2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
1	Option B is correct	Food chains begin with producers, which convert energy from the sun into food. The sun can transfer energy to algae, which are producers. Organisms that can get their energy from other organisms are called consumers. Algae can transfer energy to shrimp, which are primary consumers. Primary consumers get their energy directly from producers. Shrimp can transfer energy to red drum, which are secondary consumers. Secondary consumers get their energy directly from primary consumers.
	Option A is incorrect	The sun cannot transfer energy to mosquitoes because mosquitoes are not producers.
	Option C is incorrect	The sun cannot transfer energy to pygmy sunfish because pygmy sunfish are not producers. Pygmy sunfish cannot transfer energy to shrimp because shrimp cannot consume pygmy sunfish.
	Option D is incorrect	Willow oaks cannot transfer energy to algae because algae are producers.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
2	Option H is correct	Gravity is the attractive force that causes Earth to revolve around the sun.
	Option F is incorrect	The magnetic attraction between Earth and the sun does not cause Earth to revolve around the sun because the magnetic fields are not strong enough to achieve this.
	Option G is incorrect	The force that causes Earth to revolve around the sun does create potential energy, energy an object has because of its position. However, this energy is stored in the Earth-sun system. In addition, potential energy did not originate in the sun.
	Option J is incorrect	Electromagnetic energy from the sun pulling on Earth does not cause Earth to revolve around the sun because the electromagnetic energy is not strong enough to achieve this.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
3	Option A is correct	The atomic number of sodium is 11. This means that there are 11 protons in the nucleus of a sodium atom. The atomic number of magnesium is 12. This means that there are 12 protons in the nucleus of a magnesium atom. 11 protons + 12 protons = 23 protons.
	Option B is incorrect	The atomic number of boron is 5. This means that there are 5 protons in the nucleus of a boron atom. The atomic number of carbon is 6. This means that there are 6 protons in the nucleus of a carbon atom. 5 protons + 6 protons = 11 protons.
	Option C is incorrect	The atomic number of copper is 29. This means that there are 29 protons in the nucleus of a copper atom. The atomic number of zinc is 30. This means that there are 30 protons in the nucleus of a zinc atom. 29 protons + 30 protons = 59 protons.
	Option D is incorrect	The atomic number of sodium is 11. This means that there are 11 protons in the nucleus of a sodium atom. The atomic number of magnesium is 12. This means that there are 12 protons in the nucleus of a magnesium atom. 11 protons + 12 protons = 23 protons.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
4	Option H is correct	The sun is a main sequence star in spectral class G with a temperature of approximately 5,500 K and a luminosity of 1. Main sequence stars in spectral class G have a temperature range of 6,000 to 5,000 K and a luminosity between 10^{-1} and 10.
	Option F is incorrect	Star 1 is in spectral class O. Main sequence stars in spectral class O have a temperature of 25,000 K or greater and a luminosity between 10^4 and 10^6.
	Option G is incorrect	Star 2 is in spectral class A. Main sequence stars in spectral class A have a temperature of approximately 10,000 to 8,000 K and a luminosity between 1 and 10^2.
	Option J is incorrect	Star 4 is in spectral class M. Main sequence stars in spectral class M have a temperature of approximately 3,000 K or less and a luminosity between 10^{-4} and 10^{-1}.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
5	Option B is correct	Mosses and lichens are able to colonize areas without soil. Mosses and lichens create soil for plants where there is none. Many plants, such as trees, grasses, and vines, have roots that need soil.
	Option A is incorrect	Conifer trees and tall grasses are not able to colonize areas without soil.
	Option C is incorrect	Grasses and weeds are not able to colonize areas without soil.
	Option D is incorrect	Vines and shrubs are not able to colonize areas without soil.

Item#		Rationale
6	Option J is correct	Both the mother and the daughter move backward because the mother and daughter pushed away from each other with equal force. The daughter moves backward with greater acceleration because she has less mass.
	Option F is incorrect	The mother moves backward because the mother and daughter pushed away from each other.
	Option G is incorrect	Both mother and daughter move backward. The mother moves with less acceleration because she has more mass.
	Option H is incorrect	The daughter moves backward.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
7	Option A is correct	Transform plate boundaries are plate boundaries where tectonic plates are sliding past each other. The constant sliding between the two plates can lead to earthquakes.
	Option B is incorrect	A volcanic eruption can occur at convergent or divergent plate boundaries. A convergent plate boundary occurs where tectonic plates are moving toward each other and colliding. A divergent plate boundary occurs where tectonic plates are moving away from each other.
	Option C is incorrect	A rift valley is a lowland area that is formed by divergent plates.
	Option D is incorrect	Building up of a mountain is caused by convergent plates.

Item#	Rationale	
8	Option G is correct	A chemical change results in the formation of a new substance with different properties. A physical change does not result in the formation of a new substance with different properties because although the outward appearance of a substance is altered, its chemical composition remains the same. The gas that formed was a new substance with properties different from the cake batter. This is an indication that a chemical reaction took place.
	Option F is incorrect	Evaporation is a physical change. No new substances with properties different from the cake batter are formed.
	Option H is incorrect	Taking the shape of the container is a physical change. No new substances with properties different from the cake batter are formed.
	Option J is incorrect	Water moistening of the cake batter is a physical change. No new substances with properties different from the cake batter are formed.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
9	Option C is correct	A member of the Kingdom Plantae is multicellular and has a cell wall and chloroplasts. A member of Kingdom Fungi is multicellular, has a cell wall, but does not have chloroplasts. A member of Kingdom Animalia is multicellular and has no cell wall and no chloroplasts.
	Option A is incorrect	A member of Kingdom Protista is unicellular not multicellular.
	Option B is incorrect	A member of Kingdom Fungi does not have chloroplasts. A member of Kingdom Protista is unicellular not multicellular. A member of Kingdom Plantae has a cell wall and chloroplasts.
	Option D is incorrect	A member of Kingdom Animalia has no cell wall and no chloroplasts. A member of Kingdom Protista is unicellular not multicellular. A member of Kingdom Plantae has a cell wall and chloroplasts.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
10	Option F is correct	Malleability and ductility are physical properties that can be used to determine whether a substance is a metal or nonmetal. Objects that are malleable and ductile are metals.
	Option G is incorrect	Feeling hard to the touch is not a physical property that can be used to determine whether a substance is a metal or nonmetal.
	Option H is incorrect	Floating in water is not a physical property that can be used to determine whether a substance is a metal or nonmetal.
	Option J is incorrect	Feeling rough or smooth is not a physical property that can be used to determine whether a substance is a metal or nonmetal.
11	1200 and any equivalent values are correct	The value 1200 was obtained by rearranging the formula *Force = mass × acceleration* to solve for mass. $m = \dfrac{F}{a} = \dfrac{1,800\,N}{1.5\,m/s^2} = 1200$ kg.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
12	Option G is correct	Feral hogs are omnivores, which means they consume both plants and animals. Herbivores consume plants, and carnivores consume other animals. Therefore, feral hogs compete with herbivores and carnivores for food sources.
	Option F is incorrect	Feral hogs do not compete with producers for food sources because producers produce their own food through photosynthesis.
	Option H is incorrect	Feral hogs do not compete with producers for food sources because producers produce their own food through photosynthesis. Feral hogs do not compete with decomposers for food sources because decomposers break down dead or decaying organisms.
	Option J is incorrect	Feral hogs do not compete with decomposers for food sources because decomposers break down dead or decaying organisms.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
13	Option D is correct	Elements in group 18 are nonmetals that are gases at room temperature. Nonmetals do not conduct electricity or heat, and gases are not able to be bent or flattened.
	Option A is incorrect	Elements in group 2 are metals, which means they can conduct electricity and heat and are able to be bent and flattened.
	Option B is incorrect	Elements in group 8 are metals, which means they can conduct electricity and heat and are able to be bent and flattened.
	Option C is incorrect	Elements in group 12 are metals, which means they can conduct electricity and heat and are able to be bent and flattened.

Item#		Rationale
14	Option G is correct	Kinetic energy is the energy an object in motion has. Potential energy is the stored energy an object has based on its position. The ball has more kinetic energy at position Y than it has at position W because most of the potential energy has been converted to kinetic energy at position Y.
	Option F is incorrect	The ball has more potential energy at position Z than at position X because the height at position Z is greater than the height at position X.
	Option H is incorrect	The ball does not have equal amounts of potential energy and kinetic energy at position X because at position X most of the potential energy has been converted to kinetic energy.
	Option J is incorrect	Neither the potential energy nor the kinetic energy are greatest at position Z.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
15	Option A is correct	The human skeletal system supports the body, protects the organs, produces blood cells, and stores calcium.
	Option B is incorrect	The function described is that of the excretory system.
	Option C is incorrect	The function described is that of the endocrine system.
	Option D is incorrect	The function described is that of the respiratory system.

Item#	Rationale	
16	Option H is correct	There are two primary forces acting on the rock. The primary forces acting on the rock are the rock's weight due to gravity and the force of the sidewalk on the rock. Both of these forces are balanced, which is why no motion occurs.
	Option F is incorrect	The primary forces acting on the rock are the rock's weight due to gravity and the force of the sidewalk on the rock.
	Option G is incorrect	Forces act in pairs. There is also a force that is directed from the sidewalk toward the rock.
	Option J is incorrect	An unbalanced force would cause the object to accelerate.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
17	Option B is correct	The subscript 4 on the symbol for carbon, C, indicates that there are 4 carbon atoms. This number is added to 3 because there are 3 additional carbon atoms. 4 C atoms + 3 C atoms = 7 total C atoms. The subscript 3 on the symbol for hydrogen, H, indicates that there are 3 H atoms. This amount is multiplied by 2 since there is another subscript 3 on another H. The subscript 8 on H indicates that there are eight additional H atoms. 3(2) H atoms + 8 H atoms = 14 H atoms.
	Option A is incorrect	There are seven carbon atoms, not four. There are 14 hydrogen atoms, not 11.
	Option C is incorrect	There are 14 hydrogen atoms, not 11. There is one oxygen atom, not eight.
	Option D is incorrect	There are seven carbon atoms, not six. There is one oxygen atom, not three.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
18	Option H is correct	Bluegills have these characteristics: 1b. No whisker-like barbels present on head next to mouth 3b. Mouth not located on ventral surface of head 5b. Body rounded, approximately twice as long as tail
	Option F is incorrect	Bluegills do not have 1a. Whisker-like barbels present on head next to mouth
	Option G is incorrect	Bluegills do not have 5a. Body long and thin, more than twice as long as tail
	Option J is incorrect	Bluegills do not have 5a. Body long and thin, more than twice as long as tail

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
19	Option D is correct	The conditions of overcast skies with strong winds result from low pressure.
	Option A is incorrect	The conditions of bright sun with no wind result from high pressure.
	Option B is incorrect	The conditions of partly cloudy with no wind result from high pressure.
	Option C is incorrect	The conditions of mostly sunny with light winds result from high pressure.

Item#		Rationale
20	Option F is correct	The wavelengths of the gamma ray region of the electromagnetic spectrum are shorter than the wavelengths in the visible, infrared, and radio regions of the spectrum.
	Option G is incorrect	The wavelengths in the visible-light region of the electromagnetic spectrum are not short.
	Option H is incorrect	The wavelengths in the infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum are not short.
	Option J is incorrect	The wavelengths in the radio region of the electromagnetic spectrum are not short.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
21	Option B is correct	Genes contain information for characteristics such as fur patterns.
	Option A is incorrect	The cytoplasm does not contain genetic material.
	Option C is incorrect	The cell membrane does not contain genetic material.
	Option D is incorrect	The mitochondrion contains genetic material that provides information for mitochondrial processes, not for fur patterns.

Item#		Rationale
22	Option H is correct	The density of the unidentified rock was obtained using the equation $Density = mass/volume$. The units for density are grams per centimeter cubed. This is because the unit for mass is gram, and the unit for volume is centimeter cubed. One centimeter cubed is equal to one milliliter. The water level in the cylinder increases from 30 mL to 35 mL when the rock is added. This means the rock has a volume of 5 mL or 5 cm^3. $D = \dfrac{15.5\ g}{5.0\ cm^3} = 3.1\ g/cm^3$. Peridotite has a density range (g/cm^3) of 3.1 – 3.4.
	Option F is incorrect	Coal has a density range (g/cm^3) of 1.1 – 1.4. The density of the unidentified rock is 3.1 g/cm^3.
	Option G is incorrect	Dolomite has a density range (g/cm^3) of 2.8 – 2.9. The density of the unidentified rock is 3.1 g/cm^3.
	Option J is incorrect	Sandstone has a density range (g/cm^3) of 2.2 – 2.7. The density of the unidentified rock is 3.1 g/cm^3.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
23	Option A is correct	Most plants in the ditch will be plants with long roots because plants with long roots are more securely anchored than plants with short roots.
	Option B is incorrect	Most plants in the ditch will be be plants with long roots, not short roots, because plants with long roots are more securely anchored than plants with short roots.
	Option C is incorrect	There will be a change in the numbers of plants with short roots in the ditch. The number of plants with short roots will decrease because plants with long roots are more securely anchored than plants with short roots.
	Option D is incorrect	There will not be an equal number of plants in the ditch with long roots and short roots. The number of plants in the ditch with short roots will be less than the number of plants with long roots because plants with long roots are more securely anchored than plants with short roots.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
24	Option J is correct	This is an image of a first quarter moon. A first quarter moon would be visible one week after a new moon.
	Option F is incorrect	This is an image of a full moon. A full moon would be visible two weeks after a new moon.
	Option G is incorrect	This is an image of a third quarter moon. A third quarter moon would be visible one week before a new moon.
	Option H is incorrect	This is an image of a waning crescent. A waning crescent would be visible about half a week before a new moon.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
25	Option A is correct	The average speed was obtained using the equation S = D/T. At time interval 0–2 s, the total distance traveled is 2 m. Therefore, S = 2 m/2 s = 1 m/s. At time interval 2–4 s, the total distance traveled is 1 m. Therefore, S = 1 m/2 s = 0.5 m/s. At time interval 4–6 s, the total distance traveled is 0 m. Therefore, S = 0 m/2 s = 0 m/s.
	Option B is incorrect	The values for time intervals 0–2, 2–4, and 4–6 are incorrect. The answer for time interval 0–2 was incorrectly obtained by dividing by 1 s instead of dividing by 2 s. The answer for time intervals 2–4 and 4–6 was incorrectly obtained by dividing 1.5 m/2 s.
	Option C is incorrect	The values for time intervals 0–2, 2–4, and 4–6 are incorrect. The answers represent the distance traveled at the end of each interval.
	Option D is incorrect	The value for time interval 2–4 is incorrect. The answer for time interval 2–4 was incorrectly obtained by dividing 1.5 m/2 s.

Item#	Rationale	
26	Option H is correct	Mechanical energy is the energy an object has due to its motion (kinetic energy) or its position (potential energy). Mechanical energy is used to spin the blades. Electrical energy is the energy of moving electrons. As the turbine spins, mechanical energy is changed to electrical energy.
	Option F is incorrect	Electrical energy is not being converted to mechanical energy as the blades are spinning. Mechanical energy is transforming to electrical energy, and not the other way around, because electrical energy is being generated as the blades of the turbine spin.
	Option G is incorrect	Chemical energy is energy stored in chemical bonds. Chemical energy is not transformed to electrical energy when the blades are spinning because no chemical bonds are forming or breaking to generate electrical energy.
	Option J is incorrect	Chemical energy is not transformed to mechanical energy when the blades are spinning because no chemical bonds are forming or breaking to make the blades spin.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
27	Option D is correct	From Earth, a full moon appears to be fully illuminated. The moon phase in the diagram represents a full moon.
	Option A is incorrect	The moon phase in the diagram represents a new moon. A new moon is not illuminated.
	Option B is incorrect	The moon phase in the diagram represents a last quarter moon. A last quarter moon is only partially illuminated.
	Option C is incorrect	The moon phase in the diagram represents a first quarter moon. A first quarter moon is only partially illuminated.

Item#	Rationale	
28	Option G is correct	Fish populations in the pond will begin to decrease because as more plants die, the amount of oxygen in the pond will decrease, and fish need oxygen to survive.
	Option F is incorrect	The depth of the water in the pond will not increase as a result of decreased oxygen levels.
	Option H is incorrect	The amount of bacteria in the pond will not decrease as a result of decreased oxygen levels.
	Option J is incorrect	The number of different types of plants in the pond will not increase as a result of decreased oxygen levels.

Item#	Rationale	
29	Option C is correct	The mass number represents the total number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom. Since the mass number of krypton is 84, there are 84 particles inside the nucleus of the krypton atom. The atomic number represents the number of protons in an atom. The number of positively charged protons is equal to the number of negatively charged electrons in a neutral atom. Electrons are located outside the nucleus. Since the atomic number of krypton is 36, there are 36 particles outside the nucleus of the krypton atom.
	Option A is incorrect	The atomic number (36) represents the number of protons in an atom. The nucleus contains both protons and neutrons which is represented by the mass number (84).
	Option B is incorrect	The atomic number (36) represents the number of protons in an atom. The nucleus contains both protons and neutrons which is represented by the mass number (84). The number of particles (electrons) outside the nucleus is equal to the number of protons (36) in a neutral atom.
	Option D is incorrect	The number of particles (electrons) outside the nucleus is equal to the number of protons which is equal to the atomic number (36).

Item#		Rationale
30	Option F is correct	Carbon enters plants as carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide enters plants mainly through openings in the leaves called stomata.
	Option G is incorrect	Microorganisms do not provide the majority of the carbon necessary for building structural molecules.
	Option H is incorrect	Soil does not provide the majority of the carbon necessary for building structural molecules.
	Option J is incorrect	Water does not contain any carbon atoms, only hydrogen and oxygen.

Item#	Rationale	
31	Option C is correct	The number of hours of daylight and darkness is determined by Earth's rotation on its axis. The tilt of Earth's axis results in different amounts of daylight for locations at different latitudes, distances north or south of the equator. When a location is tilted away from the sun, that location receives fewer hours of daylight than it does when it is tilted toward the sun. If Earth did not tilt on its axis, the number of hours of daylight and darkness would be equal.
	Option A is incorrect	The amount of time it takes for Earth to complete one orbit affects the duration of one year, not the number of hours of daylight and darkness.
	Option B is incorrect	Earth's orbit being a perfect circle would have no effect on the number of hours of daylight and darkness.
	Option D is incorrect	The number of moons would affect the tides, not the number of hours of daylight and darkness.
32	2 and any equivalent values are correct	In a chemical formula, such as $BaSO_4$, the subscript following an element's chemical symbol indicates the number of atoms of that element. The chemical symbol for the element oxygen is O. Therefore, in the formula for barium sulfate, $BaSO_4$, there are 4 oxygen atoms. When a chemical formula includes parentheses, such as $Ba(OH)_2$, the subscript applies to each of the elements within the parentheses. Therefore, in the formula for barium hydroxide, $Ba(OH)_2$, there are 2 oxygen atoms. Therefore, there are 2 more oxygen atoms (4 - 2 = 2) represented in the formula for barium sulfate compared to the formula for barium hydroxide.

Item#	Rationale	
33	Option C is correct	The proposed law will not protect the lake because the flow-through wetland is at a higher elevation than the shore. The higher elevation will cause the groundwater to carry pollution as it flows down to the shore.
	Option A is incorrect	The proposed law will not protect the lake because plant roots between the wetland and the lake will not stop pollution from entering the lake.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in the passage that supports the statement that animals that live in or near the lake will add pollution to the lake.
	Option D is incorrect	The proposed law will not protect the lake because the high elevation of the water table will allow pollution to enter the groundwater and flow down into the lake.

Item#		Rationale
34	Option F is correct	The slope (distance / time) of the graph represents the speed of the object. Since the slope of the graph does not change between the times of 0 and 6 seconds, the speed of the object does not change either.
	Option G is incorrect	Acceleration is a change in speed or direction. The slope between the times of 0 and 6 seconds is constant. If the slope is constant, then there is no change in speed.
	Option H is incorrect	The direction that an object is traveling cannot be determined by a distance versus time graph.
	Option J is incorrect	A straight horizontal line represents a stopped object because its distance does not change.

Item#	Rationale	
35	Option C is correct	The six species that survived the forest fire were better adapted to survive forest fires than the six species that did not survive.
	Option A is incorrect	Only six species survived, so half of the species were unaffected by forest fire. In addition, the outcome of only 12 species of lichen cannot be generalized to apply to most lichen species.
	Option B is incorrect	Six out of twelve species survived the forest fire. Biodiversity, the variety of organisms living in a particular area, decreased because six species did not survive the forest fire. The fewer species there are in an area, the less biodiversity there is in that area.
	Option D is incorrect	Since the ecosystem still supports some lichen species after the forest fire, it is likely the conditions still exist for the ecosystem to be able to support new organisms from the lichen species that did not survive the forest fire.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
36	Option F is correct	The toy car will accelerate to the right because 8 N is greater than 6 N.
	Option G is incorrect	The toy car will accelerate to the left because 10 N is greater than 8 N.
	Option H is incorrect	The toy car will not accelerate in any direction because 10 N is equal to 10 N. There is no net force to the left or to the right.
	Option J is incorrect	The toy car will accelerate to the left because 13 N is greater than 10 N.

Item#	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	Riverbank X and riverbank Y are represented by close contour lines. Close contour lines represent steep topography.
	Option A is incorrect	Riverbank W is represented by contour lines that are far apart. Contour lines that are far apart represent a gentle slope.
	Option B is incorrect	Riverbank Z is represented by contour lines that are far apart. Contour lines that are far apart represent a gentle slope.
	Option D is incorrect	Riverbank W and riverbank Z are represented by contour lines that are far apart. Contour lines that are far apart represent a gentle slope.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
38	Option J is correct	This particle represents a valence electron, which is located in the outermost layer. Valence electrons determine the reactivity of an atom.
	Option F is incorrect	Although this particle represents an electron, it is not located in the outermost layer. Therefore, it does not determine the reactivity of the atom.
	Option G is incorrect	This particle represents either a proton or a neutron, neither of which determine the reactivity of the atom.
	Option H is incorrect	This particle represents either a proton or a neutron, neither of which determine the reactivity of the atom.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
39	Option B is correct	A system of billions of stars, gas, and dust held together by gravity is a galaxy.
	Option A is incorrect	A cloud of dust that is the birthplace of stars is a nebula.
	Option C is incorrect	A ball of plasma that experiences nuclear fission in its core is a star.
	Option D is incorrect	A mass of dust and ice that orbits a star in an elliptical pattern is a comet.

Item#		Rationale
40	Option F is correct	An environmental change that drastically reduced the population of milkweed plants in an area will most likely lead to a decrease in the monarch butterfly population. Many organisms have adapted to particular food sources and cannot easily change to another food source. Monarch butterflies are an example of such organisms.
	Option G is incorrect	An environmental change that drastically reduced the population of milkweed plants in an area will not likely lead to the number of monarch butterflies remaining the same because rapid reproduction would add an even greater strain on the food source availability.
	Option H is incorrect	An environmental change that drastically reduced the population of milkweed plants in an area will not likely lead to the number of monarch butterflies remaining the same because monarch butterflies are an example of the many organisms that have adapted to a particular food source. Therefore, the caterpillars would not begin consuming nectar from different types of flowers.
	Option J is incorrect	An environmental change that drastically reduced the population of milkweed plants in an area will not likely lead to the number of monarch butterflies increasing because rapid reproduction will add an even greater strain on the food source availability.

Item#		Rationale
41	Option D is correct	According to Newton's third law, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In other words, an interaction between two objects results in the two objects exerting forces upon each other. The forces that the interacting objects exert on each other are called action and reaction forces. The action force is the force applied by the first object on the second object. The reaction force is the force applied by the second object on the first object. Action pairs are equal yet opposite in direction. Therefore, the action force is the 10-newton force of the bat on the ball, and the reaction force is the opposite: the force of the ball on the bat.
	Option A is incorrect	The force that causes the ball to move toward the bat is provided by the pitcher.
	Option B is incorrect	The player applies a force to the bat, not to the ball.
	Option C is incorrect	The ball is pulled to the ground by gravity.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Science Rationales

Item#		Rationale
42	Option G is correct	A chemical change results in the formation of a new substance with different chemical properties. A physical change does not form substances with different chemical properties because although the outward appearance of a substance is altered, its chemical composition remains the same. Chewing is a mechanical process that does not form a new substance. Therefore, chewing is a physical change.
	Option F is incorrect	The breakdown of proteins results in new substances and is therefore a chemical change.
	Option H is incorrect	The digestion of starches results in new substances and is therefore a chemical change.
	Option J is incorrect	The conversion of dietary fiber into fats results in new substances and is therefore a chemical change.