

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	The reader can predict that Marta and Tracy will complete their project successfully because Marta says they have “figured everything out” (line 44), meaning they have discovered a way to use each other’s strengths. Marta credits Tracy as “great at thinking up ideas” (line 44), and Tracy says that Marta is “great at organizing things” (line 45).
	Option A is incorrect	There is no indication in the play that Marta’s and Tracy’s personalities will become more alike: Tracy will not be timely to their meetings, and Marta will not allow for flexibility with her time. Even though Tracy knows that punctuality is important to Marta (lines 17–29), she is still late in scene 2 (line 26), and Marta still keeps to a premade schedule.
	Option B is incorrect	It is unlikely Marta and Tracy will get into any future arguments with each other. In line 44, Marta tells the narrator that they have “figured everything out.”
	Option C is incorrect	Although Marta and Tracy find a way to work together on their project, there is no indication from the play’s dialogue that they will become close friends because of it.

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2	Option B is correct	The idea that Tracy acknowledges Marta’s organizational skills and thus reschedules the meeting is an important detail that adds to the rising action of the plot. It also occurs chronologically between sentence 3 (Tracy arriving late) and sentence 5 (the narrator teasing a possible conflict in scene 2) of the summarized events.
	Option A is incorrect	The narrator’s disclosure that Tracy was once late to her own party is a minor detail and is not important enough to be included in a summary of scene 1.
	Option C is incorrect	Marta’s explanation about walking her dog is a minor detail and does not contribute enough to the plot to be included in a summary of scene 1.
	Option D is incorrect	The stage direction for the girls’ exit is a minor detail and does not contribute enough to the plot to be included in a summary of scene 1.

Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option A is correct	Foreshadowing is a literary element when the author hints about future events in the story. In line 1, the narrator promises the audience that later in the play, there will be “heroes and villains and exciting plot twists.” The heroes and villain are revealed, and the plot twist occurs, in scene 3 in lines 46 through 48. In these lines, the playwright reveals that Marta and Tracy are the heroes and, in an unexpected turn of events, the narrator is the villain.
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator introduces Marta and asks the audience a question about her. The narrator uses the question to spark curiosity about Marta, not to foreshadow the events that occur in scene 3.
	Option C is incorrect	The narrator reveals in line 12 that Marta and Tracy do not really know each other well, but there is nothing in this line that foreshadows the events in scene 3. The line is used to establish the relationship between the characters.
	Option D is incorrect	The narrator announces to the audience the end of scene 1. Although the line helps the audience prepare for the scene change, it does not foreshadow the events that occur in scene 3.

Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option D is correct	The stage directions state in line 28 that the narrator rubs “her hands together gleefully” and in line 35 that she “dramatically” announces a “final battle,” indicating that she is eager for the characters to participate in some kind of conflict.
	Option A is incorrect	In lines 30 and 31, Marta and Tracy exit the stage in scene 2. However, there is no indication that the narrator leaves the stage at the end of any of the scenes.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the narrator “look[s] around confused” in line 38, there is no evidence in lines 28 and 35 that she is confused about her role in the play. Instead, she “gleefully” hints at an upcoming conflict between Marta and Tracy.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the narrator speaks directly to the audience, there is no indication that the audience would be frustrated by the narrator’s actions in lines 28 and 35, in which she rubs “her hands together gleefully” and speaks “dramatically.”

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

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6	Definition 4 is correct	In line 48, the narrator is “shocked” to learn that she has become the play’s villain, and in line 50 she hopes to <u>redeem</u> herself in the next scene. In this context, the reader can understand that <u>redeem</u> means “to restore personal honor or reputation.” In other words, she wants others to have a good opinion of her.
	Definition 1 is incorrect	The narrator is not making any transactions in this play that require an “exchange for something of value,” so this meaning of <u>redeem</u> does not apply in line 50.
	Definition 2 is incorrect	The narrator is not making any purchases in this play that require her “to buy back or repurchase an item,” so this meaning of <u>redeem</u> does not apply in line 50.
	Definition 3 is incorrect	Although the narrator hopes to prove that she is not a villain after all in a hypothetical scene 4, there is no mention of her promising “to fulfill a pledge.” This meaning of <u>redeem</u> does not apply in line 50.

Item Position	Rationale	
7	Option A is correct	The reader learns from the narrator that Tracy is “always late” (line 10), which suggests that this is a known habit. Despite knowing that being on time is important to Marta, Tracy arrives late to their second meeting in scene 2.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the narrator does comment on the characters’ interactions in scene 2, that is a normal function of a narrator. Therefore, this detail does not support the key idea that habits can be difficult to change.
	Option C is incorrect	Marta schedules meetings with Tracy two days in a row at the same time of day. However, that does not mean Marta has a habit of scheduling afternoon meetings. According to Marta’s schedule (line 14), three o’clock is the only time she has available.
	Option D is incorrect	Tracy arrives with notes about the project, which is a positive contribution to the would-be meeting. Unlike Tracy’s chronic, or consistent, lateness, this behavior does not indicate a habit that is difficult to change.

Item Position	Rationale	
8	Option C is correct	Figurative language is language that uses words that mean something different than their literal interpretation. The playwright uses the phrase “stir the pot” in line 32 to suggest that the narrator hopes to cause trouble between Marta and Tracy because the narrator believes that she controls the action on the stage.
	Option A is incorrect	The narrator wants to “stir the pot” in scene 3 to create conflict between Marta and Tracy. However, the narrator does not know what will happen in the last scene, because she states that she “may need to” take action, which implies uncertainty about future events.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the narrator provides background information about the characters in scene 1, there is no indication in line 32 that the narrator wants to examine the characters more closely.
	Option D is incorrect	In line 32, the narrator is “disappointed” after Marta and Tracy exit scene 2 without arguing. Therefore, the reader can infer that the narrator is not trying to add a sense of humor.

Item Position	Rationale	
9	Option A is correct	Tone is the author's use of words and phrases to show the way he or she feels about the subject. The author's choice of language in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the article "Counting like the Maya" indicates a tone of enthusiasm. In paragraph 4, the students are "mastering," "delving into," and "even being introduced to" complex mathematics. In paragraph 6, a professor cites the math's methodology as " 'brilliant, intelligent, and practical,' " as well as being simple enough to " 'be practiced on a dirt floor with minimal resources.' "
	Option B is incorrect	Although a reader may find it surprising that "children as young as preschool age" can begin "mastering addition and subtraction" (paragraph 4), the author's choice of language in paragraphs 4 and 6 does not create a tone of surprise. Instead, it creates a tone of enthusiasm, because Mayan math is so "easy to understand" (paragraph 3).
	Option C is incorrect	Although it may seem hard to believe that preschool-aged children can learn addition and subtraction concepts, the author does not use language in paragraphs 4 and 6 that creates a tone of exaggeration. Instead, the author's choice of language creates a tone of enthusiasm by citing how the " 'brilliant, intelligent, and practical' " Mayan counting system helps even very young students understand math concepts.
	Option D is incorrect	The author's choice of language in paragraphs 4 and 6 does not indicate a tone of certainty, because there are no absolutes in the language used. In paragraph 4, not every child "as young as preschool age" masters addition and subtraction, and only "some" are introduced to square roots.

Item Position	Rationale	
10	Option B is correct	The diagram in the article “Counting like the Maya” helps the reader understand how Mayan symbols—clams, seeds or dots, and sticks or bars—can be combined to represent different numbers. For example, the diagram shows a dot to represent the number 1 and a stick to represent the number 5. The number 6 is represented with a stick and a dot. The numbers 0 through 19 are shown on the diagram.
	Option A is incorrect	The diagram does not indicate the role of memorization in Mayan math or ordinary math. Instead, it shows the symbols used for the numbers 0 through 19.
	Option C is incorrect	The diagram provided in the article shows examples of Mayan math symbols used for the numbers 0 to 19. The diagram does not indicate whether students enjoy learning to use Mayan symbols.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author states that “students can use physical objects . . . to represent numbers and solve equations.” However, there is no indication in the diagram of the way students move objects around to learn Mayan math.

Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	The controlling idea of the article “Counting like the Maya” is that Mayan math is an ancient system that modern descendants of the Maya use with great success. The author states this idea in paragraph 2 and then supports it with details throughout the rest of the article.
	Option A is incorrect	Although it is true that the Mayan math system uses small symbols to represent different numbers, this is a detail and not the controlling idea of the article.
	Option B is incorrect	It is true that some parts of the Mayan math system are being used by students today. However, this is a detail and not the controlling idea of the article.
	Option C is incorrect	Although descendants of the ancient Mayas may still follow some of their ancestors’ scholarly traditions, this article is concerned only with one of those traditions: the math system. The idea of descendants following their ancestors’ traditions is a generalized detail, not the controlling idea of the article.

Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option A is correct	The author wrote the article "Counting like the Maya" most likely to describe the origins and basic details of the math system used by the Maya people. In paragraphs 2 and 3, the author describes the Mayan counting system and how numbers are represented. In paragraphs 4 through 8, the author explains how the Mayan counting system is being used to teach children across the Yucatán region and why students are experiencing success with the method.
	Option B is incorrect	The author notes that students "across the Yucatán region are experiencing success" using the Mayan counting system (paragraph 2) but does not argue for its use in more schools.
	Option C is incorrect	In this article the author does not share information about how the Maya people used math in their daily lives. Instead, the author describes the ancient Maya math counting system that was used by the Maya people.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author includes quotations from Professor Luis Fernando Magaña, "who has researched the counting system." However, the author did not write the article to highlight the professor's research. Instead, the author quotes the professor to show what an expert thinks about the Maya counting system.

Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option D is correct	In paragraph 2 of the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author notes that "it took years for the Inca to develop a system of terrace farming that could feed an empire" and states that "farming in the mountains was not easy." Therefore, when the author uses the phrase "mastered the art of farming in the mountains" in paragraph 3, it emphasizes the skill and creativity it took for the Inca to perfect terrace farming.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author describes the appearance of the terraces and explains in paragraph 2 how the Inca developed terrace farming. The author's use of the phrase "mastered the art of farming in the mountains" in paragraph 3 is meant to emphasize the skill required for the Inca to perfect terrace farming, not the terraces' appearance.
	Option B is incorrect	Based on the amount of work the Inca put into developing a system of farming, one could infer that the Inca valued farming as a profession. However, that is not the reason the author includes the phrase "mastered the art of farming in the mountains" in paragraph 3. The phrase is included to emphasize the skill and creativity needed to farm in the mountains.
	Option C is incorrect	The author includes the phrase "mastered the art of farming in the mountains" in paragraph 3 to emphasize the skill and creativity required to perfect terrace farming. There is no mention in the article that the Inca viewed growing food as a form of expression.

Item Position	Rationale	
14	Option B is correct	The Inca civilization was powerful, as supported by the evidence in paragraph 2 of the article "An Ancient Farming Method" that it "could feed an empire that stretched across South America." This phrase indicates the large size of the Inca territory and suggests that only a powerful civilization of its size could provide for its citizens across such a distance.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the Inca's ability to farm "abundantly" supports the idea that the Inca were good farmers, this phrase from paragraph 1 does not indicate that the Inca were a powerful civilization.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the engineering expertise it took to construct the Inca's irrigation canals shows that the civilization was advanced in the area of engineering and building, this sentence from paragraph 7 does not support the idea that the civilization was powerful.
	Option D is incorrect	This phrase from paragraph 8 refers to people currently living in the Sacred Valley who are learning and using the Inca's "ancient agricultural techniques." This phrase supports the idea that the Inca were good farmers and engineers, but it does not support the idea that they were a powerful civilization.

Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option D is correct	When archaeologists rebuilt terraces and irrigation systems, they were rediscovering, or discovering something that had been forgotten: the value of traditional farming methods. Therefore, the word <i>rediscovering</i> provides the best clue to the meaning of the word <u>revelation</u> in paragraph 4 of the article "An Ancient Farming Method."
	Option A is incorrect	<i>Replaced</i> means "took the place of." In paragraph 4, the retaining walls were not replaced with something else. Instead, the farmers rediscovered "that retaining walls did more than keep dirt in place."
	Option B is incorrect	<i>Reverted</i> means "returned to." In paragraph 4, the retaining walls were not returned to their original state. Farmers rediscovered "that retaining walls did more than keep dirt in place."
	Option C is incorrect	<i>Rebuilding</i> means "building again." In paragraph 4, the retaining walls were not rebuilt. Farmers rediscovered "that retaining walls did more than keep dirt in place."

Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option C is correct	The cause-and-effect structure in paragraphs 4 through 6 of the article “An Ancient Farming Method” helps support the topic of the article by explaining the purposes of various strategies the Inca used to master the art of farming and the effectiveness of those methods. For example, building terraces to create flat land and prevent soil erosion on slopes, using rocks to build terraces that would retain heat at night and keep roots warm, and adding thick layers of organic and nitrogen-producing material to topsoil to protect from cold weather and encourage growth.
	Option A is incorrect	The cause-and-effect structure in paragraphs 4 through 6 does not provide any evidence that the Inca advanced previously existing ways of farming.
	Option B is incorrect	The cause-and-effect structure in paragraphs 4 through 6 indicates that the Inca designed their terraces with drainage and weather in mind. It does not suggest that some crops were difficult to grow.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader may infer that the Inca used trial and error to strategize more efficient ways to terrace farm, but this information is not the reason the author uses a cause-and-effect structure in paragraphs 4 through 6.

Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option A is correct	In paragraph 4 of the article "Counting like the Maya," the author quotes a modern expert who supports Mayan math; the expert calls it " 'brilliant, intelligent and practical.' " In contrast, in paragraph 3 of the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author explains how experts such as archaeologists are helping modern farmers in Peru plant "crops the way the Inca did."
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the article "Counting like the Maya" does not present differing opinions about Mayan math. Instead, the author quotes an expert to show the expert's support of Mayan math. The author of the article "An Ancient Farming Method" does not indicate that experts are in agreement about terrace farming. The author explains how archaeologists are helping farmers in Peru use the ancient farming practices of the Inca.
	Option C is incorrect	The expert quoted in the article "Counting like the Maya" refers to Mayan math as " 'simple' " (paragraph 6), but the author does not indicate whether it was simple to persuade modern people to adopt Mayan math. Similarly, the author of the article "An Ancient Farming Method" does not indicate whether it was challenging to persuade modern people to adopt the Inca practices of terrace farming.
	Option D is incorrect	The author of the article "Counting like the Maya" makes no mention of recruiting other professionals to recognize Mayan math, although the author does note that Mayan math "involves fewer steps and less memorization than conventional mathematics" (paragraph 5). The author of the article "An Ancient Farming Method" does not refer to experts to suggest that terrace farming can be used alongside other kinds of farming. The experts in this article are focused on using ancient Inca techniques.

Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option D is correct	Both quotations refer to an ancient method that uses natural materials. In paragraph 6 of the article "Counting like the Maya," an expert states that Mayan math is a simple counting system that "can be practiced on a dirt floor with minimal resources," such as shells, sticks, or seeds. In the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author notes that the Inca also used minimal resources when they "built the canals using natural materials like stone and clay" (paragraph 7).
	Option A is incorrect	In the article "Counting like the Maya," the expert's quotation about the simplicity of Mayan math is not similar to the meticulous carving necessary to create the "wide steps, or terraces" (paragraph 1) in the mountainsides discussed in the article "An Ancient Farming Method."
	Option B is incorrect	In the article "Counting like the Maya," the expert's quotation about the simplicity and accessibility of Mayan math is not similar to the function of retaining walls that kept plants from freezing at night, as stated in paragraph 5 of the article "An Ancient Farming Method."
	Option C is incorrect	In the quotation from the article "Counting like the Maya," the expert explains the simplicity of the Mayan counting system. However, the text evidence from the article "An Ancient Farming Method" implies a more complex understanding of what plants need from the soil to grow.

Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option A is correct	In paragraph 1 of the article "Counting like the Maya," the author uses agriculture to support a transition into Mayan math: "Their [agricultural] methods were so successful that the Maya were able to dedicate much time to developing skills besides farming . . . , including advanced studies in astronomy and the construction of impressive pyramids." In the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author's main topic is agriculture and the Inca's use of terraces to successfully farm.
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the article "Counting like the Maya" uses the topic of agriculture to lead into Mayan math, but the claim that agriculture led to other scientific successes is incorrect. The author of "An Ancient Farming Method" does not suggest that success in scientific fields led to the success of agriculture for the Inca.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of the article "Counting like the Maya" uses the topic of agriculture to show that the Mayan people were such efficient farmers that they had more time to improve their lives in other ways. Their culture changed for the better over time. In the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author does not just highlight agriculture but focuses on it as the way in which the Inca people built a powerful empire.
	Option D is incorrect	In the article "Counting like the Maya," the author suggests that the Maya's success in agriculture allowed them to branch into other areas, including math. An expert on the Mayan math system refers to it as " 'simple,' " but this does not demonstrate that daily life for the Maya was easy. The author of the article "An Ancient Farming Method" explains how the Inca system of farming was so well engineered and effective it is admired by modern farmers today.

Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option C is correct	The Maya and the Inca likely used the natural environment as a source for ideas. In the article "Counting like the Maya," the author notes that the Maya used clams, seeds, and sticks to represent numbers in their counting system (paragraph 3), and in the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author states that the Inca used natural materials such as "rocks packed [tightly] against each other" in their retaining walls (paragraph 4) and constructed "canals using natural materials like stone and clay" (paragraph 7).
	Option D is correct	The Maya and the Inca civilizations of the past continue to influence modern societies. In the article "Counting like the Maya," the author states, "Today the [Mayan] counting system is being used to teach math to descendants of the Maya" (paragraph 2). In the article "An Ancient Farming Method," the author notes that archaeologists are helping farmers in Peru learn ancient Inca terrace-farming methods (paragraph 3).
	Option A is incorrect	There is no indication in either article that the ancient Maya and the ancient Inca civilizations gained recognition in their time by sharing details about their invention with other cultures. However, many inventions and knowledge about their systems are still in use today.
	Option B is incorrect	Neither article suggests that the Maya and the Inca civilizations suffered in their survival. The evidence in the article "Counting like the Maya" suggests that their successes with agriculture provided the Maya with some time to diversify in other studies (paragraph 1). The evidence in the article "An Ancient Farming Method" suggests that "the Inca mastered the art of farming" (paragraph 3) and that they were so successful in growing crops that their methods are being studied and used today.
	Option E is incorrect	There is no indication in either article that the Maya and the Inca needed to understand basic math to undertake any construction projects. Although math is a main topic in the article "Counting like the Maya," it is not mentioned at all in the article "An Ancient Farming Method."

Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option D is correct	In paragraph 2, the word <u>motive</u> means “a reason for what a person chooses to do.” In the two sentences that come before this word is used, the author suggests the grandmother’s reasons: “my grandmother would call me . . . to teach me the art of origami. It was likely her attempt to keep me busy and out of trouble.” The context of these two sentences, along with the information about the Latin root, helps the reader understand the meaning of the word <u>motive</u> .
	Option A is incorrect	There is no context in the selection to support the meaning of <u>motive</u> as “an idea a person has had for a long time.” This definition is also not supported by the Latin root.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author states in paragraph 2 that she “felt honored to be included” in her grandmother’s origami time, the meaning of <u>motive</u> is not “an interest that brings people together.” The Latin root means “move” or “motion.”
	Option C is incorrect	Whereas the words “scheme” and “secret” could imply something negative, the grandmother’s motive is a positive one: to spend time with the author and keep her out of trouble (paragraph 2).

Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option D is correct	The mood in a text is when the author makes the reader feel a certain way through words or details. The author's use of language in the sentence from paragraph 7 conveys a sentimental mood, with a sincere remembrance about the moments spent with her grandmother and how those experiences affected the author. All of paragraph 7, including the sentence "I hope my grandmother knows how much those moments meant to me," conveys a sentimental mood.
	Option A is incorrect	In this phrase from paragraph 1, the author remembers what it was like playing outside in the summertime at her grandparents' house. Although the author's use of the phrase "running through freshly laundered clothes" helps the reader to visualize a perfect image of a summer afternoon, it does not convey the recollection of a past experience or a moment of tenderness.
	Option B is incorrect	In this phrase from paragraph 3, the author recalls how she felt while trying to imagine her grandmother as a young girl. This is a recollection of a past event but not a moment of sentimental tenderness.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 6, the author expresses that she no longer felt alone as she created an origami crane and that it brought back memories of her time with her grandmother. Although the author felt comforted during a hard time, this sentence itself does not convey a sentimental mood, because there is no expression of tenderness.

Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option B is correct	In paragraph 4, the author states that as a child, she was “careless with [her] paper creases and impatient to finish” her origami projects. In paragraph 5, when the grandmother believes that the author is rushing to finish, she tells the author that origami “ ‘is good for the soul,’ ” which prompts the author to “start again, this time working more slowly.” These details best support the key idea that practicing origami requires patience.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the grandmother has a harder time persuading the author to join her in “origami sessions” and she has to remind the author to work carefully, the details in paragraphs 4 and 5 do not support the idea that teaching traditional origami can be difficult. The details support the key idea that practicing origami requires patience.
	Option C is incorrect	The grandmother is skilled in origami and understands that “ ‘it is good for the soul’ ” (paragraph 5). However, the details in paragraphs 4 and 5 do not support the idea that people skilled in origami understand its benefits. Rather, those details help support the key idea that practicing origami requires patience.
	Option D is incorrect	The author never speaks about mistakes in the first lessons of origami, though she admits that she was “careless with [her] paper creases and impatient to finish” (paragraph 4). However, her admission helps support the key idea that practicing origami requires patience.

Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option A is correct	The main theme, or universal idea about life, of the selection is that people sometimes fail to appreciate the small experiences in life. In paragraph 7, the author reflects on this idea, stating that “life’s lasting lessons do not always come in monumental moments” and hoping that her “grandmother knows how much those moments meant to [her].”
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author remembers working independently to create an origami crane to ease her “distress” and worry. However, that is not the main theme of the selection. Instead, that is a turning point, when the author realizes how much the time spent doing origami with her grandmother meant to her.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author shares that creating an origami crane helped take her mind off a problem she had experienced. However, this incident does not develop a theme that forgetting about problems never solves anything.
	Option D is incorrect	The author learns that origami requires both patience and determination. However, that is not the main theme of the selection. As the author remembers the time spent with her grandmother learning origami, she begins to appreciate those small experiences she had once taken for granted.

Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option B is correct	In paragraph 1, the author’s description of the grandmother—“never seen with a hair out of place or a wrinkle on a sleeve”—shows that her grandmother valued neatness not only in herself but in her surroundings and with those she cared about.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s grandmother told the author to “ ‘clean up quickly’ ” (paragraph 1) because her parents were arriving soon to take her home and the grandmother valued neatness in appearance. There is no indication that her grandmother wanted to change the activity.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author notes the “clothesline in the backyard” and “running through freshly laundered clothes” (paragraph 1), there is no mention of whether the author or her grandmother enjoyed the task of washing clothes. The author’s grandmother asked her to “ ‘clean up’ ” because her parents were coming to take her home and the grandmother valued neatness in appearance.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the grandmother used the word “quickly,” there is no indication that she had failed to notice the time or that the author’s visit had run late.

Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option D is correct	A subjective point of view is a narrative perspective that includes the thoughts and feelings of one or more of the characters in a story and uses third-person pronouns, such as <i>he</i> , <i>she</i> , and <i>they</i> . The subjective point of view in the selection allows the reader to know the author's thoughts from when she first eagerly learned to make origami (paragraph 2) to when she grew older and felt that she had "outgrown" the "origami sessions" with her grandmother (paragraph 4) and, finally, to when she made origami to help take her mind off a distressing event and "was comforted by the memory of [her] grandmother and making origami" (paragraph 6). These insights help the reader understand how the author's attitude about making origami changed.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader does not need to know the author's thoughts to understand how the author learned to make origami with her grandmother.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author recalls how her grandmother would tell her "stories about [the grandmother's] childhood and share snippets of [the grandmother's] travels to Japan." However, the author does not share her thoughts about what she learned from her grandmother's stories.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author recalls winter breaks spent with her grandmother learning the art of origami. The author, as an adult, speculates that it was most likely her grandmother's "attempt to keep [the author] busy and out of trouble." However, the author does not mention why she thought her grandmother was teaching her origami at the time and even shares that she was "unaware of her [grandmother's] true motive."

Item Position	Rationale	
27	Option A is correct	In paragraph 6, the author replaced her anxiety about a problem with her attention to making origami by using the lessons her grandmother taught about patience and working carefully. This event leads to the resolution of the plot.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author states that she “instinctively . . . began to fold, pinch, and crease the paper” to make origami and that her “finger movements became slow, purposeful, precise.” This information helps the reader understand that the author had to concentrate on the origami, not that she was able to make origami without having to think about it. This detail is a misinterpretation of paragraph 6 and does not influence the plot.
	Option C is incorrect	The author was inspired to make origami when she saw a piece of paper that was her favorite color, but this detail is not an action that influences the plot of the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	The author states that her “finger movements became slow, purposeful, precise” (paragraph 6). However, the details about how she worked carefully to successfully make origami do not influence the plot.

Item Position	Rationale
28	<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 7 scoring guide available on the STAAR Reading Language Arts Resources webpage.</p> <p>There are approximately eight billion people in the world, and out of these eight billion people there are loved ones who change the way you look at life forever. The relationship between the author and the grandmother influenced the author's life by providing comfort during difficult situations, teaching her patience, and introducing her culture's traditions to her life.</p> <p>When the author felt stressed or was in a difficult situation, "the changing shapes of the paper absorbed my attention until I had nearly forgotten my distress. In that moment, I was no longer alone. " (Paragraph 6). The lessons her grandmother provided may have been brief, but they left a substantial imprint on her as she matured. The relationship they shared allowed her to be "comforted by the memory of my grandmother. " (Paragraph 6). No matter what happened, she could always find a sense of peace in origami.</p> <p>To continue, the art of origami taught the author patience. Whenever she began to fold and, "my hands scrambled to finish a shape, my grandmother, without looking up, would say, "Origami is so much more than folding paper, Emi. It is good for the soul. " I would dutifully nod, take a sip of tea, and start again, this time working more slowly. " (Paragraph 5). Every time she rushed something she could look back at the slow, precise creases that were needed to execute a fold and begin to do things with less haste. She would be able to look back at what her grandmother taught her and begin to do things with patience.</p> <p>Lastly, the relationship she had with her grandmother taught her about her heritage and culture. Whenever she went to her grandmother's house, she learned so much more than how to create a crane or a box, she was able to become closer to her ancestors and culture through the stories her grandmother told her about. "She would tell me stories about her childhood and share snippets of her travels to Japan to visit her family members. " (Paragraph 3). Through her interactions with her grandmother she not only built a strong relationship with her, but she also was able to learn about her culture and how it impacted her lifestyle.</p> <p>After analyzing the text we can see how out of eight billion people, the relationship she had with her grandmother impacted the way she looked at the world. "Winter Wisdom " shows how the wisdom of her grandmother provided a sense of belonging during tough times, taught her how to be patient, and introduced her to her heritage.</p>

Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option C is correct	In this revision of the sentence, the writer replaces the phrase “it’s affordable” with the noun “affordability.” This noun fits with the other nouns that follow the preposition “of.” This creates a clear and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	With this revision, the writer not only fails to correct the ineffective concluding prepositional phrase but also creates some awkwardness.
	Option B is incorrect	Using the awkward phrase “is what this shoe is” results in a confusing and wordy sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	By using both “in my opinion” and “I think,” the writer has created a redundant sentence that still features an ineffective phrase at the end.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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

Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option A is correct	In sentence 16, the writer is describing the problems associated with wearing ill-fitting shoes. Adding the phrase “Even worse” to the beginning of sentence 17 signals that the writer is now sharing additional problems that are of even greater concern.
	Option B is incorrect	Using the transition “Currently” is not an effective way to transition into this sentence because it suggests that the information in sentence 16 was true in the past, while the information in sentence 17 is true at the present time. This is not the intent of the writer.
	Option C is incorrect	The transition “To summarize” indicates that the information in sentence 17 will be a summary of previous statements. But sentence 17 introduces new information, so this is not an effective transition.
	Option D is incorrect	The use of the transition “Incidentally” is inappropriate because it implies that the information in sentence 17 is not that important. Instead, the writer uses sentence 17 to express even more serious concerns than those described in sentence 16.

Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	With this sentence, the writer continues to discuss color options for the sandals by adding her suggestion of additional colors. This sentence would provide the best support for sentence 25.
	Option A is incorrect	This mention of the writer's desire to persuade her friend to try the sandals does not add to the discussion of sandal colors, so it would not support sentence 25.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding this sentence after sentence 25 would not provide support because suggesting that the company advertise the sandals in sports magazines is not related to the currently limited color options.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting this sentence would inform the company of the writer's desire to wear the sandals on a variety of different occasions, but it would not provide support for sentence 25.

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Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option B is correct	In this sentence, the writer provides specific examples of how a person can exercise the mind. These details help develop the introduction to this paper.
	Option A is incorrect	With this sentence, the writer provides a detail about diet that is related to maintaining both the mind and body. However, this paper has nothing to do with diet, so this detail does not help develop the writer's introduction.
	Option C is incorrect	Since the writer goes on in sentence 3 to claim that puzzles provide "another excellent way" to exercise our brains, using this sentence to replace sentence 2 would not help develop an effective introduction to the paper. The new sentence does not list any specific ways to improve mental functioning, which is necessary for sentence 3 to make sense.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer is sharing information about physical exercise, which is not the focus of this paper.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option C is correct	With this revision, the writer correctly places the phrase “who spend time playing puzzles” after the phrase that it applies to (“young children”). This creates a clear and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	By using both “young children” and “these are children,” the writer unnecessarily repeats an idea, creating an ineffective and misleading sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	In this revision, the writer uses the pronoun “they” in the spot where “young children who spend time playing with puzzles” should be. This leaves the pronoun with no clear meaning and creates an awkward and confusing sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because sentence 5 is poorly constructed and confusing.

Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option B is correct	In this revision, the writer removes the phrase “spending it,” which eliminates the repeated idea and creates a more concise and effective sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	With this revision, the writer incorrectly places the phrase “or in a sudoku book.” This results in an awkward and confusing sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision of the sentence is misleading because it implies that “a crossword puzzle” is in a sudoku book. The writer also misplaces the phrase “an hour or more,” which should follow “spending” to make good sense.
	Option D is incorrect	In this awkward revision, the writer misplaces the prepositional phrase “of how to spend it” by putting it after another, unrelated prepositional phrase. The resulting sentence is confusing.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option B is correct	In this paragraph, the writer is disproving the idea that working on puzzles is not worthwhile. Since the adjective “advantageous” means beneficial or helpful, it is an effective word to use in affirming the value of doing puzzles.
	Option A is incorrect	“Supreme,” is similar to the word “superior,” which has a comparative tone, or attitude. Therefore, using the word “superior” is not the more appropriate word to use in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Using the word “reflective” would imply that spending time on puzzles allows people to look back on their thoughts or ideas. This is not the appropriate word to use in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “professional” means “relating to a profession,” so it does not make any sense in the context of sentence 16.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	Capitalizing "Rocky Mountain National Park" corrects the error in sentence 2 because the name of a park is a proper noun, or a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event.
	Option A is incorrect	Point of view refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. This story is being told in the third-person point of view, meaning the narrator is outside the story. The use of "Our" would mark a change to first person, a point of view in which the narrator is a character within the story.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "would be" to "being" would result in a sentence fragment, or an incomplete sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	A comma is required between the names of a city and its state, so this comma should not be deleted.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option D is correct	The writer wants to emphasize how long the sisters chatted, so the adverb “endlessly” is required, rather than the adjective “endless.”
	Option A is incorrect	“Delaney” is a singular noun, so the placement of the apostrophe in “Delaney’s” is correct.
	Option B is incorrect	A comma is required after the clause at the beginning of this sentence, so the comma cannot be removed.
	Option C is incorrect	“Chatted” is the correct verb to use in this sentence because the story is written in the past tense.

Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option A is correct	An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence. In sentence 4, two independent clauses are connected by a comma, which is an error. In this new sentence, the writer uses the word “which” to correctly join the two clauses.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase “A mountain that surpasses 14,000 feet” is a fragment, or an incomplete sentence. It is punctuated as if it were a complete sentence, so this option cannot be correct.
	Option C is incorrect	In this option, the second punctuated phrase is a fragment because it has no subject. Therefore, this cannot be part of an acceptable change to sentence 4.
	Option D is incorrect	A run-on sentence is an error in which two or more main clauses (complete statements) are joined incorrectly. This option is a run-on sentence because it incorrectly combines two main clauses.

Item Position	Rationale	
40	Option B is correct	The word “although” means “in spite of the fact.” In sentence 7, Delaney’s mouth hangs open at the same time (or “as”) her dad drives, rather than in spite of this fact.
	Option A is incorrect	An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence. A semicolon can be used to join two related independent clauses. The phrase “although her dad drove around each new curve in the road” cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, so a semicolon would not be correct here.
	Option C is incorrect	A change from “drove” to “driving” would create a sentence fragment, or an incomplete sentence. Therefore, this cannot be the correct answer.
	Option D is incorrect	Using the preposition “around” is correct because it indicates that her dad is following the curves in the road. Using the preposition “over” would change the meaning of the sentence and indicate that he is driving off the road by not following the curves.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option D is correct	No change is needed in this sentence because the sentence is complete and contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
	Option A is incorrect	A comma after "waterfall" is not needed in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	In changing "glistening" to "it glistened," the writer would create a run-on sentence, an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, "valley" does not need to be capitalized because it is not being used as a proper noun, or a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event.

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
42	Option B is correct	The writer needs to insert a comma after “tasks” because a comma is required after the phrase at the beginning of this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Using the preposition “on” would change the meaning of the sentence, so it cannot be correct here. The phrase “to help on tasks” is confusing, whereas “to help with tasks” is easily understood.
	Option C is incorrect	The pronoun “them” is needed because the writer is using the pronoun to refer to the “kids” mentioned earlier. The pronoun “you” would not have the intended meaning.
	Option D is incorrect	“Effort” is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence.

Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option C is correct	By changing “around” to “of,” the writer clarifies the meaning of the sentence. The phrase “a sense around responsibility” is not typical and makes the meaning of the sentence unclear.
	Option A is incorrect	This change eliminates the subject of the sentence (“They”) and thus creates a sentence fragment, or an incomplete sentence. Therefore, the change should not be made.
	Option B is incorrect	“Sense” is the correct spelling of the noun being used in this sentence. “Since” is a word that indicates the passage of time, so it would not be a good replacement.
	Option D is incorrect	“Accomplishment” is the correct spelling of the word being used in this sentence.

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option C is correct	The correct spelling of this word is "independence."
	Option A is incorrect	"Independance" is not the correct spelling of the word that the writer is using.
	Option B is incorrect	In this suggestion, the writer has again misspelled the word "independence."
	Option D is incorrect	"Indepindense" is an incorrect spelling of the word "independence."

Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option D is correct	A proper noun is a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event and must be capitalized. "Adulthood" is not a proper noun, so it does not need to be capitalized in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	"Although" is the correct word to use in this sentence because the writer is acknowledging a contrast between ideas. "Because" would indicate a cause-and-effect relationship between the two statements, which would not make sense in this case.
	Option B is incorrect	A change to "without no" would create a double negative, an error that occurs when two negative words are used in the same sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The comma after "pay" is necessary in this sentence because it comes after an incomplete statement at the beginning of the sentence. A semicolon is used to separate two independent clauses (two clauses that can stand alone as complete sentences). This is not the situation in sentence 8.