Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option A is correct	In the stage directions in line 55, Lina "strums a major chord on the guitar," and then, in line 56, Lina asks Joelle, "Want to hear something new?" The playwright includes these lines most likely to indicate Lina will perform her new song for Joelle.
	Option B is incorrect	Right after Joelle apologizes to Lina (line 54), Lina nods (line 55). The playwright includes this stage direction most likely to show that Lina forgives Joelle. In line 56, Lina changes the subject to ask if Joelle wants to hear the new song. Joelle is the one who mentions forgiveness in line 57, which shows that she understands that Lina's nod and her offer to play a song are Lina's way of forgiving her.
	Option C is incorrect	The question Lina asks in line 56 indicates that the song is already written and that she is going to share it with Joelle. Although Lina does say in line 53 that her songs are not all finished, there is no indication that she has ever asked Joelle to help her with any of them, nor is there any context to support that Lina will ask Joelle to help her write a song in the future.
	Option D is incorrect	In the play, the setting does not occur on a stage. The context of the play does not support the inference that Lina will get tips for being comfortable on stage.

Item Position	Rationale	
2	Option C is correct	In line 28, Joelle interrupts Lina when Lina asks her not to share the songs she sent her last week (line 26). This shows that she is not listening to Lina's request to keep her new songs private.
	Option A is incorrect	In line 2, Joelle is addressing the audience about Lina not taking her calls or answering her text messages, not about Lina's request to keep her new songs private.
	Option B is incorrect	Joelle's comment in line 19 about Lina's performance comes before Lina's request to keep her new songs private. Even though Lina says in line 17 that she plays mostly for herself and not for an audience, she had agreed to sing for her friends.
	Option D is incorrect	Joelle's comment in line 57 is in response to Lina's invitation to hear a new song, and it shows that the problem caused by Joelle's dismissive comment (line 28) has been resolved.

Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option D is correct	The playwright includes several events that help develop Lina's character and that show a consistent pattern of her avoiding the need to express strong feelings. Lina doesn't answer the phone while she is upset (line 1), and she says in line 35 that "I wanted some time to myself." In line 31, Lina is "frustrated" as she "puts away her guitar and rises" and then quietly leaves the group without anyone noticing (line 32). The playwright includes these events most likely to indicate that Lina is experiencing strong feelings and decides to remove herself from these situations rather than express those feelings.
	Option A is incorrect	Although much of the play is about Lina not wanting to draw attention to herself but Joelle insisting on sharing Lina's music, neither of these patterns contributes to Lina's character, regardless of Lina's reservations.
	Option B is incorrect	In Lina's version of events, Joelle continually interrupts Lina (lines 23–27), so Lina is not able to give any real responses, which does not help develop Lina's character. In line 53, she says she will share her songs with the world when they are finished.
	Option C is incorrect	According to line 53, Lina objected to Joelle's playing of the recordings at the campfire because the songs were not finished, not because she wanted to play the songs live.

Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option B is correct	The playwright includes line 2 to establish the problem of the plot, which is Lina's silence toward Joelle and when it began.
	Option A is incorrect	The playwright uses the stage directions in line 2 to show that Joelle is reaching out to see what the problem is. Joelle is focused on what is going on with Lina, not herself.
	Option C is incorrect	In line 2, Joelle's question "What did I do wrong?" indicates that Joelle does not know what the problem is or what she has done to make Lina not want to respond to her phone calls and texts. There is no indication of blame.
	Option D is incorrect	The playwright introduces Lina as a guitar player in line 1 but does not say what Joelle's interests are. Joelle's speech in line 2 establishes that there was a gathering of friends who got along well, which does not suggest a clash of characters with opposing interests.

Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	The playwright includes the stage directions in lines 16 and 17 most likely to establish that Lina is immersed in her music. Lina explains that at the campfire she played "the song I've been working on the longest, the one I'm most sure of" (line 17), which communicates how much she cares about the quality of her songs.
	Option A is incorrect	The playwright's stage directions in line 16 show that Lina forgot the audience was listening, which is an indication that she is not worried about losing the attention of the audience.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication that playing the guitar is difficult for Lina; her comment in line 17 is about being sure that her song was ready, not about being sure of her ability to play it.
	Option D is incorrect	The playwright includes the stage directions most likely to show that Lina has lost herself in playing the guitar and gotten distracted from the listening audience, not that she gets distracted by her hobbies.

Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option B is correct	The playwright's inclusion of the phrase "at all" signals that Lina's statement marks a transition from Joelle's version of the previous night's events to Lina's retelling of those events.
	Option A is incorrect	Lina's comment is a response to Joelle's description of events; it is not about having insufficient time to play the guitar.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no indication that Joelle misunderstands the music that Lina has written. She praises it and is excited to share it, but there is no mention of the content of the songs.
	Option D is incorrect	When Friend 1 praises the song Lina shared around the campfire, saying "I love that song" (line 5), Lina responds with a shy smile. In line 8, Lina "turns red" and looks "mortified," which could indicate regret, but she turns red in response to Joelle's comments bringing attention to her as the writer of the song, not to her choice of song.

Item Position	Rationale	
7	Option D is correct	The playwright includes sarcasm in line 20 most likely to show that Lina is shy about sharing her music, and Lina even says in line 17 that she mostly plays for herself. In line 21, Joelle says, "I mean it"; this is an indication that she understands Lina was questioning the compliment.
	Option A is incorrect	The playwright's use of sarcasm in line 20 is connected to Joelle's compliment and not to the length of time for which Lina and Joelle have been friends.
	Option B is incorrect	Throughout the whole play, Joelle has only complimentary things to say about Lina's music and makes no comments about Lina's ability to perform.
	Option C is incorrect	Despite the comments made by Joelle and Friend 1 in lines 4, 5, 19, and 22 being positive and encouraging, Lina does not want to share her songs much. This reluctance suggests that she is not influenced by others' opinions.

Item Position	Rationale	
8	Option C is correct	The playwright's use of the words "intense" and "angrily" in line 1 affects the mood of the play by indicating that Lina feels annoyed. The description of Joelle as exhibiting "frustration" reveals that there is a conflict between the two characters.
	Option A is incorrect	The word "angrily" does describe how Lina resumes playing after declining the phone call. However, the word "intense" describes Lina's strumming before she is interrupted by the phone call, not her reaction to being interrupted. The word "frustration" is a description of *Joelle's* reaction and thus is not about Lina's feelings. Overall, these words indicate tension and not a reaction to an interruption.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 1, the words "intense," "angrily," and "frustration" emphasize the conflict between Lina and Joelle. These words are not highlighting a loud, continuous noise.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication in line 1 that Lina is learning a new skill.

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

Item Position	Rationale	
10	Option D is correct	The word *capture* is used to indicate that Cousteau's accounts "describe in an accurate way" three aspects of octopuses.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no content in paragraph 3 to support this definition.
	Option B is incorrect	Even though Cousteau's anecdotes could hold the interest of the reader, in paragraph 3 the word *capture* is used to communicate that the following paragraphs will present three aspects of octopuses as described by Cousteau.
	Option C is incorrect	Aspects of octopuses cannot be taken. This definition does not closely match the meaning of the word *capture* as it is used in paragraph 3.

Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option A is correct	All the details in the excerpt help support the thesis that octopuses exhibit individuality and intelligence.
	Option B is incorrect	The author's mention of "an honor normally reserved for mammals" (paragraph 4) is a reference to the fact that some people have given octopuses names. There is no implication that the behavior of octopuses is like the behavior of mammals.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of the excerpt provides a description of octopus behavior and does not include any opinions about the effectiveness of studies about octopus behavior.
	Option D is incorrect	The observation that octopuses can be destructive relates to a minor detail in paragraph 6 of the excerpt and is not the thesis of the excerpt.

Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option D is correct	The author includes this detail of an ordinary incident—reading a book—most likely to establish the context for when the author's "love affair with octopuses began."
	Option A is incorrect	Even though reading a book during the summer is relatable to a reading audience, the excerpt is not about the reading of the book; this event merely explains how the author became interested in octopuses.
	Option B is incorrect	The author read this book at the age of nine, and she mentions it to provide the reader with context surrounding her fascination with octopuses.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author includes the detail about reading the book to introduce evidence from the book's author—Jacques-Yves Cousteau—the author makes it clear that "Cousteau's accounts are anecdotes, not scientific experiments" (paragraph 3).

Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option A is correct	In paragraph 3, the author establishes the thesis of the excerpt by stating that there are three striking aspects of octopuses. The author then provides one paragraph about each of those aspects.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does mention scuba diving, but the excerpt is not focused on the benefits of scuba diving to see octopuses. The excerpt is focused on the characteristics of octopuses.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author tells of an early personal experience with an octopus in paragraph 1 and a later experience in paragraph 6, the excerpt is not organized chronologically. The transition words “first,” “second,” and “third” refer not to a series of events but to the three aspects of octopuses discussed in the excerpt.
	Option D is incorrect	There are descriptions of octopuses’ reactions to human intervention, but the information in the excerpt is not organized to illustrate the causes of those reactions.

Item Position	Rationale	
14	Option B is correct	The word *plummets* makes use of the verb "to plummet," meaning "to drop rapidly."
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase "skipping heartbeats" in lines 32 and 33 would be the phrase to indicate something becoming irregular.
	Option C is incorrect	"Recovers slowly" does not support the idea of what the word *plummets* means in line 33.
	Option D is incorrect	The phrase "swirl into the artic dark" in line 34 would be the phrase to indicate something becoming difficult to detect.

Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option B is correct	The poet inserts each break to create the impression that the sentence has ended, so that the reader might be surprised by the "twist" provided in the continuation of the sentence. For example, in line 4 the speaker is talking about a dive in water, but after the break, the reader realizes the speaker is discussing time spent in research.
	Option A is incorrect	Even though the shifts in meaning that the breaks create may be unexpected, there is no indication that the reader is expected to respond to any of the ideas.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the admission that "I haven't thought much about [narwhals]/until now" may seem to raise the question of the speaker's reliability, it is simply a statement that this is the first time the speaker has thought about narwhals.
	Option D is incorrect	Lines 1 through 8 do not include information about the emotions or feelings of the speaker.

Item Position	Rationale	
16	Row 1, Column 2 "Does Not Create This Effect" is correct	The poet's use of figurative language **does not** reveal the speaker's dissatisfaction with the outcome of a major effort. Although the speaker describes "a week-long deep dive," there is nothing in the poem to suggest that the speaker dislikes the outcome of the effort. In fact, later in the poem, the speaker shows enthusiasm and curiosity about the "mystical depth dweller."
	Row 2, Column 2 "Does Not Create This Effect" is correct	The poet's use of figurative language **does not** demonstrate that the speaker is highly skeptical of a claim. Even though the words "announces—proclaims—" (line 2) emphasize the student's statement that "Narwhals are real," there is no evidence that the speaker is skeptical of the claim. Instead, the speaker shows interest in the information learned about narwhals.
	Row 3, Column 1 "Creates This Effect" is correct	The poet's use of figurative language **does** show that the speaker is strongly driven by curiosity. In lines 4 and 5, the speaker takes a "week-long deep dive/of researching you," showing that the speaker is driven by curiosity to spend the whole week learning about the narwhal.
	Row 4, Column 1 "Creates This Effect" is correct	The poet's use of figurative language **does** suggest that, to the speaker, the search for facts resembles a search for the animal. In line 6, the speaker refers to the narwhal as a "depth dweller," suggesting that the speaker's "deep dive" for information is like hunting for the narwhal itself at the depths in which it lives.

Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option A is correct	In the excerpt, the author's personal experience of reading about octopuses and seeing octopuses in the wild is an important element in establishing that the author knows more about the subject than most people do. In the poem, the speaker shares the great satisfaction that arises during the speaker's research of narwhals.
	Option B is incorrect	There are some emotions shared in the excerpt; however, the poet uses the first person not so much to describe the speaker's experiences as to explain what the speaker learns while researching and to describe some of the speaker's emotional reactions to those discoveries.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet does specify some of the sources the speaker uses while researching, but the excerpt does not contain the author's opinions about octopuses. Rather, the author relates actual experiences with octopuses and observations about their behaviors.
	Option D is incorrect	The author of the excerpt does express passion for octopuses in some statements, such as "My love affair with octopuses began when I was 9" (paragraph 1), but the first-person statements in the poem do not convey detachment. In lines 24 and 25, for example, the speaker displays a warm feeling toward narwhals.

Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option C is correct	In the excerpt, the use of imagery in the phrase "appear to watch you" shows a connection between humans and octopuses. In the poem, "Your eyes/. . . are kind" describes a positive reaction to and from narwhals.
	Option A is incorrect	The words "watch" and "kind" do not have clear connections to protecting. Neither the author nor the poet shares anything about an animal protecting a human.
	Option B is incorrect	Even though the phrase the author uses, "appear to watch you," could convey wariness in some contexts, the poet's use of "kind" does not.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does describe intelligent behavior by octopuses, such as in paragraph 6; however, the poet makes no reference to the intelligence of narwhals.

Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option C is correct	The quotation from the excerpt is about how the octopus could hide if it felt threatened. The lines from the poem are about how the narwhal will eat what threatens it, which can be described as fierce behavior.
	Option A is incorrect	The definition of "tool" is unclear, since a narwhal uses its mouth as a tool of protection; so, because of lack of textual support, the use of tools cannot be considered a difference between the two types of animals.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no clear indication that a narwhal does not pause to evaluate threats, so this cannot be considered a behavior that makes a narwhal different from an octopus. The lines from the poem are about the narwhal's reaction to a threat, not about the narwhal's evaluation of a threat.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication in the poem that narwhals fear humans; lines 9 and 10 are about the narwhal's reaction to prey, so being afraid of humans cannot be considered a difference between octopuses and narwhals.

Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option A is correct	Content from paragraph 7 of the excerpt and in lines 7 and 8 of the poem support the idea that an unexpected opportunity to learn can lead to strong interest.
	Option E is correct	There is content in paragraph 1 of the excerpt and in line 11 of the poem that supports the idea that many people share similar admiration for certain sea creatures.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet and the author would most likely not agree with the statement that successful researchers must avoid strong emotions, because scientific research—in which strong emotions may lead to bias that affects researchers' conclusions—is not mentioned in the poem.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea that investigation is the first step to creating bonds between humans and animals is not supported by the content of either the excerpt or the poem. Although it could be an important step, as implied by both the poet and the author, it is not a definite first step.
	Option D is incorrect	The speaker in the poem does spend a week learning about narwhals on the internet; however, the excerpt contains no reference to the idea that researching a topic can be time-consuming.

Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	The word *stipulated* in paragraph 3 means "specified as an essential condition" in this context (i.e., writing a treaty of conditions surrounding the use of Antarctica).
	Option A is incorrect	The word *negotiated* in paragraph 3 is connected to the process of coming to an agreement, not the agreement conditions themselves.
	Option B is incorrect	The word *used* in paragraph 3 refers to one of the essential conditions in the Antarctica Treaty ("could not be used for military purposes"), not the characteristic of being essential in the treaty.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author states that the treaty signers agreed to, or accepted, a plan to reconvene sometimes. The word *agreed* does not mean "specified as an essential condition."

Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option B is correct	The information about preservation of natural resources in Antarctica in both paragraph 4 ("later documents covered the protection of marine life in and around Antarctica") and paragraph 5 ("adding that activities such as mining, drilling, and exploration of minerals would be banned indefinitely") supports the idea that the countries that signed the treaty made a commitment to preserve Antarctica.
	Option A is incorrect	This statement is not supported by the content from the article. In paragraph 5, there is a list of common economic development activities banned in Antarctica. There is also mention of a concern about increased human presence.
	Option C is incorrect	Protecting marine life is not the only focus of the treaty. Paragraph 4 of the article contains a list of the treaty's areas of focus, including research and keeping the peace.
	Option D is incorrect	The author closes paragraph 5 by stating that there are new concerns about the increasing presence of humans in the "once untouched wilderness" of Antarctica. There is no mention of whether the treaty countries agree or disagree about these concerns; it is simply noted that concerns exist.

Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option A is correct	Both "reinforced the original intent" and "banned indefinitely" are phrases that could be considered formal as they are used in paragraph 5. They are free of bias and free of emotional connotations, which is the intent of an administrative tone.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author is informing the reader of some of the history of the treaty. The information has no emotional bias or ironic tone.
	Option C is incorrect	The article is informational, and the author uses these phrases to inform the reader of how the treaty has been amended, not to convince the reader of what should happen.
	Option D is incorrect	Even though the author has discussed concerns that still need to be addressed, the author ends the article on a hopeful note (paragraph 10). The phrases "reinforced the original intent" and "banned indefinitely" in paragraph 5 are used simply to communicate facts about the treaty.

Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option D is correct	Information about the ongoing care necessary for the protection of Antarctica is included in this quotation from paragraph 7. The information is specific, and it is clearly connected to potential dangers to Antarctica.
	Option A is incorrect	In this quotation from paragraph 1, the author does mention effects of pollution, but this is a reference to pollution in a global sense, not as a specific danger to Antarctica.
	Option B is incorrect	In this quotation from paragraph 2, the author discusses the fact that not all nations agreed as to who owned what part of Antarctica. The quotation does not include any information about potential dangers to Antarctica.
	Option C is incorrect	This quotation from paragraph 4 includes the information that the agreement has expanded, but it does not clearly connect that information to dangers to Antarctica.

Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option B is correct	The information in this summary of the section "Governed by Treaty" is presented in the same order in which it appears in the section. In addition, the summary includes all the key concepts from the section.
	Option A is incorrect	This summary of the section "Governed by Treaty" includes information from only paragraph 2, so it leaves out key concepts—most notably, the creation of the treaty as explained in paragraph 3.
	Option C is incorrect	The details in this summary are in a random order, and so it would not be considered an accurate summary of the section "Governed by Treaty."
	Option D is incorrect	In this summary of the section "Governed by Treaty," the Antarctic Treaty is identified too narrowly as concerning the military use of Antarctica. In addition, this summary does not include why and how the treaty came about, which are key concepts from paragraph 2.

Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option A is correct	Paragraph 6 is about the advances in technology that have made traveling to Antarctica easier. Paragraph 7 briefly describes the potential effects of the resulting increase in travel, which could present a challenge to the protection of Antarctica.
	Option B is incorrect	According to the article, the recent increase in tourism is not the result of a weakness in the original treaty. As the author explains in paragraph 6, it is the result of travel to Antarctica being easier now than it was when the treaty was signed.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not suggest that there are already permanent facilities in Antarctica. In paragraph 7, the author informs the reader that scientists and regulators are evaluating the impact that such facilities would have on the environment.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no mention of improved living conditions or international cooperation in either paragraph.

Item Position	Rationale	
27	Option C is correct	As Christian states, "There aren't a lot of hard rules governing tourism." This indicates the current lack of laws and regulations. Countries that are part of the treaty that presides over Antarctica are still looking for ways to balance tourism with the need to protect the area.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no government in Antarctica, and the creation of regulations and rules to govern tourism would be the responsibility of the Antarctic Treaty System.
	Option B is incorrect	This option includes information about the negative impact of tourists, while the quotation is about the lack of regulation of tourism.
	Option D is incorrect	The quotation does not include specific examples of the kinds of regulation needed for tourism in Antarctica.

Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option C is correct	The information presented by the author in this article is a chronological review of the treaty created to govern Antarctica and of the challenges raised by increased access to the Antarctic.
	Option A is incorrect	The article is about some of the challenges faced in Antarctica, specifically increased tourism, but the author does not include solutions. In paragraph 9, the author explains that managing tourism is being discussed, "but reaching an agreement will take time."
	Option B is incorrect	According to the article, Antarctica has not been turned into a tourist site. In paragraph 7, the author explains the increase in tourist activities and that there are discussions of what the impact of more permanent tourist-site facilities would be.
	Option D is incorrect	The article is not about competing economic interests at play in Antarctica. The overall content of the article is about the Antarctic Treaty and the concerns caused by an increasing human presence in Antarctica.

Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option D is correct	The author includes the details in paragraph 9 to explain some of the ecological impacts of tourism in Antarctica. The author mentions such concerns as invasive species, damage to the environment, and the effects of visitors on local animals.
	Option A is incorrect	The care of visitors is only one detail from the paragraph, and it does not address the impact of tourism on the environment.
	Option B is incorrect	This paragraph does not include information about the Antarctic Treaty.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 9 indicates that scientists worry about visitors disturbing animal life, but there are no details describing what has been happening to animal life on the continent.

STAAR Spring 2024 English II Rationales

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

Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option C is correct	In this paragraph, Jesse is assuring his father that he and his brother are capable of hiking alone. The writer brings this discussion to a close in this option by showing that Jessie thinks he and his brother are adequately prepared and ready to get started.
	Option A is incorrect	In this option, Jessie mentions breakfast, which is not a topic relevant to the paragraph, so this would not be an appropriate closing.
	Option B is incorrect	This paragraph is not about the plans that the brothers have for later in the day, so this sentence is off topic.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Jessie may be wearing a cap for his hike, this is not an effective closing for the conversation with his father.

Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	This sentence is correctly written and does not need to be revised.
	Option A is incorrect	In this revision, the writer suggests that the Rio Grande River and the Hot Springs Canyon Trail are the same thing, which is not correct.
	Option B is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the writer awkwardly refers to the trail and the hike as two separate things toward which the boys are headed.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer says that David, rather than the hike, is offering the boys majestic views of the mountains, the Rio Grande, and the Hot Springs Canyon Trail.

Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option B is correct	By replacing "was sitting" with "sitting," the writer corrects the lack of parallel structure in sentence 21.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the phrase set off by dashes is now parallel in structure, the phrase "Jessie managed to capture" is misplaced, resulting in an awkward sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer does not correct the lack of parallel structure with this option. The writer also places the dashed phrase incorrectly in the sentence, so it no longer describes the subjects of Jessie's pictures.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is wordy and awkward, and the writer creates a new issue with parallelism in the phrase that starts with "what Jessie managed to capture."

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option C is correct	The writer's use of the phrase "At that point" provides an effective transition that shows the sequence of events in the story.
	Option A is incorrect	"By the same token" is not an effective transition to use in this sentence because it implies that Jessie handing Juan his bottle and Jessie realizing that he did not know as much about hiking as he had thought are similar events.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase "In this case" cannot be correct because it suggests that Jessie's realization about needing help was very specific to a certain event.
	Option D is incorrect	"In the long run" is not an appropriate transition because Jesse realizes he has a problem at this moment in the story, not at some later time after more experiences.

Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option A is correct	The writer effectively eliminates unnecessary words and phrases from sentence 30, making this option a clearer and more concise sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase "within an hour" is incorrectly placed in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision of the sentence is awkwardly inverted and misleading.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is ineffective because it incorrectly treats "more water" and "a park ranger" as objects of the preposition "within."

Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option B is correct	The phrase "a confession to make" indicates that Jessie is offering an admission about being wrong, making this phrase the most effective and accurate replacement for "a truth to share."
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase "a confirmation to express" suggests that Jessie is giving evidence or support for some previous belief, which is not correct in this context.
	Option C is incorrect	By using the phrase "an argument to dispel," the writer indicates that Jessie is now trying to dismiss some previous disagreement, rather than settling it by admitting his mistake.
	Option D is incorrect	The phrase "a burden to announce" implies that Jessie is still weighed down by some concern, and the details of the story do not support that.

Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	Combining the sentences in this way creates a concise and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	This revision improperly claims that Amir scatters the sketches when he looks up.
	Option B is incorrect	In this revision, the writer incorrectly indicates that the pencil sketches, rather than Amir, are looking up from the kitchen table.
	Option D is incorrect	With this revision, the phrase "Scattered across the smooth surface of the table" incorrectly modifies "Amir." But it is the sketches, not Amir, that are scattered.

Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option D is correct	With this transition sentence, the writer best connects the ideas in the sixth and seventh paragraphs because the phrase "Three days later" shows a progression in time between the events in the two paragraphs. This sentence also signals the new setting for the events of the seventh paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer offers information about Amir's relationship with his grandfather, which is not an idea that sets the scene for the seventh paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	This replacement does not adequately indicate the shift in time and setting that has taken place since the conversation recounted in the sixth paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer's use of "today" does not effectively inform the reader of when the new action is taking place. It also does not make clear that the drive is already underway in the seventh paragraph.

Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option A is correct	This sentence can best follow and support sentence 14 because the writer provides an explanation of why Amir can't find his phone.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer provides information about what Amir usually has in his other pockets, but this does not support sentence 14 or provide any insight into Amir's difficulty finding his phone.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the information in this sentence could be relevant to Amir finding the address, it does not directly support sentence 14 or make clear what Amir concludes about his phone.
	Option D is incorrect	The information that the writer gives about the navigation app on Amir's phone is irrelevant and does not support sentence 14.

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

Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option C is correct	This information about something Amir's grandfather could remember does not affect or explain the events in this paragraph, so sentence 26 should be deleted.
	Option A is incorrect	Because sentence 24 is Grandpa's response to the attendant in the gas station, this sentence must remain in the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 25, Grandpa tells the attendant why he came into the station. This sentence should not be deleted.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 27, the writer concludes the paragraph by describing what Grandpa did next, which was to ask the attendant a question. This sentence is necessary because in the following sentence, the attendant answers this question.

Item Position	Rationale	
42	Option D is correct	The word "arrangement" is a more effective word to use in this sentence because it better describes the plan that Grandpa and Hakeem had worked out for Amir.
	Option A is incorrect	An "adaptation" is an adjustment or modification, which would not effectively describe the actions of Grandpa and Hakeem.
	Option B is incorrect	The word "methodology" is a more formal word, which describes an analysis of principles or procedures. It does not fit with the tone of this story, and it does not convey Grandpa's intended meaning.
	Option C is incorrect	An "endeavor" is a serious effort. Although Grandpa and Hakeem may be suggesting something that will require effort on Amir's part, that is not what Grandpa is revealing in this sentence.

Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option D is correct	This option corrects the comma splice in sentence 5.
	Option A is incorrect	This response is incorrect because the phrase following the period is not a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This option is not correct because it creates a run-on sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This response is incorrect because the phrase following the period is an incomplete sentence.

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option A is correct	The pronoun refers to the singular noun "piece," so "its" should be used for agreement instead of the plural pronoun "their."
	Option B is incorrect	"Seperates" is not the correct way to spell "separates."
	Option C is incorrect	"Oceans" is part of a proper noun in this sentence, so it should remain capitalized.
	Option D is incorrect	A comma after "miles" is not appropriate because this is a compound predicate, not a compound sentence.

Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option C is correct	This option is correct because a colon after "challenges" correctly introduces the list that follows.
	Option A is incorrect	The pronoun "It" refers to the process, so the singular pronoun is correct in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	"Developers" is spelled correctly in sentence 10.
	Option D is incorrect	The word "mosquitoes" does not require capitalization. It is not being used as a proper noun.

Item Position	Rationale	
46	Option B is correct	By changing "rigirous" to "rigorous," the spelling error in this sentence is corrected.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "after" to "there was" creates a run-on sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma is necessary after a subordinate clause. Changing the comma after "program" to a colon would create an error in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The writer is describing an event that happened in the past, so the past tense of the verb is correct here. Changing to the present-tense verb would be incorrect.

Item Position	Rationale	
47	Option C is correct	"History" is a singular noun, so changing from the plural possessive "historys'" to the singular possessive "history's" corrects the error in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	A comma after "as" is unnecessary, so this change would create a punctuation error in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The text included in quotation marks is only a fragment of a sentence, and therefore the first word "one" should not be capitalized.
	Option D is incorrect	This change should not be made because "incredible" is spelled correctly in sentence 28.

Item Position	Rationale	
48	Option D is correct	No change is needed in sentence 5 because the sentence is complete and contains no grammatical or mechanical errors.
	Option A is incorrect	By changing "and received" to "I received," the writer would create a run-on sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	"Confermation" is not the correct spelling of the word "confirmation."
	Option C is incorrect	This edit is incorrect because the future tense "will arrive" is inappropriate in this context.

Item Position	Rationale	
49	Option A is correct	A comma is needed after "process" to clearly express that Jonah's confidence is due to the promises and testimonials.
	Option B is incorrect	"Due" and "do" are homophones, which means they are words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spellings. The word "due" means "because of," which is the point the writer is making in this sentence, so it is the correct spelling of the word intended.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "testimonials" is plural in this sentence, not possessive, so it should not have an apostrophe added to it.
	Option D is incorrect	This change would create a grammatical error in that the verbs "would arrive" and "will be" would not be consistent.

Item Position	Rationale	
50	Option C is correct	The word "neither" is the subject of the sentence and is singular, so for the subject and verb to agree in number, the writer must use the verb "was," not "were."
	Option A is incorrect	"Neither" is the correct spelling of the word, so this change would introduce an error.
	Option B is incorrect	The prepositional phrase "in these assumptions" would not make sense in this context.
	Option D is incorrect	The adjective "correct" modifies the noun "assumptions," so using the adverbial form of the word would create an error in the sentence.

Item Position	Rationale	
51	Option C is correct	By changing "are" to "were," the writer makes the verbs "were" and "had" parallel in tense. This consistent use of past tense is appropriate for describing the condition of the fruit at an earlier time.
	Option A is incorrect	A comma is necessary after the subordinate clause "when we spoke," so this comma cannot be deleted.
	Option B is incorrect	The pronoun refers to the writer's sister, so the singular "she" should be used for agreement.
	Option D is incorrect	A comma after "bruised" would be unnecessary in this sentence since "or" is not being used to join two independent clauses.

Item Position	Rationale	
52	Option B is correct	It is the peaches that were too unappetizing to be eaten, so the plural "them" is the correct pronoun.
	Option A is incorrect	By changing "rendered" to "rendering," the writer would create a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	"Too" and "to" have different meanings. In this sentence, the word being used is an adverb that applies to the adjective "unappetizing." The correct spelling of this word is "too."
	Option D is incorrect	Sentence 10 contains a pronoun error, so a change is needed.