xavier and excitedly learning how to surf. The poet does not use the break between stanzas to separate a focus on the water from a focus on the land.
	Option D is incorrect	The poet does not describe any sport or beach activity besides surfing.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option C is correct	Through the setting of the woods, the author of <i>The Last Wild Place</i> describes the adventures that Chip and Luther have while playing in the woods, clearly showing that the two boys are excited during their outings. Through the setting of the beach, the poet of "A Wave of a Day" explicitly describes Abby's excitement at being on the beach and learning to surf in the ocean.
	Option D is correct	Through the setting of the woods in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> , the author reveals the skills and knowledge that the boys need in order to avoid getting stuck in the mud, to identify poisonous snakes, and to attract rabbits. Chip teaches Luther these skills during their adventures. Through the setting of the beach, the poet of "A Wave of a Day" reveals Xavier's surfing skills and knowledge, which he teaches to Abby.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the settings of the woods from <i>The Last Wild Place</i> and the beach from "A Wave of a Day" can be considered risky and dangerous, the author of <i>The Last Wild Place</i> mentions the risk and danger only when describing the coral snake that the boys see in paragraph 1. The poet of "A Wave of a Day" does not describe the risks or danger that could be found in the setting of the beach but instead focuses on Abby's excitement about learning to surf and spending time with her brother.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the characters in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> and "A Wave of a Day" learn new things in their settings (Chip teaches Luther how to recognize the poisonous coral snake and how to attract the rabbits in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> ; Xavier teaches Abby how to surf in "A Wave of a Day"), only Abby's experience in "A Wave of a Day" can be considered as learning a new hobby.
	Option E is incorrect	The author of <i>The Last Wild Place</i> presents a problem of the boys getting their feet stuck in the mud. However, the poet of "A Wave of a Day" does not present a problem for Abby to solve.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option C is correct	In "A Wave of a Day," Xavier is Abby's older brother, whom she admires. In <i>The Last Wild Place</i> , Chip and Luther do not have a family relationship; they are best friends.
	Option A is incorrect	Xavier and Abby in "A Wave of a Day" are interested in experiencing the outdoors at the beach, just as Chip and Luther in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> are interested in playing outdoors in the woods.
	Option B is incorrect	Chip in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> is proud of himself for teaching Luther about identifying the coral snake and attracting the rabbits. Xavier in "A Wave of a Day" takes pride in teaching Abby how to surf.
	Option D is incorrect	None of the characters in "A Wave of a Day" or <i>The Last Wild Place</i> must overcome a fear of surprises.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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25	Option A is correct	The author of <i>The Last Wild Place</i> describes the characters looking out over the land from the loft, and the poet of "A Wave of a Day" describes Abby looking out on the ocean, watching her brother on his surfboard, in lines 1 and 2.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet's noting that Xavier shares "his surfing knowledge" with Abby in lines 7 and 8 does not include a similar idea to Chip and Luther checking out the view from the loft in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> .
	Option C is incorrect	The poet's description of Abby's excitement about her brother coming back home in lines 13 and 14 of "A Wave of a Day" is not similar to Chip and Luther looking out from the loft in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> .
	Option D is incorrect	The poet's description of Xavier preparing his sister for her surfing lesson in lines 15 and 16 of "A Wave of a Day" does not contain a similar idea to Chip and Luther looking out from the loft in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> .

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option C is correct	In the introduction to the excerpt from <i>The Last Wild Place</i> , Chip and Luther are described as already “best friends,” and there is no evidence in the excerpt that their experiences make them closer together than they are at the beginning of the story. However, the poet of “A Wave of a Day” describes the surfing lesson as bringing Xavier and Abby closer together. In line 14, Abby is excited that her brother has come home and is taking the time to teach her how to surf. Her statement in line 28 that “it’s been a day like no other” implies that this is the best day she has ever spent with Xavier.
	Option A is incorrect	The main activity in both selections allows the characters to spend time together.
	Option B is incorrect	In neither <i>The Last Wild Place</i> nor “A Wave of a Day” do the characters get into an argument about the activities they undertake.
	Option D is incorrect	Both the characters in <i>The Last Wild Place</i> and the characters in “A Wave of a Day” participate in the main activities together and at the same time.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option A is correct	The writer effectively answers the question asked in sentence 7, and in doing so, he captures the controlling idea of this paper about the nest of the yellow-spotted goanna.
	Option B is incorrect	This paper does not focus on a variety of nests around the world. It is specifically about the yellow-spotted goanna and its nest, so this sentence does not express the controlling idea.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer notes a new discovery, but the sentence is vague and does not mention the yellow-spotted goanna. It does not present the controlling idea of the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	The focus of this sentence is the scientists' curiosity, which is not the controlling idea of this paper.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option A is correct	"Intense" can mean "existing in or to an extreme degree," and the writer is describing a season that is much dryer than others. By replacing "a super dry" with "an intensely dry," the writer offers a more appropriate adverb to modify "dry" in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The adverb "ordinarily" would describe a type of dry season that was common or like any other season, which makes "an ordinarily dry" an ineffective replacement for "a super dry."
	Option C is incorrect	"Excellent" means very good, so to describe the season as "an excellently dry" season would introduce an evaluation of the dryness that makes no sense in this context.
	Option D is incorrect	The word "admirably" means deserving of the highest esteem. The phrase "an admirably dry" is not an appropriate phrase to use in this sentence because it is illogical.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
30	Option B is correct	This revision corrects the awkward and misleading wording of the original sentence by properly placing the phrases “that the goannas dig” and “to safe nests.”
	Option A is incorrect	With this wording, the writer implies that the “eggs” are what the goannas dig, which is confusing and unintended.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision results in an awkward sentence that needlessly repeats the word “more.”
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the wording of sentence 18 is awkward and misleading.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option C is correct	The writer explains the meaning of “ecosystem engineer,” which provides the best support for sentence 20.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence does not support or explain the term introduced in sentence 20. Instead, it merely repeats that term and takes the reader off topic by mentioning “other” ecosystem engineers.
	Option B is incorrect	With this sentence, the writer repeats information previously given in the paragraph, which does not add support or meaning to sentence 20.
	Option D is incorrect	The writer defines “ecosystem” in this sentence, but this does not support sentence 20, which is specifically about goannas being called “ecosystem engineers.”

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	This revision effectively eliminates the repetitive use of the word "and" in the original sentence, making it the most concise and effective option.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer unnecessarily repeats the location where the animals were found. This is not an effective and concise revision.
	Option B is incorrect	In this revision, the writer implies that insects, snakes, and scorpions are "other lizards," which is incorrect and unintended.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision results in a confusing and awkward sentence that puts inappropriate emphasis on the scorpions in the burrows and leaves the reference of "Others" unclear.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	In the first paragraph, Judson is describing the reasons that the contents of his treasure chest are special to him but might not seem so to other people. The statement that the box is “brown and made of sturdy wood” describes the appearance of the box, not its contents. It is an irrelevant detail.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 3, Judson explains what the contents of his box might look like to other people, which helps explain why the box might not seem special to others.
	Option C is incorrect	Judson uses sentence 4 to acknowledge that the rocks themselves don’t appear special. This sentence helps to develop the paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 6, Judson states an important point he is making in his paper, which is that the rocks in his box are special because each one tells a story. This sentence is essential to the paragraph and the paper.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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34	Option D is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. In sentence 13, Judson states that he is “starting to get quite a geographical assortment” of rocks. By using the phrase “So far,” which means “up to this present time,” Judson effectively transitions to the information he shares about the sources of the rocks that are currently in his collection.
	Option A is incorrect	“In the end” is not an effective transition for this sentence because it indicates that Judson has stopped collecting rocks.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase “Without a doubt,” is not an effective transition because it implies a certainty that is not justified or needed in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The use of the phrase “In addition” is ineffective because Judson is not giving additional information about the way he catalogs his collection; he’s giving information about specific rocks in the collection.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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36	Option D is correct	Sentence 25 is correctly written and does not need to be revised.
	Option A is incorrect	In this revision, Judson incorrectly places the phrase “before she moved,” which results in an awkward and confusing sentence. The reference of “she” is unclear, and it seems that this “she” moved from the garden of Judson’s grandmother.
	Option B is incorrect	Judson has unnecessarily repeated an idea by using the phrases “from my grandma’s garden” and “from her garden,” which makes this sentence ineffective.
	Option C is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the wording of the sentence indicates that the rock was saved both from Judson’s grandma and from her garden.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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37	Option B is correct	Judson effectively captures the overall meaning of his paper in this sentence by restating the idea that the rocks are priceless to him because they tell his story.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence is not an effective way to close the paper because it suggests that readers should take a specific action, which is not the purpose of this paper.
	Option C is incorrect	While Judson does discuss what he collects and how he enjoys collecting in this paper, this general idea distracts the reader from the special meaning Judson finds in his own collection. Thus, it is not an effective closing sentence for the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	This is an ineffective closing sentence for this paper because it focuses only on the general value of treasures. It does not say anything about Judson’s rock collection and why he values it.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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38	Option B is correct	In sentence 2, the pronoun "some" refers back to the plural noun "kids" in sentence 1. Because this is a plural noun, the plural verb phrase "are actually focusing" is correct.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "shows" to "shown" creates a tense error in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	"Early" is the correct spelling of the word in sentence 2.
	Option D is incorrect	"Months" is not a possessive in this sentence. An apostrophe should not be added.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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39	Option D is correct	A comma before the prepositional phrase “in front of screens” is unnecessary.
	Option A is incorrect	“By” is the correct preposition to use in this sentence because it means “not later than” and is being used to mark a point in time.
	Option B is incorrect	The dominant tense in this paper is present tense, so “reach” should not be changed.
	Option C is incorrect	“Their” is a possessive pronoun that is used correctly in this sentence. The word “there” has a different meaning that would not be correct in this sentence.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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40	Option B is correct	"Account" corrects the misspelling, "acount," in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "doesn't" to "don't" would create a subject-verb agreement error in sentence 5.
	Option C is incorrect	The phrase "for the time" uses the preposition "for," which works most effectively with the verb "account." The preposition "of" does not work in this context.
	Option D is incorrect	"Schoolwork" is a compound word that is spelled correctly in this sentence.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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41	Option C is correct	The word "experts" should not be capitalized in sentence 6 because it is not a proper noun. This option corrects that error.
	Option A is incorrect	"Screen time" is a singular noun phrase, so changing "has" to "have" would create a subject-verb agreement error in sentence 6.
	Option B is incorrect	A comma is necessary after a subordinate clause at the beginning of a sentence. Changing this comma to a period would create a fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	The pronoun "it" refers back to "screen time," which is a singular noun phrase, so "it" should not be changed to "them."

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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42	Option A is correct	The sentence in the paper contains two independent clauses, or complete statements, connected with a comma, which creates a comma-splice error. In this option, the writer corrects the error by deleting the comma and the second subject ("she") to construct one independent clause with a compound predicate, or two complete verbs.
	Option B is incorrect	The second phrase in this answer choice is a fragment and is therefore incorrect.
	Option C is incorrect	The second phrase in this answer choice is also a fragment, which creates a new error in the sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence contains two independent clauses, or complete statements, fused together with no conjunction or appropriate punctuation. This is a run-on sentence.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option A is correct	"When" is the correct subordinating conjunction to use in this sentence because the writer is indicating a certain point in time rather than a duration of time, which "while" suggests.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "started" to "starts" incorrectly puts the sentence into present tense. This story is written in past tense.
	Option C is incorrect	The singular pronoun "she" refers to "Nana," who is the person who made the cookies. The plural pronoun "we" would shift the story into first person and would also suggest that more than one person was making the cookies, which is not true at this point in the story.
	Option D is incorrect	A comma after "football" is not necessary in this sentence because the word "and" is not being used to combine independent clauses.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option B is correct	The writer is describing an event that happened in the past. By changing "joins" to "joined," he is using the correct past-tense form of the verb.
	Option A is incorrect	"Has joined" is incorrect in this sentence because it is the present perfect tense, and the writer is giving examples of past events. Therefore, he needs to use past-tense verbs.
	Option C is incorrect	"Is joining" is not the correct form of the verb for this sentence because it would mean that Jake's sister is currently in the process of joining the band. This is inconsistent with the past-tense perspective of the story.
	Option D is incorrect	"Will join" is not correct in this sentence because it is the future tense of the verb, and Jake's sister joined the band in the past.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option D is correct	No change is needed in this sentence because the sentence is complete and contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
	Option A is incorrect	"Instead" is the correct conjunctive adverb to use in this sentence because it appropriately describes the contrast between Nana's counter on a typical day and her counter on this particular day.
	Option B is incorrect	The word "boxes" is plural, but it is not possessive in this sentence. Therefore, it should not have an apostrophe added to it.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "several" is spelled correctly in this sentence and should not be changed.