

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	The word <i>refutes</i> means “argues with,” which is supported by the explanation of the findings of a study by Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. The study found that there were “‘no significant differences’ between the three groups” studied (paragraph 5). These findings disprove the expected counterargument by the opponents of audiobooks.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s use of the word <i>refutes</i> indicates a relationship between the counterargument by those who are skeptical of audiobooks and the results of the study by Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Although the phrase “gives rise to” can be used to indicate a relationship, the study mentioned in the selection disproves the counterargument of the opponents of audiobooks; it does not give rise to the counterargument.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase “overlaps with” does not describe the relationship between the counterargument of the opponents of audiobooks and the results of the study by Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. The study’s results do not overlap with but rather rebut the counterargument against listening to audiobooks.
	Option C is incorrect	The phrase “makes clear” might plausibly apply since the study by Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania provides information to help address the expected counterargument of those who are skeptical of the benefits of audiobooks. However, the word <i>refutes</i> in this context means that the study disproves the counterargument against audiobooks.

Item Position	Rationale	
2	Option A is correct	The quotation from paragraph 3 best supports the inference that people “look[ed] forward to the experience of listening to audiobooks.” The participants increased the number of times they exercised, which implies that they wanted to listen to more of the audiobook.
	Option B is incorrect	The participants in the study were listening to audiobooks while exercising and were not allowed to listen to audiobooks when they were not exercising. Therefore, they did not need to figure out how to fit in listening to audiobooks.
	Option C is incorrect	The quotation in paragraph 3 implies that the participants increased the number of times they went to the gym because they wanted to listen to more of the audiobook. Even though the participants seemed to show interest in listening to an audiobook while working out, there is no evidence in the selection that the participants retained more information from the book.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author uses the quotation in paragraph 3 to show that the participants enjoyed listening to audiobooks, there is no comparison with other forms of entertainment.

Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option C is correct	Throughout the selection, the author makes many points to support the belief that “audiobooks provide people with many opportunities for learning and entertainment.” In paragraph 3, the author explains that a study showed that people found audiobooks so entertaining that they increased the number of their workouts in order to listen. In paragraph 4, the author shows how listening to audiobooks can help improve people’s listening skills, and in paragraph 6, the author provides evidence that listening to audiobooks can lead to a “greater enjoyment of the material.”
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author states that “millions of people don headphones . . . so they can listen to audiobooks.” Although this does show that audiobooks have become popular, the rest of the selection focuses on persuading people “in today’s busy, mobile world” to give audiobooks a try by explaining that audiobooks provide opportunities for learning and entertainment, making this answer incomplete.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author mentions “motivation” in paragraph 3 and then states in paragraph 4 that “listening to audiobooks can certainly help develop [active listener] skills,” these are only details in the selection; they are not part of the claim.
	Option D is incorrect	The author describes various tasks that can be completed while listening to audiobooks. However, this is one idea among several developed in the selection, and it lacks the completeness necessary in a claim.

Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option B is correct	In paragraphs 6 and 7 of the selection, the author describes “several interesting findings about reading or listening and the brain,” including how listening to an audiobook can increase a listener’s empathy (paragraph 6) and can lead people to listen to books they may not have been willing to read (paragraph 7). The author uses these details to support the key idea that audiobooks “may convey advantages that reading does not.”
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the author states that Cody Kommers “would never have picked up [a 500-page] book in print because there are many other books he would choose to read first.” Although this example could be used to support the idea that people may be more likely to listen to a large book, rather than read it, there is no indication in the selection that it takes less time to listen to audiobooks.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author explains that a neuroscientist’s study concluded that “ ‘both formats engage multiple brain networks.’ ” Although this could be misunderstood to mean that audiobooks and printed books affect the brain in the same way, the author goes on to explain that the research suggested that audiobooks “may provide a benefit for the listener that reading does not necessarily provide.”
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author describes a neuroscientist’s findings that audiobooks “may provide a benefit for the listener that reading does not.” Although the study showed that audiobooks could increase the listener’s empathy, there is no evidence that audiobooks improve comprehension more than reading and listening combined.

Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	Throughout the selection, the author presents reasons why audiobooks have specific advantages or benefits compared to printed books. The author explains that audiobooks can keep drivers engaged to avoid passive fatigue (paragraph 2) and can increase the number of listeners' exercise workouts when used as temptation bundling (paragraph 3). The examples the author provides throughout the selection suggest that the audience the author is addressing values convenience.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the author describes an example from Cody Krommers, who decided to listen to a 500-page book about debt that he would not have read otherwise. However, there are no actual references to book titles to provide any book recommendations, so this is an unlikely audience.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraphs 4 and 6, the author refers to different research studies that compared listening to audiobooks with reading printed books. However, the author references these studies to emphasize how audiobooks have certain benefits that are not offered by printed books. Thus, the audience is unlikely to be people conducting brain studies.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author explains that long before printed books, "people shared stories and histories through oral language." The author is focusing on people's listening skills here, not their writing skills. Hence, the author does not suggest the audience would be people who are interested in becoming writers.

Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option C is correct	In paragraph 2, the author describes how listening to audiobooks can decrease passive fatigue in drivers. In paragraph 3, the author describes how listening to audiobooks was shown to increase the time people spent exercising when used with temptation bundling. In both paragraphs, the author uses a cause-and-effect organizational structure to emphasize the benefits of audiobooks.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author describes how audiobooks can increase people's ability to empathize. However, this idea is not discussed in paragraphs 2 or 3.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author does describe how audiobooks can improve people's active listening skills, this idea is introduced in paragraph 4 rather than paragraphs 2 and 3.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author asks, "Why are so many people choosing to listen rather than read?" However, in paragraphs 2 and 3, the author uses the cause-and-effect organizational structure to present different ways that audiobooks can be beneficial, not to question why audiobooks are gaining popularity.

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7	Option D is correct	In paragraph 1, the author uses the phrase “don headphones or pair their mobile devices to their cars’ speakers” because it creates an image of common actions in today’s society. The author uses this image to emphasize how audiobooks are easily adapted into people’s daily lives.
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase “don headphones or pair their mobile devices” emphasizes common actions for people today rather than actions that require more effort than reading.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author does use the phrase in paragraph 1 to show how people use headphones or mobile devices to listen to audiobooks, there is no indication that people listen to audiobooks only when going out.
	Option C is incorrect	The author uses the phrase “don headphones or pair their mobile devices” to show actions people frequently take, not to imply that audiobooks are replacing traditional books.

Item Position	Rationale	
8	Option A is correct	In paragraph 5, the author introduces the counterargument by stating that the “opponents of listening to audiobooks argue that people who listen to audiobooks comprehend less than people who read the same text.” The author then rebuts this statement by describing a research study that found “ ‘no significant differences’ between the three groups” studied: audiobook listeners, e-book readers, and those who both read and listened at the same time.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author describes in paragraph 7 how listening to audiobooks can expose people to new information, these details are not provided to dispute the counterargument. The author provides additional evidence to support the claim that audiobooks provide opportunities for learning and entertainment, but it is not a rebuttal.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author presents information in paragraph 6 that shows how both reading and listening “ ‘engage multiple brain networks,’ ” this paragraph does not contain a counterargument. Instead, the paragraph provides additional support for the claim.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author describes a study that shows how listening to audiobooks can increase the number of times people exercise. However, this is not a rebuttal against skeptics who doubt the value of audiobooks.



Item Position	Rationale	
9	Option D is correct	The author uses the sweeping generalization in paragraph 8 to reinforce the author's claim. The quotation is a culminating sentence that emphasizes the different benefits of listening to audiobooks expressed in the previous sentences, including exposing people to new information and enabling people to multitask. The quotation expresses that "audiobooks are able to do this" and more to "convince the reader that audiobooks are an appealing option."
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author makes comparisons between audiobooks and printed books throughout the selection, the focus of paragraph 8 is on how audiobooks can be an appealing option. Moreover, the quotation from paragraph 8 provides no comparison between audiobooks and printed books.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 8, the author reiterates the claim that audiobooks can be beneficial for learning and entertainment. Although it may be assumed that it is always smart to choose books carefully, the author makes no indication that people should be careful when selecting an audiobook.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the quotation could suggest that there are many different types of audiobooks, there is no supporting evidence in the selection that the author wanted to remind the reader of this.

Item Position	Rationale	
10	Option D is correct	In the excerpt, the author uses the changing seasons to connect the setting to the theme about the significance of change. In paragraph 1, the narrator notes that “[he] would start work on [his] thesis in the New Year.” As the story progresses, the narrator “work[s] like a madman” to complete his thesis (paragraph 9). In paragraph 10, the narrator describes how “the plum trees bloomed” and “the cold wind veered towards the south.” These details emphasize the connection between the changes in the setting and the theme of change.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 9 of the excerpt, the narrator describes how one of his friends used a rickshaw to get to the university in time to submit the thesis. Although this event shows how important the completion of the thesis is for the narrator, it does not connect the setting to the theme.
	Option B is incorrect	In the excerpt, the author uses this detail to demonstrate the importance of the narrator’s relationship with Sensei by contrasting the setting of Sensei’s home with the narrator’s time in the library. However, these details do not connect the setting to a theme about the significance of change.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the excerpt, the narrator explains that Sensei had “steadfastly refused to give [him] any further guidance” because Sensei is less “‘acquainted with up-to-date scholarship.’” Although this detail highlights the relationship between the narrator and Sensei, it does not provide a connection between the setting and the theme.

Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	Based on the context of paragraphs 2 through 4 of the excerpt, the word <i>avid</i> means “interested.” In paragraph 2, Sensei explains that he has “ ‘not been reading very much lately.’ ” This detail, along with the narrator’s memory that Sensei has “lost his old interest in books” (paragraph 3) helps explain the meaning of the word.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the excerpt, the narrator visits Sensei for help with the narrator’s thesis. Although the narrator asks Sensei “whether he [thinks] such a topic [is] suitable,” this detail does not provide context for the meaning of <i>avid</i> , which is related to Sensei’s attitude toward books, not toward the thesis topic.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the excerpt, Sensei explains that he is “ ‘not acquainted with up-to-date scholarship’ ” and suggests that the narrator talk to the university professors. Although the words <i>not acquainted</i> help explain Sensei’s attitude toward the thesis topic, they do not help explain the meaning of the word <i>avid</i> , which is contextually connected to Sensei’s relationship with books.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 3 of the excerpt, the narrator “remember[s] the remark [Sensei’s] wife once made” about Sensei’s changing attitude toward reading and becomes concerned. In paragraph 3, the narrator says, “Forgetting my thesis for the moment” to emphasize the narrator’s concern. However, the word “forgetting” relates not to Sensei’s attitude toward books but to the narrator’s relationship with Sensei.

Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option C is correct	In paragraphs 3 through 7 of the excerpt, the narrator describes his interaction with Sensei to show how Sensei's attitude toward books and knowledge has changed. Sensei says in paragraph 5 that " 'perhaps it is because I have decided that no matter how many books I may read, I shall never be a very much better man than I am now.' " In paragraph 7, Sensei continues, saying, " 'But now, I find that I am not ashamed of knowing less than others.' " Each of these quotations contributes to the theme of being authentic.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 1 of the excerpt, the narrator explains that he discovers his "folly as soon as [he] began to work seriously. [He] was in despair. [He] began to narrow down [his] thesis topic." Although the narrator is describing the challenge of completing the thesis, this event does not contribute to the theme of being authentic.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the excerpt, Sensei acknowledges that he is " 'not acquainted with up-to-date scholarship.' " Although it is clear from the excerpt that Sensei is an honorable man who was once knowledgeable about the narrator's thesis topic, this detail about Sensei does not add to the theme of being authentic; it is simply one of Sensei's characteristics.
	Option D is incorrect	In the excerpt, the narrator is afraid of not completing his thesis on time. In paragraph 9, the narrator says, "I rushed to friends who had graduated the year before for advice on all matters." Although this event highlights the narrator's stress over completing his thesis, it does not significantly contribute to the theme of being authentic.

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

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14	Option C is correct	In paragraph 3 of the story, the author uses an oxymoron when describing the conflicted relationship between Mia and Amit. The phrase “friend/adversary” indicates that they respect each other but also want to prove that they are better than the other. This dual relationship is most clear in this exchange from paragraph 9: “ ‘I’m so glad that you have finally recognized my remarkable abilities and are coming to me for advice,’ Amit said with an annoying grin. Mia couldn’t help but crack a smile.”
	Option A is incorrect	The words “friend/adversary” are opposites. However, this does not reflect the characters’ personalities. In fact, in the story, Mia and Amit have similar personalities because they both are competitive.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author includes the detail that “there was something about the boy that made Mia want to befriend him—and also compete against him.” Although this detail does indicate that the characters have a complicated relationship, both Mia and Amit seem clear about the duality of their relationship as friends and adversaries.
	Option D is incorrect	In the story, Mia wants to win against Amit and needs to finish the last remaining skill. In paragraphs 7 through 9, it is ironic that the person she asks for help in learning this last skill is Amit. This could suggest there is something contradictory between their words and actions. However, this is not conveyed in the quotation from paragraph 3.

Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option B is correct	At the end of the story, Mia and Amit both still want to win the competition. Based on paragraphs 10 through 12, Mia will not give up. In paragraph 12, she narrows her eyes and says, " 'Oh, it is on.' " This suggests that she will continue trying to learn to ride the unicycle on her own.
	Option A is incorrect	In the story, Mia has won other competitions against Amit, and although it is possible that Mia will reflect on how she has won in the past, this is not indicated in paragraphs 10 through 12, which focus on winning the current competition. In paragraph 10, Mia says " 'Persistence is my middle name,' " indicating that she will keep trying to ride the unicycle so that she can win the competition.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 8, Mia goes to see Amit because she thinks that he is the only person who can help her learn to ride the unicycle. However, he does not offer to teach her, since he also wants to win the competition. Based on their conversation in paragraphs 9 through 12, taking lessons from Amit is not a possibility for Mia.
	Option D is incorrect	In the story, Mia first met Amit by suggesting a competition to walk on their hands across the playground. Since that first competition, they have had many others, so it is possible that Mia might suggest another competition. However, there is no indication that she suggests only competitions she can win. She lost the first competition, described in paragraph 4, "but periodically she proposed a rematch, and eventually she did win."

Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option C is correct	In the story, Mia and Amit frequently compete against each other. Although there is no indication that their friends also compete, the author uses the quotation from paragraph 6 to support the idea that their friends have helped determine what the competition between Mia and Amit will consist of. As explained in paragraph 6, "The List had been devised by their friends" and "Mia and Amit had no input."
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 5 of the story, the author explains that "their competitions had become legend among their other friends," suggesting that Mia and Amit share friends. However, this quotation from paragraph 5 is being used to show the friendship between Mia and Amit; it does not provide support for the idea that their friends participated in the competitions.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses this quotation from paragraph 5 of the story to suggest that Mia and Amit are both successful outside of their competitions as well. However, this quotation does not support the conclusion that their friends have been involved in their competitions.
	Option D is incorrect	The author uses this quotation from paragraph 6 of the story to emphasize Mia's desire to win. The author does not use this quotation to offer evidence that Mia and Amit's friends have participated in their competitions.



Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option C is correct	In paragraphs 8 through 12 of the story, Mia goes to see Amit because she needs help learning to ride the unicycle. However, in paragraph 9, Amit says, “ ‘as much as I’d love to help you out, there’s no real trick to riding the unicycle—you just have to be persistent.’ ” This response leads Mia to respond that persistence is her middle name. Because the text does not show Mia asking for help or trying to convince Amit to change his mind, it is clear that Mia is hesitant to admit that she needs Amit’s help.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7 of the story, the reader learns that “Amit had taken to the unicycle like a fish takes to water” and that Mia is aware of this fact, “much to [her] chagrin.” Therefore, Mia is not concerned that Amit is less skillful than she is at riding the unicycle.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Mia is the one who goes to see Amit and who ends the conversation in paragraph 12 by saying, “ ‘Oh, it is on,’ ” there is no evidence in the story to suggest that Mia is more determined than Amit. In fact, Amit is the one who has already learned to ride the unicycle and refuses to help Mia learn the last skill she needs to win, suggesting that he is equally determined to win.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraphs 8 of the story, Mia realizes that she needs Amit’s help to complete her last skill: riding the unicycle. After Amit tells her in paragraph 9 that “ ‘there’s no real trick to riding the unicycle,’ ” Mia never actually asks for help. Although this might suggest that she will not learn to ride the unicycle, in paragraph 10, Mia states that “ ‘persistence is [her] middle name.’ ” This response indicates that she will learn to ride the unicycle without Amit’s help.

Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option B is correct	In paragraph 1 of the excerpt, the narrator describes how the task of completing his thesis is affecting him. He explains that he “counted the number of days that were left to [him], and [he] began to lose confidence.” Similarly, in paragraphs 1 through 3 of the story, the author describes how Mia feels about the competition she is trying to win. The author explains, “Now there was only one thing left: Learn to ride a unicycle. Mia gave an involuntary shudder” (paragraph 2). Both selections use these initial descriptions to show the protagonist’s state of mind.
	Option D is correct	In paragraph 1 of the excerpt, the narrator realizes the “folly” in his approach to completing his thesis. This introduces the narrator’s problem. Similarly, in paragraphs 1 through 3 of the story, the author reveals Mia’s problem. In paragraph 2, Mia shudders as she thinks about the last skill she must learn: riding a unicycle. In both selections, the problem is revealed in the initial paragraphs.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 1 of the excerpt, the narrator shares details of his past by explaining that he was due to graduate in June that year. He also provides details about how he was the only person who had not worked on his thesis. However, in the story, paragraphs 1 through 3 do not reveal any details about Mia’s past. This information is shared in paragraph 4, when the reader learns how Mia and Amit first meet.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1 of the excerpt, the narrator provides a few details about the setting, noting that he has waited until the new year to begin working on his thesis. However, there is not enough information about the setting to show how it affects him. In paragraphs 1 through 3 of the story, the author notes that the name of The List is “The List of Unique Skills to Learn This Summer,” suggesting that the setting is in the summer. However, in both the excerpt and the story, there are not enough details about the setting to show how it affects the protagonists.
	Option E is incorrect	In paragraph 1 of the excerpt, the narrator expresses despair, but by the end of the excerpt, he completes the thesis on time. In paragraphs 1 through 3 of the story, Mia seems determined to learn to ride the unicycle but uncertain of how to do it. In the end, the reader is left to predict whether she wins the competition. There is no evidence of foreshadowing in either selection.

Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option A is correct	In the quotation from paragraph 7 of the story, the author expresses Mia's unexpected failure to learn how to ride the unicycle. In the quotation, the author reveals that Mia thought that "it didn't look all that hard." This quotation from paragraph 1 of the excerpt is similar to the quotation from paragraph 7 of the story because it is used to show that the narrator did not expect the work to be so difficult.
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator in the excerpt, like the protagonist in the story, is in need of help. However, this quotation from paragraph 2 of the excerpt is being used to emphasize the narrator's immediate reaction to his despair: he rushes "back to Sensei to ask" for help. The quotation from paragraph 7 of the story does not show the protagonist asking for help.
	Option C is incorrect	This quotation from paragraph 9 of the excerpt reflects the narrator's determination to complete his thesis and is being used to show that he has moved past his despair. The quotation from paragraph 7 of the story reflects Mia's unexpected failure, not her resolution to work hard every day until the task is achieved.
	Option D is incorrect	Both the narrator in the excerpt and Mia in the story are focused on achieving their tasks. However, this quotation from paragraph 10 of the excerpt is being used to reflect the narrator's shift from mental paralysis to completely driven. The author uses the quotation from paragraph 7 of the story to show Mia's frustration at failing to learn the unicycle; it does not reflect a shift from disappointment to commitment.

Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option A is correct	In paragraph 2 of the excerpt, Sensei explains why the narrator should ask his professors and not rely on Sensei's knowledge of the thesis topic, saying, " 'I have not been reading very much lately. . . . You should ask the professors at the university.' " Sensei realizes that there are others who may know more than he does. This is different from Amit's character in the story. In paragraph 9 of the story, Amit says, " 'I'm so glad that you have finally recognized my remarkable abilities and are coming to me for advice.' " Unlike Sensei, Amit does not concede that the abilities of others may exceed his own.
	Option B is incorrect	In the excerpt, Sensei shows that he cares for the narrator by sharing his books and acknowledging that he is not the most reliable source for information on the thesis topic. In the story, Amit also shows that he cares for Mia. Although they are adversaries who like to compete, they are also friends.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the excerpt, the narrator explains that he "was in a state of panic, and . . . rushed back to Sensei to ask what books [he] should read." Through their interaction, it can be inferred that Sensei recognizes the narrator's distress and tries to help. In paragraph 9 of the story, Amit also recognizes Mia's distress when he tells her that "[he'd] love to help [her] out, [but] there's no real trick to riding the unicycle—{she will] just have to be persistent." In both selections, Sensei and Amit recognize distress in their friends and provide the words of wisdom to help them.
	Option D is incorrect	In the excerpt, Sensei shows that he does not value his reputation above other priorities by telling the narrator to speak to professors at the university, who are more up-to-date on the topic. In fact, Sensei explains in paragraph 7 that he is "not ashamed of knowing less than others." In the story, there is no indication that Amit cares more about his reputation than other priorities, so this is not a difference between these characters.

Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option D is correct	In the excerpt, the narrator uses this sentence from paragraph 9 to show his intense commitment to completing his thesis. Earlier in the excerpt, the narrator describes his “mental paralysis” (paragraph 1) but eventually begins the work. In the story, the author includes the sentences from paragraph 6 to reflect the protagonist’s feelings about learning to ride the unicycle. Although this is the last skill she must learn to win the competition, she is reluctant to begin trying again.
	Option A is incorrect	The quotation from the excerpt is being used to show the narrator’s intense desire to finish his thesis. However, the narrator’s intensity is not eager anticipation. In the story, the author does reveal the protagonist’s feeling of dread as she has repeatedly failed to learn how to ride the unicycle.
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator’s absorption in the task is reflected in the author’s language in paragraph 9, which clearly indicates that the narrator is consumed by the task of completing his thesis. However, in the story, Mia’s avoidance of learning to ride the unicycle is not inattention. As the author explains in paragraph 7, this “very skill was the one on The List that Mia wanted to learn first.”
	Option C is incorrect	Although the quotation from paragraph 9 of the excerpt reflects the narrator’s commitment to completing a task, it does not show his confidence, as demonstrated by the phrase “hung over me like a curse.” The quotation from paragraph 6 of the story, however, does reflect the protagonist’s feelings of insecurity. The author’s use of the word “ <i>Shudder</i> ” indicates that Mia feels insecure about her ability to learn the unicycle.

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22	Option D is correct	In the article, the meaning of the word <i>emblazoned</i> matches best with Definition 4: “to inscribe a marking on a surface.” In paragraph 3, the sentences provide context that “George Washington’s image” had been marked onto the copper medal. This detail about the image helps the reader understand that the image had been inscribed, or carved, into the medal.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the definition of <i>emblazoned</i> is similar to Definition 4, the image of George Washington, which according to paragraph 3 of the article had been added to the copper medal, was not a logo.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication in the context of paragraph 3 of the article that the image of George Washington that was inscribed on the copper medal was dazzling with color.
	Option C is incorrect	Although it could be inferred that the image of George Washington is noteworthy, the process described in paragraph 3 of the article explains how the image was inscribed, or carved, into the medal.

Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option D is correct	A thesis statement is a statement that summarizes the main point or author's position. This answer provides the best thesis for the article. In paragraphs 2 and 4 of the article, the author supports the idea that time capsules are important records of history, and in paragraphs 5 through 10, the author supports the idea that the unexpected discovery of the time capsule provides an additional appeal.
	Option A is incorrect	Burying a time capsule allows for historical records to be preserved untouched for numerous decades. Additionally, there is no evidence in the article to support the idea that the author disapproved of this practice.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author does describe in paragraph 8 of the article how the historical coins were mistakenly damaged ("the preservationists from the 1850s had washed the coins in an acid solution"), this is a minor detail. There is no evidence in the article that the author believes that historians often make errors in their interpretation of events.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2 and 3 of the article, the author discusses the important roles of Samuel Adams and Paul Revere during the American Revolution. This background information supports the historical meaning of the time capsule discovered; it does not support the idea that the American Revolution would not have happened without Adams and Revere.

Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option C is correct	In paragraph 9 of the article, the author describes how the time capsule discovered in 2014 was kept on display for the public before being placed in a new box to be sealed again behind the cornerstone for an unknown length of time. This quotation supports the idea that the contents of the capsule interested the public.
	Option A is incorrect	In the quotation from paragraph 5 of the article, the author shows that people understood the historical importance of the contents found in the time capsule. However, this detail does not support the idea that the time capsule held public interest.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses this quotation from paragraph 6 of the article to show that the preservationists were interested in the contents of the time capsule, but the quotation does not support the idea that the public held the same interest in the contents of the capsule.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author's question in this quotation from paragraph 10 of the article suggests that the reader may be interested in the contents of the time capsule, this question does not support the idea that the public is interested.



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25	Option B is correct	In the article, the information about the time capsule is presented chronologically, beginning with the time capsule first being buried in July 1795. The purpose of presenting the information chronologically is to reflect the story-like element of how the time capsule was discovered and added to each time the capsule was rediscovered.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 4 of the article, the author describes how the time capsule was buried on July 4, 1795, which was “the day that the Massachusetts State House was dedicated” and “the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.” Details such as these would appeal to people nostalgic for the past; however, these details do not explain the purpose of presenting the information chronologically.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraphs 2 through 4 of the article, the author presents information about the American Revolution and the heroes of that period. This information could be contrasted with the later details presented in paragraphs 5 and 6 about the discovery of the capsule. However, the contrast of the two time periods would not explain the author’s reason for presenting the information chronologically.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 6 of the article, the author mentions that in addition to the original items, “some additional coins and newspapers from the 1850s” were placed in the time capsule. In paragraph 9, the author then mentions that “a silver plate commemorating the occasion and a mint set of 2015 U.S. coins” were then also added to the time capsule. However, these are minor details and do not explain the author’s purpose for presenting the information chronologically.

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
26	Option C is correct	In paragraph 4 of the article, the author includes the information in the quotation to demonstrate how time capsules commemorate a special time and place. In paragraph 4, the author explains why the date July 4, 1795, was significant and how the burial of the time capsule commemorated these important events.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraphs 1 through 4 of the article, the author presents information about the Revolutionary War. Although the information in the quotation from paragraph 4 does inform the reader of historical facts, the author includes the information to explain the connection between the time capsule and the significance of the date July 4, 1795.
	Option B is incorrect	In the article, the author includes information about the events surrounding the American Revolution and the important role Adams and Revere played in these historical events. However, in the quotation from paragraph 4, the author includes the information about the date July 4, 1795, to show how the time capsule was buried to commemorate that date, not to promote the ideas of Adams and Revere.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Massachusetts was an important place during the American Revolution, it is unlikely that the author includes the information in the quotation from paragraph 4 of the article to give background about the setting, because the setting is not the focus of the quotation.

Item Position	Rationale	
27	Option B is correct	In paragraph 1 of the article, the author explains that the “oldest discovered time capsule in the United States was assembled by none other than Samuel Adams and Paul Revere and placed under the cornerstone of the Massachusetts State House in 1795.” From this detail, the reader can infer that Adams and Revere were aware of the significance of the contents placed in the time capsule.
	Option D is correct	In paragraph 2 of the article, the author states that Adams “fought against British taxation in the colonies and organized the Sons of Liberty with John Hancock and Paul Revere in 1764.” The reader can infer from these details that Adams and Revere were important to the success of the American Revolution.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 3 of the article, the author states that “perhaps Adams and Revere chose this coin to illustrate that New Englanders were rebellious in nature from the very beginning!” Although there is no direct evidence in paragraphs 1 through 4 to indicate whether Adams and Revere were law-abiding citizens, it is reasonable to infer from their fight against taxation and their use of outlawed minted coins that they were not considered law-abiding.
	Option C is incorrect	Adams and Revere were important leaders during the American Revolution. However, there are no details in paragraphs 1 through 4 of the article to indicate whether the two men were wealthy businessmen. In paragraph 3, the author states that “Revere was a silversmith by trade,” but the reader cannot assume that he or Adams was wealthy.
	Option E is incorrect	The contents placed in the time capsule were historical artifacts. However, the author does not include any details in paragraphs 1 through 4 of the article that suggest that Adam or Revere was interested in collecting historical artifacts themselves. In paragraph 1, the author does state that they had helped assemble the time capsule in 1795, but this does not prove that they collected artifacts.

Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option A is correct	A summary should include important key ideas from the article. In paragraph 6, the author explains that “preservationists made a list of what was found in the time capsule.” In paragraph 8, after the capsule was found again, “preservationists carefully opened the box.” This information describes the important role preservationists had when the time capsule was discovered each time. Such information belongs in a summary.
	Option B is incorrect	The author mentions in paragraph 3 of the article that the “coins within the time capsule were from the 1600s and 1700s.” Although this is useful information to appreciate the contents of the time capsule, it is not a key idea to include in a summary.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1 of the article, the author explains that the time capsule was “assembled by none other than Samuel Adamas and Paul Revere.” Although this is an interesting fact to include in the introductory paragraph, it is not a key idea of the article.
	Option D is incorrect	The author mentions in paragraph 6 of the article that the preservationists “paid for the construction of a more secure brass box,” which they used to keep the artifacts safe when the time capsule was placed behind the cornerstone the second time. Keeping the artifacts safe was important for the preservation of the contents. However, this information is a detail, not a key idea, so it should not be included in a summary.

Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option A is correct	In paragraph 10, the author ends the article with the sentence to emphasize that nobody knows when the time capsule will be discovered next. The author uses this sentence to suggest that the element of surprise is an appealing aspect of the time capsule.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 8 of the article, the author includes details about the coins being damaged by mistake. Although the author could be using the sentence "Only time will tell!" to suggest the uncertainty of preservation methods, in context, the use of the sentence suggests an appeal for the surprise of time capsules, not the concern for preservation.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the sentence "Only time will tell!" could indicate that the time capsule may be lost or forgotten, the idea that the time capsule could be forgotten does not align with the overall purpose of the article.
	Option D is incorrect	In the article, the author includes details about how previous discoveries of the time capsule were valued by preservationists as well as the public who were able to observe the artifacts on display. Although the author does describe people's interest in the past, the use of the sentence "Only time will tell!" does not suggest that people in the future will find the artifacts valuable.

Item Position	Rationale
30	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as meeting the requirements for a 10-point (maximum score) response based on the rubric criteria. For additional information, refer to the English I scoring guide available on the <a href="#">STAAR Reading Language Arts Resources</a> webpage.</p> <p>In the article “Buried History”, the high-quality treatment of the time capsule by the people of the U.S. demonstrates that people truly value this historic, engaging, and noble tradition. Throughout the article, the author emphasizes how important the time capsule is to the people by explaining what occurs each time a new generation discovers the mysterious box and its contents from many years ago. When the time capsule was first assembled by Samuel Adams and Paul Revere in 1795, they did not just pick a random and meaningless date and time to bury it. In the article, it says “The time capsule items were originally sealed below the cornerstone on July 4, 1795. This was a significant date for two reasons: it was the day that the Massachusetts State House was dedicated, and it was the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.” This quote from the text shows that the two American leaders carefully thought out the burial date of the timeless artifacts because they wanted their plan to be significant to the U.S. Adams and Revere valued the time capsule so much, they decided to let its burial date share the same one as the adoption of the Declaration of Independence! Fast-forward 60 years, when the time capsule was discovered in 1855. The author states “They paid for the construction of a more secure brass box, and all the original items were placed inside this box, along with some additional coins and newspapers from the 1850s.” This quote conveys the idea that the people in 1855 were dedicated to maintaining and preserving the historic tradition of the time capsule. They treated the time capsule with care as they decided to construct a new and sturdier box for the sacred items to stay in, and they also decided to add a few personal items from their timeline to keep the tradition going! Consequently, as the reader learns how people over time treated the time capsule with care and continue to participate in the historic tradition, it is obvious that many people value the time capsule and its significance. Adams and Revere purposely buried the time capsule on July 4, 1795 due to its very important and significant date. However, their meaningful actions were just the start of many. When the box was discovered 60 years later in 1855, the people were so determined to preserve the items, they decided to pay for and build a whole new box that would keep the sacred artifacts safer for years to come! People’s actions towards the historic time capsule throughout the years emphasize its importance and value to the citizens of the U.S.</p>

Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option C is correct	In sentence 6, the writer claims that the seagrass “stretches for many miles.” Since the adjective “extensive” means “to cover or affect a large area,” this is the most effective and descriptive word to use in sentence 7.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “thorough” means “complete with regard to every detail,” so using this word would not make sense in the context of this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Using the word “overwhelming” would suggest a feeling of intensity that the fields of seagrass cause. However, in this sentence, the writer is not referring to how these fields make anyone feel. Instead, she is describing their vast size.
	Option D is incorrect	“Cumbersome” is an adjective that describes something that is bulky or difficult to carry. It would not make sense in this sentence to suggest that the fields of seagrass are “difficult to carry.”

Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option C is correct	In sentence 12, the writer states that these organisms “grow very, very slowly.” In the new sentence, the writer supports this point by giving a specific length of time that it can take for the organisms to “reach a significant size.” Therefore, the new sentence most logically follows sentence 12.
	Option A is incorrect	In sentence 10, the writer suggests that readers compare a field of this seagrass with a coral reef. It would not make sense to add a sentence that emphasizes growth time immediately after sentence 10.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer gives information in sentence 11 about how these organisms reproduce. A statement about the length of time it takes the organisms to grow would be out of place here.
	Option D is incorrect	With sentence 13, the writer closes the paragraph by noting what scientists have concluded about the age of this seagrass. This closing sentence should not be followed by a specific detail about the slow growth of the organism.



Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option B is correct	In this revision, the writer replaces the opening phrases of the sentence with a more concise approach: "A second way that <i>P. oceanica</i> and coral reefs are alike is that . . ." This corrects the awkward and wordy construction of sentence 14.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the phrase "which are benefited too" at the end of the sentence unnecessarily repeats an idea.
	Option C is incorrect	In this revision, the writer's use of the conjunction "while" suggests that this likeness between <i>P. oceanica</i> and coral reefs exists only at certain times, which is not true.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because sentence 14 is awkward and needs to be revised.

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option D is correct	In this revision, the writer uses the phrase “Like the rain forest” to combine the ideas in sentences 21 and 22 in a concise and effective manner.
	Option A is incorrect	Here the writer is using verb forms (“sucking up” and “producing”) as the subjects of an awkward sentence, which is not an effective way to combine these ideas.
	Option B is incorrect	With this sentence, the writer is suggesting that the seagrass only sucks up carbon dioxide that is sucking up oxygen. This revision does not accurately represent the ideas in sentences 21 and 22.
	Option C is incorrect	By using the conjunction “Although” at the beginning of the sentence, the writer implies a contrast between the seagrass and the rain forest, which is not the writer’s intent.

Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option D is correct	By replacing the word “Comparatively” with “As a result,” the writer correctly signals that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between the ideas in sentences 30 and 31.
	Option A is incorrect	Using the word “Otherwise” is not an appropriate way to begin this sentence because it incorrectly suggests that the information in sentence 31 is in opposition to the information in sentence 30.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase “In any event” would suggest that the information given in sentence 31 may or may not be related to fact stated in sentence 30. That is not the writer’s intent, so this cannot be the best replacement for “Comparatively.”
	Option C is incorrect	The use of the word “Furthermore” would indicate that the writer is providing additional information about the difficulty of replacing the plant. That is not the point of sentence 31.

Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option B is correct	Throughout the paper, the writer details both the value of the plant and the efforts being made to raise awareness regarding its benefits. With this sentence, she effectively summarizes these points and looks ahead to the future.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer appears to shift the aim of the paper from providing information to evoking a feeling of compassion despite personal preferences. The insertion of these ideas is confusing, so it would not be an effective conclusion for the paper.
	Option C is incorrect	Since the writer has already made the points that are expressed in this statement, it would not provide an effective concluding sentence for this paper.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer repeats an idea that has already been made clear in the final paragraph. Therefore, this would be an ineffective concluding sentence for the paper.

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Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option A is correct	By moving the phrase “and at the University of Toronto” to follow “the New School in New York City,” the writer clarifies that the research took place at both institutions.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer incorrectly places the phrase “which was learned at the New School in New York City and the University of Toronto” at the end of the sentence. This creates an awkward and ineffective sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	With this placement of the phrase “and also at the University of Toronto,” the writer seems to claim that the researchers found that people who read fictional stories have higher empathy levels while they are at the university. That is not the writer’s intent.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because sentence 5 includes a misplaced phrase that causes confusion. The sentence needs to be revised.

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

Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option B is correct	In sentence 14, the writer states that those who read fiction “are able to think more critically about the world.” This added sentence provides the best support because in it, the writer begins her explanation of how reading fiction stimulates and improves critical thinking.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding this sentence would not support sentence 14 because the claim that it may take time to find an appealing story is not related to thinking more critically about the world.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting this sentence informs the reader about different types of fiction, but this information is not relevant to thinking more critically about the world.
	Option D is incorrect	Here the writer shifts the focus from thinking critically about the world to thinking critically about ourselves. Therefore, this sentence does not provide support for sentence 14.

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Item Position	Rationale	
40	Option D is correct	This sentence is correctly written and does not need to be revised.
	Option A is incorrect	By repeating the phrase "conscious effort," the writer creates unnecessary redundancy in the new sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	In this revision, the writer creates awkwardness by inserting the phrase "which is." This produces a clunky and confusing sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Here the writer misplaces the phrase "with little or no conscious effort." This distorts the meaning of sentence 17.



Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	Up to this point in the paper, the writer is outlining the benefits of reading fiction. In the fifth paragraph, her focus shifts, and she begins responding to a possible counterargument, or a set of reasons put forward to oppose an idea or a theory. With this replacement sentence, she effectively signals the transition to examining and answering an opposing claim.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer does not single out the specific opposing viewpoint that is addressed in the fifth paragraph. The sentence would not improve the transition to this paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	With this sentence, the writer provides information that is not directly relevant to either paragraph 4 or paragraph 5, so this is not an effective transition.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence would not be an effective transition into the fifth paragraph, where the writer responds to a particular objection to her argument that reading fiction is valuable.

Item Position	Rationale	
42	Option C is correct	In the paragraph that precedes sentence 28, the writer notes that some people view reading fiction as a “frivolous pastime.” In sentence 28, she rejects this belief by insisting that reading fiction is not “mere fun.” The word “entertainment” is a more effective and descriptive word than “fun” in this context because it conveys a more precise meaning as well as the sense that something is not highly serious.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “joyfulness” is used to indicate a state of extreme happiness or bliss. This word would not make sense in the context of sentence 28.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “absurdity” means something ridiculous or wildly unreasonable. It would not be an effective replacement for “fun” in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Using the word “celebration” would indicate a jubilant event or occasion, which would not make sense in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option D is correct	The term "Great Depression" is a proper noun, which is a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event. Proper nouns must be capitalized, so this change corrects the error in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "run" to "ran" would not be grammatically correct.
	Option B is incorrect	This comma is necessary to set off the phrase "run entirely by volunteers," so it cannot be removed.
	Option C is incorrect	"Emerged" is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option C is correct	The phrase “devoting their time and efforts to nursing wounded soldiers, fighting fires, and planting victory gardens to grow food” is a participial phrase, which is a verbal phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun. A comma is required after “services” to set off this phrase.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no reason for “citizens” to be capitalized here since it is not being used as a proper noun, or a specific person, place, idea, or event.
	Option B is incorrect	“Offer” is the present-tense form of the verb being used in this sentence. This would be incorrect because the writer is describing actions that took place in the past.
	Option D is incorrect	“Soldeirs” is not the correct way to spell “soldiers.”

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Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option B is correct	The plural verb "continue" is needed to agree in number with the plural noun "volunteers." This change corrects the error in sentence 5.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, "nation" does not need to be capitalized because it is not being used as a proper noun, or a specific person, place, idea, or event.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer is using the pronoun "their" to refer to the noun "volunteers" used earlier in the sentence. The pronoun "your" would not preserve this meaning.
	Option D is incorrect	"Variety" is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
46	Option A is correct	"Great" is the correct form of the adjective being used in this sentence because no comparison (as implied by "greater") is being made.
	Option B is incorrect	"Experience" is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence, so this change would not be appropriate.
	Option C is incorrect	In changing "adopting" to "he or she adopted," the writer would create a run-sentence, an error in which two main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option D is incorrect	"From" is the correct preposition to use in this sentence. A change to "with" would indicate that the person and the animal shelter are both adopting the pet.

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Item Position	Rationale	
47	Option D is correct	By changing the preposition “among” to “within,” the writer clarifies that the sense of community grows inside the organization, through the friendship of its members.
	Option A is incorrect	“Process” is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	A change from the plural verb “form” to the singular “forms” would not match the plural subject “they” in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Replacing the words “and build” with “they build” would make this a run-on sentence, an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.

Item Position	Rationale	
48	Option A is correct	The correct spelling of this word is “appliances.”
	Option B is incorrect	“Appliances” is not the correct spelling of the word the writer is using.
	Option C is incorrect	In this suggestion, the writer has again misspelled the word “appliances.”
	Option D is incorrect	“Apliances” is an incorrect spelling of the word “appliances.”



Item Position	Rationale	
49	Option B is correct	With this change, the writer corrects the error by using the past-perfect tense of the verb ("hadn't been used"), which also agrees with the verb "had loved." This verb tense indicates that the actions were completed prior to the time described in the story.
	Option A is incorrect	A colon in this sentence could indicate that the writer is presenting a list after the word "items." However, the writer is offering one specific example instead, so the comma is correct.
	Option C is incorrect	This change would create a run-on sentence, an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly. A run-on sentence is unacceptable and cannot be a correct answer.
	Option D is incorrect	The verb "were" is used with plural nouns, and the verb "was" is used with singular nouns. A change from "were" to "was" would not match the plural pronoun "they" that precedes the verb in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
50	Option C is correct	By replacing the pronoun “she” with the conjunction “and,” the writer corrects the run-on sentence, an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer has replaced “looked” with the verb form “looking,” which creates a sentence fragment, or an incomplete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase “Instead of looking discouraged” is a fragment. It needs to be joined to the rest of the sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Here the second punctuated phrase is a fragment because it has no subject, so this cannot be the correct way to write sentence 7.

Item Position	Rationale	
51	Option D is correct	Quotation marks are needed at the end of this sentence to show that the quoted lines of dialogue that began in sentence 7 are now complete.
	Option A is incorrect	"If" is the correct conjunction to use in this sentence because the speaker is stating a conditional relationship between the joint advertising and the sales. Using the conjunction "Because" would indicate that the two families are already advertising together, and this has not yet been decided.
	Option B is incorrect	"Might get" is the correct verb phrase to use in this sentence. The phrase "might got" is not grammatically correct.
	Option C is incorrect	"Custommers" is not the correct spelling of the word "customers."

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Item Position	Rationale	
52	Option A is correct	Sentence 12 is a sentence fragment, or an incomplete sentence. Here the writer correctly joins it to sentence 11 to form a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer has offered two independent clauses (clauses that can stand alone as complete sentences) separated only by a comma. This creates an unacceptable run-on sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The first punctuated phrase is not a complete sentence. It is a fragment because it contains only a subject ("A multi-family sale"), but the required verb is missing.
	Option D is incorrect	Here the second punctuated phrase is a fragment because it has no subject. Therefore, it cannot stand alone as a complete statement.