

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 4 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	In the last paragraph, Robin decides to fly south for the winter. This needs to be included in a summary of the story because this is an important idea that provides the resolution.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Squirrel and Robin do gather food for the winter in paragraphs 2 and 3, it is a minor detail.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 13, Robin does hum a morning song. However, this is a minor detail and not an important idea.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 16, Squirrel suggests that Robin eat nuts and seeds to stay sleepy during the day, telling her, " 'Eating a lot always makes me tired.' " This is a minor detail and not an important idea.

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

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Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option B is correct	The term <i>point of view</i> refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. The author's use of third-person point of view helps the reader understand how Robin and Squirrel each feel about spending time together. Squirrel encourages Robin to sleep during the winter days, helps Robin move her belongings into Squirrel's hollow, and brainstorms ideas for how Robin can make it through the winter days comfortably. In paragraph 19, Robin expresses that she does not want to leave Squirrel for the winter, and in paragraph 20, Squirrel suggests that Robin come back up north in the spring so that they "can have all summer together."
	Option A is incorrect	The author explains that Robin lives in a nest near Squirrel's hollow at the start of the story, but this information does not inform the reader about Squirrel.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does explain in paragraph 2 that Squirrel works to prepare her hollow for the winter months by adding foliage to her nest and gathering nuts and seeds, but this detail does not inform the reader about Robin.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author does help the reader understand that Robin and Squirrel are friends, the author's use of third-person point of view does not explain why the two characters became friends.

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4	Option D is correct	In paragraph 9, Squirrel invites Robin to spend the winter in her hollow, where it stays darker during the days. In paragraph 10, Squirrel helps Robin move into the hollow. These details help the reader understand that Squirrel cares about Robin.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 9, Squirrel tells Robin that her hollow is nice and dark, which helps her sleep. However, there is no mention of whether Squirrel prefers nights more than mornings.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Squirrel does express that she likes her hollow in the winter because it stays dark, there is no evidence in paragraphs 9 and 10 to suggest that Squirrel is afraid to leave her home.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author indicates that Squirrel enjoys “sleeping in her cozy hollow all winter and relaxing after the busy bustle of autumn.” However, her happiness is not because of the cold weather; she enjoys winter because she can sleep and relax during hibernation.

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5	Option B is correct	Based on the events at the end of the story, Robin will most likely change where she lives based on the seasons. In paragraph 20, Squirrel suggests that Robin fly south during the winter months and return in the spring. In paragraph 21, Robin thinks being able to enjoy warm weather all year round is " 'a wonderful idea,' " and she decides to " 'leave at once.' "
	Option A is incorrect	At Squirrel's suggestion, Robin leaves to look for a warmer place to live during the winter, but there is no indication that Robin will try to make friends with other animals.
	Option C is incorrect	Robin's attempt at staying in the hollow was unsuccessful because she had a hard time staying asleep. Therefore, she will not try to build another nest there. Instead, she will take Squirrel's advice to fly south for the winter.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Robin would like to sleep all winter like Squirrel does, she struggles to stay asleep, and none of Squirrel's suggestions help. Therefore, the reader can understand that Robin will not sleep through winter.

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6	Option C is correct	Robin is shown flying with her back to Squirrel. Therefore, the illustration is included to show that Robin is leaving her friend during the cold winter months, which supports the resolution of the story.
	Option A is incorrect	In the illustration, Robin is shown flying away from Squirrel, not trying to sleep in the hollow.
	Option B is incorrect	The illustration does include an image of Squirrel's tree, but it does not show Robin building a nest. Instead, Robin is shown flying away from Squirrel.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Robin expresses her dislike for the cold winter weather throughout the story, there is no evidence of why she dislikes winter in the illustration. Instead, Robin is shown flying away from Squirrel.

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7	Option D is correct	An important characteristic of a fable is talking animals with humanlike characteristics. Squirrel and Robin talking to each other is a detail of the story that helps the reader know it is a fable.
	Option A is incorrect	The detail about Squirrel and Robin living outside indicates the story’s setting rather than that the story is a fable.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 18, Robin’s wings are mentioned, but all birds have wings. This is not a characteristic of a fable but rather a physical characteristic of Robin’s.
	Option C is incorrect	The detail about Squirrel sleeping in a corner of the hollow shows the natural behavior of a squirrel and is not an indication that the story is a fable.

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Item Position	Rationale	
8	Option A is correct	The term <i>point of view</i> refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. The poet uses a first-person point of view to tell the story in the poem from the son's perspective as the speaker. The speaker's use of "I" and "me" as well as the possessive pronoun "my" when referring to the dad reveal the first-person point of view.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does use a first-person point of view to tell the story in the poem, but the speaker is the son, not the dad, which is evidenced by the speaker's use of the phrase "my dad" to describe his rock star father.
	Option C is incorrect	Although there are two main characters in the poem, the poet does not use a third-person point of view. The speaker uses "him" and "he" throughout the poem to refer to his dad.
	Option D is incorrect	The poet does refer to an outside observer in lines 9 and 10, but this person is not the speaker, and the poet does not use a third-person point of view.

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9	Option D is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the word like or as. Hound dogs are known for their slobbery mouths, so the speaker's use of this simile in line 23 to describe his dad drooling during a nap communicates the idea that the dad is sloppy or messy when he's relaxing at home.
	Option A is incorrect	Although hound dogs can be loud, the comparison in line 23 is in regard to the speaker's dad drooling, which is messy but not noisy.
	Option B is incorrect	Although hound dogs may be scary to some, the simile in line 23 explains the messiness of the dad's drooling. The speaker is joking and not scared of his sleeping dad.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker does use the simile "like a hound dog" to describe how his dad looks while he's napping, but there is no evidence to suggest that the speaker's dad is bored.

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10	Option C is correct	For most of the poem, the speaker’s attitude toward his dad is that of annoyance. However, in line 33, the speaker’s attitude shifts, and the speaker expresses fondness for his dad. The speaker says, “I miss the old man” when his dad is away from home playing music for people in other places; the speaker even misses the things that usually annoy him, such as his dad’s “dorky dad jokes” and constant singing around the house (lines 35–36).
	Option A is incorrect	In line 28, the speaker complains that his dad sings “almost everywhere we are,” including the kitchen and the car. The speaker’s attitude toward his dad does not shift until the next stanza of the poem (lines 33–37), when the speaker states that he misses his dad when his dad is away on tour.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 30, the speaker complains that his dad “is a singing fool.” This does not indicate that the speaker’s attitude toward his dad has shifted; that positive shift occurs in the following stanza, beginning with line 33.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the speaker’s attitude toward his dad has shifted in the final two stanzas (lines 33–41) to express fondness, line 38 does not specifically express that change in attitude.

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11	Option A is correct	The poet presents the poem "Rock Star Dad" using a description structure to describe the dad in different settings: at music shows and at home with his family. This allows the speaker to explain his observations of his dad on tour, where fans are excited to see his dad, and then at home, where the speaker views his dad as "such a boring guy" (line 12).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the poet's use of a description structure allows him to show the dad's behaviors in different settings, there is no indication that the dad has changed during his life.
	Option C is incorrect	In lines 3 and 4, the speaker says, "Don't ask him if he'll play for you/'Cause he'll go on forever," which suggests that the dad enjoys playing music. However, the description structure is not used to reveal how the dad feels about his fame.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the dad is a "rock star," the poet's use of a description structure does not describe the kind of music the dad enjoys performing.

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12	Option C is correct	The poet expresses a theme, a universal idea about life, in the poem about the importance of recognizing the good in people. The speaker, the 13-year-old son of a musician, shares that his dad has many fans, but that he, his son, is not impressed and finds his dad to be a “goofball” (line 17). However, toward the end of the poem, the speaker admits that he misses his dad “when he’s out on tour” (line 34) and recounts his dad’s positive qualities.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the speaker in the poem does know his dad’s qualities well, there is no evidence that the poet develops a theme that knowing someone well takes time.
	Option B is incorrect	The poem includes details about how two family members interact with each other, but there is no evidence to support a theme about the importance of turning to family in times of need.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the speaker in the poem does show a change in attitude toward his dad in the final two stanzas of the poem (lines 33–41), there is no evidence that the attitude shift is meant to support a theme about people often needing a second chance.

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13	Option B is correct	The poet describes the dad as a “rock star dad” in line 41 most likely to show that the speaker admires his dad as a parent. After the speaker misses his dad when his dad is away from home in lines 33 through 37, the speaker acknowledges that his dad is “not so bad” (line 39). The speaker goes on to declare that his dad is more than just a rock star—to the son, his dad is a good father.
	Option A is incorrect	Throughout the poem, the speaker describes some qualities of his dad that the reader might think are strange or silly. However, the use of the phrase “rock star dad” in the final line shows that the speaker admires his dad as a parent; the phrase is not used to emphasize the details the son thinks are strange about his dad.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker shares details about his dad’s music and habit of singing everywhere, but there is no evidence in the poem that the speaker wants his dad to teach him about music.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the speaker does make comments in the poem about wishing his dad would sing less, the speaker does not talk about qualities he wishes were true about his dad.

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14	Option C is correct	In line 10, the speaker uses the phrase worked up to describe how excited a fan becomes at one of his dad’s concerts. The speaker sees the fan become so excited that the fan looks like he might cry.
	Option A is incorrect	In line 10, the speaker uses the phrase worked up to describe an excited fan at a music show, not someone who is tired from the show or from cheering. There is no evidence that the fan feels tired in the second stanza (lines 9–16) of the poem.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 10, the speaker uses the phrase worked up to describe a fan at a music show as excited, not as angry. The evidence in the second stanza (lines 9–16) supports the idea that the fan is excited to see the dad’s show.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the fan described at the show in line 10 could be curious to meet the speaker’s dad, the meaning of the phrase <u>worked up</u> is “excited,” not “curious.”

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15	Option A is correct	In paragraph 3, the author states that the mortar and pestle have “been around for thousands of years” and that they “blend flavors in ways modern technology can’t.” The comparison allows the reader to understand that modern means “having to do with the present time.”
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author describes how using traditional cooking tools helps people feel more connected to their ancestors. There is no mention of art.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 3, there is an emphasis on having “respect for tradition.” That sentiment would be the opposite of “building on new information.”
	Option D is incorrect	The author uses the word modern in paragraph 3 to explain that simple tools can blend flavors in ways that today’s tools cannot. In this usage, modern means “having to do with the present time,” not “thinking in different ways.”

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16	Option A is correct	This sentence supports the idea that cooking is a skill that families share with one another. In the sentence, the author notes that Olvera has “fond memories working with his grandmother” to make “handmade tortillas.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although this sentence mentions “making bread,” it is not about doing so with family members.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, food author Samin Nosrat describes how it feels to make bread dough with her hands. The sentence does not support the idea that cooking is a skill families share with one another.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, food author Samin Nosrat explains how making bread dough is “ ‘what makes us human.’ ” The sentence does not show that cooking is a skill families share with one another.

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17	Option D is correct	In the article, the author includes the details about the cooking tools most likely to show how simple cooking tools have been shared for many years. Beginning in paragraph 2, the author discusses the tradition of passing down cooking techniques. Then in paragraphs 3 and 4, the author includes details about chefs who use a simple cooking tool called a mortar and pestle to blend spices and ingredients.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author states that “simple tools like a mortar and pestle blend flavors in ways modern technology can’t.” Therefore, the reader can infer that the author believes that the old ways of cooking are better than using new cooking tools.
	Option B is incorrect	The author mentions chefs who believe that simple tools, such as the mortar and pestle, do a better job of blending flavors and can show the care a chef has taken while preparing a dish (paragraph 3). However, the author does not assert that these tools—or any tools—are necessary for making food.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author mentions bread making in paragraph 2 and salsa in paragraph 4, the details about cooking tools are included in order to indicate that these tools have been part of cooking for many years.

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18	Option C is correct	Based on the selection, the reader can conclude that Sedjro Ahouansou and Valerie Vinakpon are interested in more than just how their food tastes. Both professional chefs prepare traditional Beninese foods in new ways to “get people excited about” them (paragraph 4). Ahouansou mentions that he wants his food to be of high quality, and Vinakpon mentions getting her food from local farmers.
	Option A is incorrect	Both Ahouansou and Vinakpon cook food from the West African country Benin, but there is no evidence in the selection that the two chefs live near each other in the same country.
	Option B is incorrect	Although both Ahouansou and Vinakpon cook Beninese foods, the author mentions only Ahouansou making a dessert called piron. There is no evidence in the selection that Vinakpon prepares desserts.
	Option D is incorrect	Both Ahouansou and Vinakpon prepare food from the West African country Benin, but there is no evidence in the selection that the two chefs hear praise about their dishes from different parts of the world.

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19	Option C is correct	The central idea of the selection is that new versions of traditional dishes should be valued. The author supports this idea by describing how chefs Sedjro Ahouansou and Valerie Vinakpon prepare dishes from the West African country Benin but transform these traditional dishes in new and imaginative ways.
	Option A is incorrect	The author of the selection does include details about traditional foods from the West African country Benin. However, the author does not expand on the idea that trying traditional foods from different countries is important. Instead, the author develops the central idea that new versions of traditional dishes should be valued.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Vinakpon uses foods from community farmers and hopes that her cooking encourages people to get excited about traditional dishes, these details are not the central idea of the selection. They are supporting details.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author does discuss two chefs who prepare traditional foods, the author does not develop the idea that traditions can be used to teach people how to cook successfully.

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20	Option B is correct	In the selection, one of the author’s purposes for presenting the information in paragraphs 1 and 2 using a cause-and-effect structure is most likely to explain how change can benefit people. In paragraph 1, the author suggests that changes to how people cook can “make cooking more convenient,” which is a great benefit for people who have limited time to prepare food. The author also mentions in paragraph 2 that the internet can provide new recipes as well as video instructions, which help people think of new ideas for preparing old dishes.
	Option D is correct	In the selection, one of the author’s purposes for presenting the information in paragraphs 1 and 2 using a cause-and-effect structure is most likely to show that change can cause people to think differently. The author mentions in paragraph 1 that changes in cooking techniques “reflect how connected different people and cultures are in the world today.” The author states in paragraph 2 that people can use internet research to come up with new ideas for preparing old dishes, which shows how changes can lead people to think differently.
	Option A is incorrect	Although in paragraph 2 of the selection the author mentions that the internet provides easy and convenient ideas for cooking, the author does not hope to make people think about where they buy their food in the opening paragraphs.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the selection, the author does mention ways to make cooking more convenient. However, the author does not go into detail to describe the easiest way to change traditional dishes in the opening paragraphs.
	Option E is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the selection, the author does discuss the fact that people “have access to recipes and how-to videos on the internet” to help with cooking, but the author does not tell the reader how to use recipes from the internet.

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21	Option C is correct	In the selection, the author expresses the message that people respect old dishes even when they change them. The author mentions in paragraph 2 that “people learn to cook from parents or grandparents,” which supports the message about respect for traditional cooking. In paragraphs 3 through 5, the author goes on to describe two chefs who prepare foods from the same West African country in new and creative ways, with the hope that “the new recipes will get people excited about traditional dishes.”
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the selection, the author does discuss recipes that “are passed down in a family or culture over time.” However, the author does not focus on children being taught to prepare traditional foods.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author of the selection focuses on two professional chefs who make traditional foods in new and interesting ways, there is no evidence to suggest that the chefs, or others, cannot make the dishes correctly.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Valerie Vinakpon, the second chef discussed in the selection, does discuss the importance of local and community involvement in her restaurants, there is no evidence to suggest that the author believes that old dishes should be made by the community.

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22	Option A is correct	Chef Olvera in the article and chefs Ahouansou and Vinakpon in the selection are similar because they feel eager for others to know about the foods they grew up eating. In the article, Olvera shares memories of cooking with his grandmother and uses similar tools and techniques to prepare Mexican dishes for others (paragraph 2). In the selection, both chefs take classic Beninese dishes and present them in new ways to “get people excited about traditional dishes” (paragraph 4).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the chefs in both the article and the selection believe in cooking traditional dishes, there is no mention in either the article or the selection that they believe that chefs need more training in food history.
	Option C is incorrect	Both the article and the selection include discussions of restaurants and family recipes, but there is no indication that the chefs in either the article or the selection worry about how restaurants treat special family recipes.
	Option D is incorrect	Chef Olvera and chefs Ahouansou and Vinakpon all express the desire to please their customers, but there is no evidence in the article or the selection to suggest that the chefs have similar understandings and experiences related to the demands placed on modern chefs to make customers happy.

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23	Option C is correct	The belief that some people feel upset when traditional recipes are changed is mentioned in the selection "Tradition with a Twist" but not in the article "Cultural Cooking Connections." In paragraph 5 of the selection, Vinakpon recalls times when people asked her, " "Why would you present our dish differently? Why would you touch what's traditional, what's historic?" ' ' " However, in the article, there is no mention of people feeling upset when traditional recipes are changed.
	Option A is incorrect	In the article "Cultural Cooking Connections," chef Olvera recalls time spent with his grandmother preparing traditional food in her bakeshop. However, there is no mention in either the article or the selection that people believe that traditional recipes should come only from family members.
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the selection "Tradition with a Twist" shares how two restaurant chefs serve traditional recipes that have been changed in new and exciting ways. However, the idea that traditional recipes should be used in expensive restaurants is not mentioned in either the article or the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 5 of the selection "Tradition with a Twist," the author shares how some people react to a chef who uses her imagination to update traditional dishes, but there is no evidence in either the article or the selection that people believe that certain traditional recipes make food taste different.

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24	Option D is correct	An idea about cooking that is developed in both the article and the selection is that people have their own opinions about how foods should be prepared. The author of the article "Cultural Cooking Connections" states, "Making a meal the way it was made in the past is a meaningful experience to many" (paragraph 1). The author goes on to share that some people believe that recipes should be made just as their ancestors made them. In contrast, the author of the selection "Tradition with a Twist" shares information about two chefs who take traditional recipes and use their imagination to present them in new ways.
	Option A is incorrect	Both authors discuss traditional foods that are passed down over time, but the author of the selection "Tradition with a Twist" focuses more on ways that traditional recipes can be changed to create new and creative dishes, not on foods retaining familiar flavors.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the authors of both the article and the selection do include the views of chefs who work in restaurants, the authors do not suggest that chefs must be experts in preparing traditional dishes.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of the article "Cultural Cooking Connections" does describe more than one example of foods prepared by hand versus using machines such as blenders, and it is logical that cooking without modern machines can take longer. However, the author of the selection "Tradition with a Twist" does not discuss whether the chefs make recipes by hand.

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25	<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 grade 4 scoring guide available on the STAAR Reading Language Arts Resources webpage.</p> <p>Destroy cultural and ancient recipies? No way! But they're not destroying the recipies, they're just adding and creating new ones for generations to come. In my opinion, changes should be allowed to be made to old recipies.</p> <p>My first reason is that it can create new dishes that can be used for many years. Then, people could use those dishes to create new ones, and the cycle goes on with better and better recipies. I know this because in the text it says "She sees the positive change that her restaurant is making " this shows me that her dishes are becoming a succes. Even though there are haters out there that do not like changing old recipies, people still do it. I mean, haters gonna hate right? There's nothing we can do about it, exept ignore them and keep going.</p> <p>My second reason is that it stretches your imagination far and pushes you to your limits. I know this because the text says "they let their imaginations unfold. " That means to me that they like to change recipies to see what ingredients work for other foods. That will create more people liking the change. That will also create more succes in restaurants. Imagine this, all the restaurants with the same old dish, never changing or adding to the menu. Nobody would want to go there, right? so, the change is good.</p> <p>To conclude, changes should be made to old recipies for various reasons.</p>

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26	Option B is correct	In the first paragraph, the writer sets the stage for his paper by sharing why he is training to run in the 5K race. The information in sentence 3 about the writer’s neighborhood is not relevant, so it should be removed.
	Option A is incorrect	In sentence 2, the writer provides an important detail regarding his motivation for the actions he takes in the paper. He wants to earn a position on the neighborhood soccer team. This sentence should not be removed.
	Option C is incorrect	Sentence 4 should not be removed because in it, the writer gives important context for the paper—that his brother has challenged him to run a 5K race.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 5, the writer clarifies how demanding a 5K race is. This detail should not be removed.

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27	Option D is correct	The new sentence should be placed after sentence 12 because Andy has just finished the training run. At this point, it makes sense for his brother to cheer for him and say, "Well done!"
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the new sentence after sentence 9 is not correct because it would not be logical for Alex to congratulate Andy on a job well done before he has finished the training run.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 10, the writer gives information about what he and his brother are doing. Their training run is not over, so it does not make sense for Alex to congratulate his brother at this point.
	Option C is incorrect	In sentence 11, the writer provides additional information about what he is working on this day. It would not be logical for Alex to congratulate his brother after this sentence since Andy has not yet finished the run.

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28	Option B is correct	This revision of sentence 24 is correct because the writer eliminates the repetition of the phrase “all the runners,” which creates a more concise and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way results in an awkward sentence because it misplaces the phrase “to start.”
	Option C is incorrect	In this revision, the writer misplaces the phrase “for the signal” and creates an awkward, misleading sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	In this revision, the writer adds the word “and” after “waiting.” This addition is unnecessary and confusing.

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29	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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30	Option B is correct	This revision of sentence 3 is the most effective because in it, the writer correctly places the phrase "for 21 days" after "stays underwater" and before "at a time."
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence the writer misplaces the phrase "at a time" after "It can," which results in an awkward and confusing sentence. The phrase "at a time" should follow and give meaning to the phrase "for 21 days."
	Option C is incorrect	In this revision, the writer adds the words "and remain," thus repeating the idea conveyed by the word "stay." This makes the sentence redundant.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because, in sentence 3, the phrase "for 21 days," is misplaced and needs to be revised.

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31	Option D is correct	In this revision of the sentence, the writer corrects the awkwardness by using verbs that correspond in grammatical construction ("can jump . . . and run" rather than "can jump . . . and running"). This creates a clear and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer places the phrase "straight up in the air" before the verb "jump." This creates an awkward and misleading sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	By placing the phrase "and run" after "jump," the writer indicates that the bird can run straight up in the air, which is incorrect.
	Option C is incorrect	For the writer to state that the bird "is 30 miles an hour at running" is awkward and confusing.

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32	Option C is correct	In sentences 30 and 31, the writer describes some dangers this beetle faces. Using the word “protect” in sentence 29 would be consistent with the scientists’ hypothesis that staying near the surface of the water can provide an escape from these dangers.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “patrol” means to watch over an area. This word would not make sense because the beetle does not watch over itself by walking on the underside of the water.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “watch” would not be appropriate in this sentence because the writer is not discussing the beetle looking at itself.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “deliver” means to “hand over” or “provide.” The beetle is not handing over or providing itself to predators in this paragraph—it’s doing the opposite. This word is not a good choice to replace “cover” in sentence 29.

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33	Option B is correct	With this sentence, the writer brings the paper to a logical conclusion by contrasting the small size of the animal with the great significance of its interesting and complex behavior.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer provides a general statement about learning that does not relate specifically to this paper. This is not an effective way to conclude the paper.
	Option C is incorrect	This sentence is vague and does not logically follow sentence 34 since it does not tell the reader what the “important fact” is.
	Option D is incorrect	Here the writer introduces a call to action that is inconsistent with the paper’s tone, or the way the author expresses her attitude through the writing. For this reason, it is not an appropriate concluding sentence for this paper.

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34	Option C is correct	By changing “began” to “began,” the writer uses the correct past-tense form of this irregular verb.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “can’t” is the contraction for “cannot,” so the apostrophe cannot be removed.
	Option B is incorrect	The pronoun “you” is the correct pronoun to use in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	“Excitedly” is spelled correctly in sentence 4.

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Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option D is correct	Quotation marks need to be added at the end of sentence 6 to show that the lines of dialogue that began in sentence 5 are now complete.
	Option A is incorrect	"Erned" is not the correct way to spell the word "earned."
	Option B is incorrect	Using the preposition "over" would distort the meaning of this sentence. The writer is referring to team membership, so "over" would make no sense in this context.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no reason for "softball" to be capitalized in this sentence. It is not being used as a proper noun, a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event.

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Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option D is correct	The writer is how she said the words in this sentence, so the adverb “gently” is required.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “gentler” is a form of the adjective “gentle.” An adjective is not the correct part of speech to tell how the writer said the words that follow.
	Option B is incorrect	“Gentlier” is not a real word, so it cannot be used in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	“Most gentle” (or “gentlest”) is a form of the adjective “gentle.” Thus, it is still an adjective and cannot be used to tell more about the verb “said” in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option A is correct	The word “Were” is a verb and is not the correct word to use at the beginning of this sentence. The contraction “We’re,” which stands for “We are,” is the correct word to use.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, “moving” is spelled correctly and does not need to be changed.
	Option C is incorrect	A proper noun is a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event. Since “California” is the name of a state, it is a proper noun, which means it must be capitalized.
	Option D is incorrect	Sentence 10 is the completion of the lines of dialogue that were opened in sentence 9. Therefore, the closing quotation marks are necessary at the end of sentence 10.

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Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option C is correct	"Hard" is the correct form of the adjective for this sentence because no comparison is being made in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	The correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence is "It's" because the writer is using the contraction for "It is."
	Option B is incorrect	Inserting the word "it" after "being outside" is unnecessary and creates a sentence with two subjects.
	Option D is incorrect	The writer is referring to more than one "time" when being outside can be hard, so the plural "times" is correct in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option A is correct	The writer corrects the run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly. The writer deletes the comma and uses the conjunction “and” to replace the pronoun “they” to correct the run-on sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This option is not correct because the second punctuated phrase has no subject. It is a fragment, or an incomplete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The phrase “Staying outdoors for too long” is not a complete sentence, so this option is not correct.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer has offered two independent clauses (complete statements) with no punctuation between them, which creates an unacceptable run-on sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
40	Option C is correct	The use of “chance” corrects the misspelling (“chanse”) in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Point of view refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. This selection is written from a third-person point of view, so “They” is necessary in this sentence. The use of “You” would mark a shift to second-person point of view.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer is referring to more than one condition, so “conditions” is the correct plural form of the noun to use in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	“New” is the correct form of the adjective being used in this sentence. Substituting a different form (“newest”) would not make sense.

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Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	"World" is not being used as a proper noun, or a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event. Therefore, it does not need to be capitalized in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing the verb "is" to "was" would make sentence 7 about the past. The writer intends this to be a statement about how the world "is" in the present.
	Option C is incorrect	"Interesting" is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Removing the conjunction "and" would make this a run-on sentence, an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.