



English I Writing

2011 Released Selections and Test Questions

These released questions represent selected TEKS student expectations for each reporting category. These questions are samples only and do not represent all the student expectations eligible for assessment.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Tasha was curious after seeing a video on the Internet. She did some research to find out more about the photographer and the story behind the video. She wrote this paper to share what she learned. Read Tasha's paper and look for revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Shultz Displaying the Camera and Its Waterproof Case

Turtle-Cam

(1) A wildlife video circulating on the Internet has attracted worldwide attention. (2) On one website alone the video has been viewed more than two-and-a-half million times! (3) You would expect the video's photographer to be basking in success, but that's not the case. (4) In fact, this particular "cameraman" is nowhere to be found. (5) After making the video, he casually swam off into a world of anonymity. (6) That's right, he swam. (7) It's what sea turtles do, you know?

(8) The video was discovered when U.S. Coast Guard investigator Paul Shultz spotted a camera floating near a marina in Key West, Florida. (9) The camera's waterproof case was covered with sea debris, but the camera inside was undamaged. (10) Shultz charged the battery. (11) He then discovered the video along with several photos. (12) He decided to hunt down the camera's owner.

(13) One of the photos on the camera showed two men preparing for a scuba dive. (14) Shultz posted it on an Internet scuba site. (15) Visitors to the site

determined that the photo had been taken in Aruba, a Dutch island off the coast of Venezuela. (16) Armed with this information, Shultz then posted family photos from the camera on an Aruban website. (17) Right away, an Aruban woman contacted him and said that she recognized the children in some of the photos.

(18) The camera belonged to Dick de Bruin, a sergeant in the Royal Dutch Navy. (19) De Bruin had lost the camera while he was working in the waters off the coast of Aruba. (20) When De Bruin and his diving partner had realized that the camera was gone, they had joked that it would probably be found somewhere in Costa Rica or Panama.



(21) Of course, we now know that the buoyant camera floated much farther than the two divers had predicted. (22) We also know that about two months into the journey, a sea turtle swam near the camera, inadvertently hooked a flipper onto its carrying strap, and somehow turned the device on. (23) The resulting 20-minute video shows the turtle bobbing along in the ocean. (24) Glimpses of a brightly shining sun are seen, and a few fish occasionally come into view. (25) At some point the camera and the turtle separate. (26) For the remainder of the video, the camera is pointed straight up to the sky with the clear waters of the Caribbean Sea washing over the lens. (27) Then the camera suddenly turns off.

(28) The story of the sea turtle's video became big news on the small island of Aruba. (29) Once the video was posted on the Internet, the story quickly spread to the rest of the world. (30) While many people are impressed, some have joked about the skills of the photographer.

- 1 How can Tasha revise sentence 7 to more clearly establish the thesis of this paper?
- A How can a swimmer record such an amazing video?
 - B His video was so popular that people around the world have now seen it.
 - C Who do you suppose the photographer was?
 - D The photographer who recorded the world-famous footage was a sea turtle.
-
- 2 Sentences 10 and 11 are choppy and ineffective. What is the best way to revise these sentences?
- A Shultz charged the battery, while then discovering the video along with several photos.
 - B After charging the battery, Shultz discovered the video along with several photos.
 - C While charging the battery, Shultz then discovered the video along with several photos.
 - D Shultz charged the battery because he discovered the video along with several photos.
-
- 3 Sentence 14 is unclear because it contains an indefinite reference. Tasha can clarify the meaning of this sentence by changing *it* to —
- A the dive
 - B the camera
 - C the photo
 - D them

- 4 Tasha wants to improve the transition between the third paragraph (sentences 13–17) and the fourth paragraph (sentences 18–20). Which sentence could best follow sentence 17 and help improve this transition?
- A As soon as the woman identified the children’s family, the mystery was solved.
 - B She wasn’t certain but thought she might know who they were.
 - C Months before, they had been in the area with the Royal Dutch Navy.
 - D As a matter of fact, some are calling this woman a hero.
-

- 5 Tasha wants to add the following detail to the fifth paragraph (sentences 21–27).

In fact, it is estimated to have traveled close to 1,100 miles in its six months afloat!

Where is the most logical place to insert this sentence?

- A At the beginning of the paragraph
 - B After sentence 21
 - C After sentence 24
 - D At the end of the paragraph
-
- 6 Tasha wants to provide a better closing for her paper. Which of the following could best be added after sentence 30 to support the previous ideas and bring a humorous conclusion to the paper?
- A As one viewer quipped, “I didn’t like some of the angles chosen and probably could have made a slightly better video, but I recognize I would not be as good at laying eggs on a beach.”
 - B Describing the video, Shultz said, “The camera started thrashing around and a fin came into the picture.”
 - C De Bruin added, “But we have the sea turtle on film proving the camera floated from Aruba to the U.S. It’s unbelievable, but it’s true.”
 - D “I have a smile on my face. I can’t stop laughing about it,” De Bruin said. “It’s really big news on the island.”

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Olivia feels strongly that the food served in fast-food restaurants negatively affects the health of many Americans. She wrote this paper to persuade others to join her in holding these restaurants accountable. Read Olivia's paper and look for any mistakes she has made. Then answer the questions that follow.



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Fast Food Must Change

(1) "Double cheeseburger, a side of fries, and a large soda," you say to the cashier, your mouth watering in anticipation. (2) But unless you happen to read the fine print, you may not realize that you have just ordered close to 800 calories of food in the burger alone! (3) If you add the fries and the drink, you've probably exceeded half of your suggested calorie allowance for the entire day!

(4) Clearly, meals like this are part of the reason obesity has become an epidemic in the United States. (5) And a team of researchers at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, warns that the situation is going to get even worse. (6) The researchers believe that more than 75 percent of adults in the United States will be overweight or obese by 2015. (7) If this happens, a significant part of the crisis will probably be traced back to diets rich in trans fats, cholesterol, and sugar—all standard fare at most fast-food restaurants. (8) It's

time for fast-food companies to take a careful look at the nutrition standards they are promoting and to focus instead on how they could encourage more healthful eating.

(9) The first step fast-food companies must take are to start providing more balanced options. (10) While some fast-food restaurants do have a few healthy choices on their menus, most of their meals are too high in calories and fat.

(11) Even if restaurant chains offer fruit and low-fat milk in their childrens' meals, the most popular items still contain 500 calories or more per serving. (12) They, along with the other fast-food restaurants, should offer a greater variety of good-tasting, healthful foods that are lower in calories and trans fats.

(13) The fast-food industry should also post nutritional information more clearer so that customers can make informed choices. (14) Some restaurants are making efforts to do this, but in other restaurants, people have no idea what they're actually eating. (15) And while I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice and not something that society should control.

(16) People need information if they are going to make wise decisions.

(17) Research suggests that when consumers are provided with nutritional information, many will change their behavior. (18) In fact, one New York City study found this, 27 percent of fast-food customers used information about calorie counts to make their choices. (19) While this percentage may seem low, it represents a step in the right direction. (20) If people get used to seeing nutritional information posted, more and more of them will probably start using it to make better decisions about what to eat.

(21) For better or worse, the fast-food industry is a cornerstone of the food market in today's world. (22) As a result, fast-food restaurant owners have an inherent responsibility. (23) Instead of pushing Americans up the obesity scale they should use their position to promote healthful eating and nutritional knowledge.

1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?

- A Delete the comma
 - B Change **suggested** to **sugested**
 - C Change **allowence** to **allowance**
 - D No change should be made in this sentence.
-

2 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 6?

- A Change **believe** to **beleive**
 - B Change **then** to **than**
 - C Insert a comma after **overweight**
 - D No change needs to be made in sentence 6.
-

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?

- A Change **are** to **is**
- B Change **providing** to **provided**
- C Change **balanced** to **balansed**
- D No change should be made in sentence 9.

- 4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?
- A Change ***offer*** to **offering**
 - B Change ***their*** to **there**
 - C Change ***childrens'*** to **children's**
 - D No change should be made in this sentence.
-
- 5 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 13?
- A Change ***post*** to **have posted**
 - B Change ***clearer*** to **clearly**
 - C Change ***so that*** to **then**
 - D No change needs to be made in this sentence.
-
- 6 What is the correct way to rewrite sentences 15 and 16?
- A And while I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice, it is not something that society should control. Because people need information if they are going to make wise decisions.
 - B And I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice, it is not something that society should control, people need information if they are going to make wise decisions.
 - C And while I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice and not something that society should control, people need information if they are going to make wise decisions.
 - D Sentences 15 and 16 are written correctly in the paper.

- 7 What is the correct way to write sentence 18?
- A In fact, one New York City study found that 27 percent of fast-food customers. They used information about calorie counts to make their choices.
 - B In fact, one New York City study found that 27 percent of fast-food customers using information about calorie counts to make their choices.
 - C In fact, one New York City study found something. That 27 percent of fast-food customers used information about calorie counts to make their choices.
 - D In fact, one New York City study found that 27 percent of fast-food customers used information about calorie counts to make their choices.
-

- 8 What change is needed in sentence 23?
- A Insert a comma after ***scale***
 - B Change ***they*** to ***it***
 - C Insert a comma after ***eating***
 - D Change ***knowledge*** to ***knowlege***

Look at the photograph.



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Write a story about the power of imagination. Be sure that your story is focused and complete and that it has an interesting plot and engaging characters.

Read the information in the box below.

In 1955 medical researcher Jonas Salk introduced an effective polio vaccine. At the time polio was considered the biggest threat to public health, yet Salk refused to profit by patenting the vaccine because he was more concerned with preventing disease than with personal gain.

Although many people work to benefit themselves, some people choose to put others first. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining whether people should be more concerned about others than about themselves.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
WRITING Selection 1				
1	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	D
2	5	Readiness	D.13(C)	B
3	5	Readiness	D.13(C)	C
4	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	A
5	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	B
6	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	A
WRITING Selection 2				
1	6	Readiness	D.19(A)	C
2	6	Readiness	D.13(D)	B
3	6	Supporting	D.17(A)	A
4	6	Readiness	D.18(B)	C
5	6	Readiness	D.13(D)	B
6	6	Readiness	D.17(C)	C
7	6	Readiness	D.17(C)	D
8	6	Readiness	D.18(B)	A
Sample Prompt for Literary Writing				
	4	Readiness	D.14(A)	Prompt
Sample Prompt for Expository Writing				
	4	Readiness	D.15(A)	Prompt

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