

2023 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
1	Option A is correct	The events in paragraph 1 are used to establish Brody’s main conflict, which is that he must spend the weekend in the country, despite not wanting to.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Brody is upset about having to go to his uncle’s cabin, the author does not indicate that Brody is upset with his parents, and this is not the reason the events in paragraph 1 are important to the story’s rising action.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author refers to “a cabin in the countryside, 50 miles away from Brody’s home in the bustling city.” This is a brief description of Brody’s temporary surroundings that is not used to convey the conflict.
	Option D is incorrect	The author’s description of events in paragraph 1 provides some information about the setting and situation but does not convey any information about Brody’s interests.

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2	Option B is correct	Although Brody might not actually want to avoid nature “for decades,” as stated in paragraph 18, the author is using exaggeration to convey Brody’s desire to avoid outdoor activities for a long time.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Brody demonstrates impatience with the hike in paragraphs 14 and 15, he is back in the cabin by paragraph 18, which is later that same day. Therefore, this is not what the author is emphasizing.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the author is referring to Brody’s frustration with, not appreciation for, outdoor adventures.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication in this sentence from paragraph 18 that Brody is amazed by anything related to nature; rather, it reflects his annoyance.

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3	Option D is correct	Brody makes clear that conversations with his friends make him feel worse because, in them, he hears about the fun he’s missing. For example, in paragraph 4, he states, “I wish I were there too.”
	Option A is incorrect	Brody’s conversations with his friends make him realize all the fun he’s missing out on in the city, such as robotics and basketball. Therefore, they do not help him appreciate being in the country.
	Option B is incorrect	Although in paragraph 3 Marisa tells Brody the robotics team could use his help, there is no indication here or in Brody’s conversation with Jeffrey that Brody feels needed; instead, he feels as though his friends are having all the fun without him.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 10, Brody does turn to his homework after realizing his friends are all busy; however, his struggles to complete his assignment run contrary to the idea that the conversations inspire Brody to “make his visit useful to his schoolwork.”

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4	Option D is correct	In this sentence in paragraph 26, the phrases “silence enveloped him” and “welcoming friend, inviting his imagination to wander” are used to convey a comforting mood.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 20, the phrase “long and bumpy ride” is used to convey discomfort, not comfort.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence in paragraph 21, the phrase “little enthusiasm” and the reference to the insects are used to emphasize Brody’s annoyance; they are not used to convey a comforting mood.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no sense of comfort in this sentence in paragraph 24; rather, it is simply used to describe events without any clear sense of mood.

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Item #	Rationale	
5	Option A is correct	In paragraphs 12 through 15, the author refers to several ways that Brody and his uncle disagree about what’s enjoyable, including their different ideas about what’s relaxing and their different levels of tolerance for insects and mud.
	Option B is incorrect	Even though in paragraphs 12 through 15 Brody is not happy about going on a hike, the author implies in paragraph 7 that he plays basketball, showing that he willingly engages in physical exercise.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraphs 12 through 15, the author describes Brody’s struggles on the hike and does not indicate that he’s excited to get to know his uncle better.
	Option D is incorrect	Brody shows little interest in nature in paragraphs 12 through 15, and any interest he shows—such as for the eagle in paragraph 14 and the view in paragraph 15—is short-lived and overshadowed by his lack of interest in nature.

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6	Option D is correct	In this sentence in paragraph 26, the author portrays Brody’s change of attitude about insects. While they previously annoyed him greatly—for example, he describes them as swarming him “like a whining cloud” in paragraph 14 and as “pesky” in paragraph 21—they no longer annoy him in paragraph 26.
	Option A is incorrect	Even though Brody enjoys seeing the eagle, this experience described in paragraph 14 does not change his attitude about nature. Instead, it is his “one reward” for being in nature.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence in paragraph 19, Brody is described as agreeing to go fishing with his uncle only because he has no real choice in the matter.
	Option C is incorrect	Rather than showing a change in Brody’s attitude, the author further demonstrates Brody’s negativity about being in nature in this sentence in paragraph 22.

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Item #	Rationale	
7	Option B is correct	Beginning in paragraph 24, Brody begins to realize that his normal schedule leaves no time for him to daydream. In paragraph 25, he experiences a benefit of daydreaming, when he comes up with an idea for his robotics team, and in paragraph 26, he invites “his imagination to wander.”
	Option A is incorrect	In the story, Brody spends time with only one family member and no friends. And although he enjoys aspects of the time spent with his uncle, Brody has his best experience when he allows silence to envelop him in paragraph 26.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Brody’s uncle spends a lot of time in nature and shows the advantages of nature to Brody, this is not the author’s main message; instead, being in nature is portrayed as an avenue for Brody to relax and give himself time to think.
	Option D is incorrect	Even though Brody learns to enjoy new experiences, this is not the author’s primary message, which focuses on the importance of giving the mind time to rest and wander. As Brody’s uncle says in paragraph 23, “You should spend some time daydreaming too—it’s important.”

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8	Option D is correct	This summary is complete and contains only important details, including the fact that Brody needs to go away when he doesn't want to (the source of the conflict), what Brody does at his uncle's and how he feels about it (the main plot), and what Brody learns during his time away (the resolution of the conflict).
	Option A is incorrect	Although this summary includes information about the story's conflict, it is too focused on unimportant details, such as Brody's calls with his friends, and does not include details important to the main plot and the resolution of the conflict.
	Option B is incorrect	Although this summary highlights what Brody misses while he is away and includes details about what he does at his uncle's, it does not include the story's central conflict. Also, the detail about Brody's robotics idea merely touches on the conflict's resolution and does not describe it.
	Option C is incorrect	This summary characterizes Brody's time at his uncle's as simply "a weekend visit" and does not indicate why this is the story's source of conflict. It also does not include the resolution of the conflict.

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9	Option B is correct	In this sentence from paragraph 6, the idea of the two men working to convince others supports the thesis that they were determined to make their invention succeed.
	Option E is correct	In this sentence from paragraph 7, the author describes how the men achieved their goal after working for years perfecting the design, thus supporting the thesis.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author might use this sentence from paragraph 5 to explain why Fry was initially interested in the invention, it does not support the thesis that Fry and Silver were determined to make the invention succeed.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 6, the author highlights a barrier to success; however, this detail does not support the thesis that the two men were determined to make the invention succeed.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 6, the author reveals a question that was likely central to the men’s work in making the invention a success; however, the author does not show their work or determination.

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10	Option A is correct	In paragraph 5, the author explains that “Silver shared his invention with colleagues” despite experiencing difficulties and setbacks, namely creating something that “confused him” (paragraph 3) and needing “to find the right use for it” (paragraph 4).
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 5, Silver went ahead and shared his invention with others even though he wasn’t sure how useful it would be. Therefore, “waiting for the right moment to act” is not the meaning of <u>persistence</u> .
	Option C is incorrect	Silver’s success as described in paragraph 5 occurred only after he persisted, making “continuing to improve even after succeeding” an illogical definition of <u>persistence</u> .
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication of what the majority thought of the invention, so it is not correct to define the word <i>persistence</i> as “holding onto an opinion against the majority.”

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Item #	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	In the introduction, the author includes a description of the ways that sticky notes have affected people’s lives, such as helping people remember “small details” and being “more organized.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author portrays the usefulness of sticky notes in the introduction, this usefulness is not extended to “developing skills.”
	Option B is incorrect	The author does describe several uses for sticky notes in the introduction; however, the author also points out that sticky notes “have helped people around the world” and suggests they are “commonplace,” both of which imply that people know about these uses.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no indication in the introduction that sticky notes “are used differently in different places”; rather, the author implies they serve similar purposes wherever they are used.

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Item #	Rationale	
12	Option C is correct	In lines 1 through 4, the poet shares general statements about people and mistakes; in line 5, the poet’s focus changes to particular events in the speaker’s life.
	Option A is incorrect	Between lines 4 and 5, the tone remains reminiscent; therefore, it does not shift from excitement to disappointment.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author includes statements about people in lines 1 through 4, no reference to the natural world is made in line 5.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author addresses the reader with the use of “your” in line 4, no lesson is taught in line 5.

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Item #	Rationale	
13	Option A is correct	In line 13, the speaker marvels at his work on his boat only to notice, in lines 14 through 16, that his family members are ahead of him with their boats. Thus, his perspective changes from pride in his boat to surprise and disappointment at being behind.
	Option B is incorrect	In lines 13 through 16, it is clarified that the speaker’s family members’ boats are ready for the race; there is no mention of how far the boats will have to travel for the race.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the speaker eventually realizes that the boat can work better as something else, that does not occur until after line 29; therefore, this is not the reason lines 13 through 16 are important to the plot of the poem.
	Option D is incorrect	Family members do not express admiration for the speaker’s boat in lines 13 through 16; rather, the family members are mentioned in these lines because their boats are ready.

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Item #	Rationale	
14	Option B is correct	The limited point of view, in which only the speaker’s feelings are known to the reader, is used to reveal the speaker’s feelings about the boat, which shift from pride to disappointment and then back to pride.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the speaker is engaged in making his boat and disappointed when he doesn’t finish his in time, there is no indication that he is focused on winning the race. In fact, after his boat won’t move (line 24) and is populated by “a group of birds” (line 29), the speaker feels “delight” (line 31).
	Option C is incorrect	Even though the speaker refers to different aspects of nature, such as the wind in line 25 and birds starting in line 29, his interest in nature is only as it relates to his boat.
	Option D is incorrect	The speaker does not think through the problem of his boat not moving in the water; rather, the problem is resolved by events outside the speaker, after a group of birds land on his boat.

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Item #	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	This sentence from paragraph 9 of the article is similar to lines 37 through 40 from the poem in that both the author and the speaker describe an unexpected positive result—in the article, the unexpected result of Silver’s invention of microspheres, and in the poem, the unexpected result of the speaker not finishing his boat.
	Option A is incorrect	In the article, the author uses the sentence from paragraph 7 to focus on the design process before results can be measured. The speaker of the poem uses lines 37 through 40 to focus on the results of his boat design.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 8 of the article, the author describes the conditions in which an outcome will be determined; this is different from lines 37 through 40 from the poem, in which the speaker focuses on the actual verified outcome.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 9 of the article, the author comments on the success of an idea, which is different from lines 37 through 40 in the poem, in which the speaker discusses a specific positive result of an idea.

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16	Option D is correct	As noted in paragraph 8 of the article, it took Silver 12 years to complete his work; in contrast, the speaker in the poem finishes his work over the course of “one summer day” (line 5).
	Option A is incorrect	Silver created his design while experimenting on the job, not as part of a contest.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the speaker exhibits great pride in his creation’s success, this is not different from Silver’s experience, as it’s likely Silver also felt pride in his success.
	Option C is incorrect	Silver came upon his design in the workplace, as a chemist, not in nature.

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Item #	Rationale	
17	Option D is correct	As the author explains in paragraph 4 of the article, “Although Silver missed his initial goal, he knew he designed something revolutionary.” In contrast, in the poem, it takes the outside force of birds landing on his boat (lines 29–30) for the speaker to realize the value of his mistake.
	Option A is incorrect	In the article, although Silver works to win the attention of his colleagues, there is no indication that he was competing with others.
	Option B is incorrect	As the author of the article points out in paragraph 8, it took Silver 12 years to experience success with his invention.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Silver in the article had a clearly defined goal—to create “bigger, stronger, tougher adhesives” (paragraph 2)—so does the speaker in the poem—to invent his own cardboard boat (lines 6–8). Therefore, this is not a difference between the two.

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Item #	Rationale	
18	Option C is correct	The sentence from paragraph 4 of the article and lines 33 through 36 of the poem are both used to describe the moment a creator recognizes the value of his design.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author refers to the moment Silver realizes the value of his creation in the sentence from paragraph 4 of the article, the speaker in the poem has not yet realized the value of his creation in lines 29 and 30.
	Option B is incorrect	The sentence in paragraph 4 of the article is used to refer to the moment Silver realizes the value of his invention, whereas the speaker refers to the moment just before realizing the value of his creation in lines 31 and 32 of the poem.
	Option D is incorrect	Unlike the sentence in paragraph 4 of the article, which is used to capture Silver’s realization of the value of his invention, lines 37 through 40 in the poem are used to describe what happens <i>after</i> the speaker realizes the value of his creation.

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19	Option B is correct	Throughout the article, the author demonstrates how the Camel Mobile Library encourages a love of reading among people in Garissa. For example, the author shares the improved literacy rates in paragraph 2, describes how “each child eagerly reaches out to receive a book” in paragraph 5, and says that “Muchilwa’s story about Gellow captures the attention and imagination of children” in paragraph 10.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no mention of funding or money in the article, so the reader cannot conclude that the Camel Mobile Library needs more money.
	Option C is incorrect	In the article, the author explains that when the Camel Mobile Library arrives, “herders unload the crates” (paragraph 5). However, it is implied that herders are just helping out, not that they are changing jobs.
	Option D is incorrect	As the author notes, the Camel Mobile Library serves animal herders who move around a lot in extremely remote areas not accessible by most cars. Therefore, it cannot be concluded that the Camel Mobile Library will be replaced by permanent local libraries.

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Item #	Rationale	
20	Option D is correct	In this section, the author focuses on the key idea that camels deliver a range of products in Garissa because the rough desert is inaccessible to many motor vehicles.
	Option A is incorrect	Although it might be inferred that camels can carry very heavy loads, it can also be inferred that cars and trucks can carry very heavy loads, and this section focuses on why camels and not vehicles deliver goods in Garissa.
	Option B is incorrect	In this section, the author focuses on using camels to deliver products such as books, food, and medicine. The author does not discuss whether the people in Garissa are used to riding camels.
	Option C is incorrect	The author explains that camels are used in Garissa because “many vehicles have trouble getting there” (paragraph 6), and there is no indication that people are replacing camels with cars.

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Item #	Rationale	
21	Option B is correct	The author uses a cause-and-effect organizational structure in this section to explain the reasons for using camels. Since “the landscape is so rough that many vehicles have trouble getting there” (paragraph 6), it is easier to use camels. Likewise, because “[t]he local people identify so much with the camel,” as stated in paragraph 7, they are more likely to visit the library.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the author does explain that people will use the service, and thus read, if they see a camel transporting books; however, this option is incorrect because there is no connection between camels and reading, nor is making such a connection the author’s purpose.
	Option C is incorrect	In this section, the author provides a few examples of goods that camels transport in the desert, but there is no indication of limits on what camels can transport.
	Option D is incorrect	Although in this section the author points out, “In many places, library books are delivered by car or truck” (paragraph 6), this is merely stated as a fact. There is no indication in this section that people criticize the use of camels for deliveries.

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Item #	Rationale	
22	Option C is correct	In paragraph 10, the author explains how “Muchilwa’s story about Gellow captures the attention and imagination of children” and then uses this as an example of how a story or book can “engage [hold the attention of] the children’s hearts and minds.”
	Option A is incorrect	The author describes holding children’s attention with books or stories, not interlocking with “children’s hearts and minds.”
	Option B is incorrect	The idea of hiring “the children’s hearts and minds” for work does not make contextual sense.
	Option D is incorrect	It does not make contextual sense to say “to enter into contest with the children’s hearts and minds.”

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Item #	Rationale	
23	Option C is correct	This idea is from paragraph 5 and captures the quotation from Farah. The author explains the reason librarians from Kenya’s Camel Mobile Library are sending books to regions like Garissa. This is a key idea of paragraphs 3 through 5 and should be included in a complete summary of these paragraphs.
	Option A is incorrect	This detail should not be included in a complete summary of paragraphs 3 through 5, because it is a small idea taken from the map rather than an important supporting detail.
	Option B is incorrect	This is a minor detail taken from paragraph 7 and should not be included in a complete summary of paragraphs 3 through 5.
	Option D is incorrect	This is an important detail from the article, but it is taken from paragraph 2 and therefore is not relevant to a complete summary of paragraphs 3 through 5.

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Item #	Rationale	
24	Option A is correct	It can be concluded that copies of Muchilwa’s story will be delivered by camel, since this is the way that books are delivered in the region. The book will likely be added to the Camel Mobile Library to go to the children of Garissa, since the story is about the camel library and will include scenes from Garissa.
	Option B is incorrect	Although this section includes a reference to Muchilwa’s trip to Garissa to sketch scenes for his story, there is no indication that he will travel there to bring the book. Rather, in paragraph 6, the author makes clear that books are delivered to Garissa by camel and not by car or truck.
	Option C is incorrect	In this section, the author refers to the nation’s capital of Nairobi only to specify where Muchilwa has traveled from, and there is no evidence that the government will bring the children to Nairobi.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author refers to “schoolchildren” in this section, there is no mention of schools nor any suggestion that Garissa schools will give children copies of Muchilwa’s story.

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25	Option C is correct	The graphic includes two images, one showing Kenya’s bordering countries and another showing Kenya’s geographic location. Both images identify specifically where Kenya is in Africa.
	Option A is incorrect	Although one of the images shows that Nairobi is in Kenya, this is not likely why the author includes the graphic in the article, since the second image does not show Nairobi on the map. Also, the location of Nairobi is not important to the article, since it’s not where the Camel Mobile Library operates.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author refers to “desert regions like Garissa,” and one of the images shows the size of Garissa. However, there is no way to identify what part of the map is “Kenyan desert.”
	Option D is incorrect	Even though the author discusses Kenya’s nomadic population, the map provides no information that explains “why some people in Kenya are nomadic.”

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Item #	Rationale	
26	Option D is correct	This sentence states directly that Muchilwa hopes his books will help children “become lifelong readers and learners.”
	Option E is correct	Muchilwa’s belief that reading is “a toolkit that helps people” with communication and a sense of connection with the world shows a way that his books could help children in the future.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author uses this sentence to capture a way that Muchilwa’s books might attract children’s attention, it does not identify a way it could help them in the future.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the author describes a potential impact on children in the current moment while they read Muchilwa’s books, not in the future.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the author points out a reason the children might enjoy Muchilwa’s books but does not indicate how it could help them in the future.

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

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Item #	Rationale	
28	Option B is correct	In sentence 9, Simone states that she “was not the least bit interested,” repeating the idea from sentence 8 that she was “highly disinterested in this challenge.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although sentence 8 includes information found in sentence 9, sentence 8 also contains an action: “I slumped in my chair.” This bit of storytelling would be lost if the sentence was deleted.
	Option C is incorrect	In sentence 10, Simone does not repeat information. She introduces the idea that she was recalling events from the previous day.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 11, Simone describes the unfortunate events that had happened to her; this information is new to the reader.

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Item #	Rationale	
29	Option D is correct	This sentence is accurate and does not need revision, as the modifying phrase is correctly placed so that it clearly explains why Simone was devastated.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence the placement of the modifier “only” next to “devastated” instead of “seven weeks” changes the meaning of the sentence, because now “devastated” is emphasized instead of “seven weeks.”
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence contains a dangling modifier, so that it is saying that the weeks had been devastated.
	Option C is incorrect	This sentence repeats the phrase “the season,” making it redundant.

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Item #	Rationale	
30	Option C is correct	This sentence provides a strong transition into the sixth paragraph because the paragraph is focused on Simone’s thoughts about the journaling assignment and how she deals with it.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence does not provide a strong transition, because the sixth paragraph is focused on Simone’s experience, not other students’ experiences.
	Option B is incorrect	In the sixth paragraph, the focus is on Simone’s thoughts about the journaling assignment, not on the merits of Mr. Bright’s other assignments.
	Option D is incorrect	Although there are details about Simone’s baseball season in the sixth paragraph, these details are included only to support the paragraph’s focus on Simone’s thoughts about the journaling assignment.

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Item #	Rationale
31	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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Item #	Rationale	
32	Option B is correct	This sentence provides a strong closing because it wraps up the overall meaning of the story, about how expressing gratitude can help shift a person’s attitude. Also, it clarifies how Simone’s prediction in sentence 28—that she would “cheer for [her] friends at the game that night”—demonstrates the benefits of gratitude.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence is redundant with sentence 29, about what Simone needed, yet it does not provide an explanation as to why she needed it. It also does not refer to the story’s overall meaning, about gratitude and attitude.
	Option C is incorrect	Although writing in a gratitude journal is a new activity for Simone, this is not what the story is about. In addition, the story does not say whether other people benefited from a new activity; the story focuses on Simone’s transformation alone, so there is no basis for a generalization.
	Option D is incorrect	Simone probably is pleased with her teacher by the end of the story; however, this is not the overall meaning of the story. Therefore, this is not an effective conclusion.

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Item #	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	This sentence is an effective revision of sentence 2 because it fixes the error of the misplaced modifying phrase, which refers to “the concept” as a video game designer. In this revised sentence, the subject, verb, and adverbial phrase are appropriately placed for the reader to correctly understand the meaning.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence contains a misplaced modifying phrase, by which it is referring to the early years of “the concept” instead of the early years of Satoshi Tajiri as a video game designer.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence it’s unclear whether the phrase “during his early years” explains when Tajiri was a video game designer or at what stage of his career he developed the Pokémon concept.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the modifying phrase “during his early years” is misplaced. It should be placed after “Satoshi Tajiri.”

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Item #	Rationale	
34	Option B is correct	This sentence best follows and supports sentence 5 because it provides context for Tajiri’s fascination with bugs and his easy access to them.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence repeats information found in paragraph 3 and is not relevant to paragraph 2, where the focus is on Tajiri’s childhood interest in collecting insects.
	Option C is incorrect	Even though this might be true, this sentence is not a good choice to follow sentence 5, because it distracts from the paragraph’s focus on Tajiri’s interest in insects.
	Option D is incorrect	Although this is an accurate statement, this sentence is a poor choice to follow sentence 5 because it is unrelated to the paragraph’s topic of Tajiri’s interest in collecting insects as a child.

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35	Option D is correct	“In fact” is the appropriate transition because the information in sentence 7 reinforces the information in sentence 6 that Tajiri immersed himself in bug collecting.
	Option A is incorrect	“However” is an inappropriate transition because it implies that the information in sentence 7 contradicts the information in sentence 6; however, the opposite is true: sentences 6 and 7 both highlight Tajiri’s interest in collecting bugs.
	Option B is incorrect	“Secondly” is not an appropriate transition, because it indicates that sentence 7 introduces new information not found in sentence 6; however, sentence 7 reinforces the information in sentence 6.
	Option C is incorrect	“Even so” is not an appropriate transition, because it implies that there will be a shift away from the information presented in sentence 6; however, sentence 7 supports the information presented in sentence 6.

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Item #	Rationale	
36	Option C is correct	Although this sentence is somewhat related to the topic of the sixth paragraph, it distracts from the focus on the success of Pokémon.
	Option A is incorrect	Sentence 23 is the topic sentence for the sixth paragraph and is therefore necessary.
	Option B is incorrect	Sentence 24 includes important details that support the idea of Pokémon’s success; therefore, it provides necessary information for the sixth paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	The information in sentence 26 is necessary because it provides important details about the extent to which Pokémon has been successful.

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37	Option A is correct	This sentence incorporates the fragment in sentence 4 to create a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This is a comma splice, which is a type of run-on sentence that lacks a conjunction.
	Option C is incorrect	Like the original sentence 4, the second sentence here is a fragment. It starts with the prepositional phrase “In which,” making it a fragment consisting of a dependent clause.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence is also a fragment because it has a subject but lacks a complete verb. The participial phrase “being a form of government” modifies the simple subject, “A democracy.”

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38	Option B is correct	The correct spelling of this word is “represent.”
	Option A is incorrect	It is not appropriate to change this verb to the past tense, because the rest of the sentence is stated in the present tense.
	Option C is incorrect	It is not necessary to delete the comma after “them,” because the comma correctly separates two independent clauses that are joined by a conjunction.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing this word to its singular form creates disagreement in number, since this pronoun refers to “people,” which is a plural noun.

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Item #	Rationale	
39	Option D is correct	No change is needed because the sentence is complete and contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
	Option A is incorrect	The preposition “for” is not appropriate, because “in” correctly introduces location or setting (in this case, the city-state of Athens).
	Option B is incorrect	The past tense is inappropriate because, in the rest of the paragraph, it is clear that Blaire is still writing about Athens as it was in the past, not the present.
	Option C is incorrect	It is not correct to change “direct” to “directly,” because “direct” is being used as an adjective to describe the noun “democracy,” whereas “directly” is an adverb.

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Item #	Rationale	
40	Option D is correct	This change corrects the subject-verb agreement error between the plural subject “people” and the singular verb “was.”
	Option A is incorrect	The pronoun “who” is appropriate for this sentence because the people are performing the action (“showed up”) instead of receiving the action. The pronoun “whom” is an incorrect choice to perform action.
	Option B is incorrect	The information should be in the simple past tense, whereas “shown” is the past participle form, which needs the word “had” to create the correct form for past perfect tense.
	Option C is incorrect	The correct spelling of the word is “particular.”

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Item #	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	This option is a complete sentence that fixes the comma splice (wherein two complete statements are divided by only a comma).
	Option B is incorrect	Although this option corrects the comma splice, it introduces a fragment because the second sentence lacks a complete verb.
	Option C is incorrect	This option corrects the comma splice; however, it introduces a sentence fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “being” is unnecessary and inappropriate since “the Council” is already correctly paired with the past-tense verb “was.”

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Item #	Rationale	
42	Option D is correct	Deleting the comma is correct because adjectives (“new” and “interesting,” which are both modifying “information”) should be separated by either a comma or the word “and” but not both.
	Option A is incorrect	This change uses a transition word less specific and less accurate than “However,” which is used appropriately to signal a contrast between the idea that Saturn has rings and the theory that the planet is losing these rings.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “scientists” is not a proper noun and should not be capitalized.
	Option C is incorrect	The use of the present perfect tense, with “have gathered,” is correct since it refers to actions that have already started but continue.

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Item #	Rationale	
43	Option B is correct	This corrects the subject-verb disagreement between “planet” and “are.” The subject, “planet,” is singular and therefore needs the singular verb “is.”
	Option A is incorrect	This change creates a run-on sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This is not the correct spelling of “losing.”
	Option D is incorrect	This change creates disagreement in number between “rings” and the pronoun that refers to these rings. The word “rings” is plural and therefore needs the plural pronoun “them.”

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Item #	Rationale	
44	Option C is correct	The past-tense verb “helped” is proper because the sentence refers to an event that already happened, as sentence 5 makes clear with its use of the past-tense verb “revealed.”
	Option A is incorrect	The preposition “from” correctly introduces “a spacecraft” as the origin or source of the data. The preposition “for” more often indicates purpose or intent.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding a comma after “spacecraft” creates a grammatical error in that it adds an unnecessary comma that separates the sentence’s main subject, “Data sent back to Earth from a spacecraft,” from its verb, “will help.”
	Option D is incorrect	This is not the correct spelling of “initial.”

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Item #	Rationale	
45	Option B is correct	The name of the spacecraft, Cassini, is a proper noun and should be capitalized.
	Option A is incorrect	This is not the correct spelling of “recently.”
	Option C is incorrect	There is no need to add the pronoun “it,” because the subject of “has been studying” is already stated as “another spacecraft.” The commas are correctly used to set off the name of the spacecraft, which is nonessential information.
	Option D is incorrect	This is not the correct spelling of “studying.”