











## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
13	Option B is correct	Proper nouns, which are nouns that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event, require capitalization, so “hall” should be changed to “Hall” as in “Carnegie Hall.”
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “imagine” would create a punctuation error by setting off a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing “would have been” to “would not have been” creates a double negative, which occurs when two negative words are used in the same sentence. The double negative changes the intended meaning of the sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The name of the concert hall, “Carnegie Hall,” is a proper noun and requires capitalization.
14	Option F is correct	A possessive is a noun or a pronoun that shows possession with the addition of an apostrophe. Changing “Decade’s” to “Decades” removes the unnecessary apostrophe and corrects the possessive error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing the verb “provided” to the present tense “provides” would create a verb-tense error in the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “lovers” to its possessive form, “lover’s,” would create a punctuation and usage error.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing “recorded” to “recording” would alter the meaning of the sentence and create a usage error.
15	Option A is correct	Changing “should have been giving” to the present-tense verb form “should give” corrects the grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	A superlative is a form of an adjective or adverb that is being described as having more of a quality than all others. Changing “earlier” to its superlative form, “earliest,” creates a usage error; music on vinyl records is not the earliest type of music.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “chance” creates a punctuation error by incorrectly separating the verbs from their subject—“Teens.”
	Option D is incorrect	Changing “themselves” to “themselfs” would create a spelling error.
16	Option G is correct	The lowercase “how” should be capitalized as “How” since it is the first word in dialogue.
	Option F is incorrect	Deleting the comma after “ask” would create a punctuation error since a comma should appear before a quotation.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing the question mark to a period would create a punctuation error since the sentence is an interrogative question instead of a declarative statement.
	Option J is incorrect	Making no change would not correct the capitalization error present in the sentence.
17	Option A is correct	A serial comma is a series of commas separating multiple words. A serial comma needs to be inserted after “large” since both “large” and “gorgeous” are coordinate adjectives, both modifying the word “artwork.”
	Option B is incorrect	Deleting the comma would create a punctuation error. The comma separates the phrase “Plastered with large gorgeous artwork” from the word “cover,” which it modifies.
	Option C is incorrect	An infinitive is a verb form that often acts as a noun. Changing the infinitive “to be” to the future tense “will be” creates a

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18	Option G is correct	Changing the word “endeaver” to “endeavor” corrects the misspelling in this sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing “prolonged” to “prolonging” would create a usage error, since the word is being used as an adjective modifying “endeavor.”
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “who” to “whom” is incorrect since in this sentence the pronoun is receiving the action from a verb _____ “w Ch

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38	Option H is correct	Definition 3 is supported by the way the word <u>contain</u> is used in line 9. In line 9, the horses “can hardly <u>contain</u> their happiness,” which means the horses are having trouble keeping their feelings “within bounds.”
	Option F is incorrect	The reader can use information from the dictionary entry to understand the word <u>contain</u> refers to the horses keeping their happiness within bounds and not “holding within a fixed area” as definition 1 suggests.
	Option G is incorrect	The reader can use information from the dictionary entry to understand that in line 9, the word <u>contain</u>

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42	Option F is correct	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. The poet describes the ponies as having an incomparable loneliness in line 12. The speaker's close-up observation of the animals creates an intimate and mournful tone.
	Option G is incorrect	Although loneliness can sometimes be associated with bitterness, the poet conveys a tone of intimacy and mournfulness in line 12.
	Option H is incorrect	Although loneliness can sometimes be associated with scorn and cynicism, the poet conveys a tone of intimacy and mournfulness in line 12.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker's close-up observation of the ponies creates a sense of intimacy and a mournful tone, not a sense of resignation or bafflement.
43	Option B is correct	In lines 13 and 14, the poet states that the ponies are "At home once more" and suggests that they are becoming comfortable and familiar with the visitors and that they are "munching the young tufts" of spring grass.
	Option A is incorrect	The poet's intention in lines 13 and 14 is to reveal the ponies' comfort with their location, not to suggest they have returned from a trip.
	Option C is incorrect	In line 14, the poet describes the ponies eating grass, but there is no indication that they have been deprived of food.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the poet suggests that the ponies seem happy and excited early in the poem, by lines 13 and 14 there is evidence to suggest the ponies have become comfortable and familiar with the visitors.
44	Option H is correct	In line 7, the speaker's act of stepping over barbed wire represents a desire to embrace nature by approaching and spending time with the ponies.
	Option F is incorrect	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. Although the tone of the poem is personal, the act of stepping over the barbed wire reveals the speaker's connection with nature, not increasing self-awareness.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker stepping over the barbed wire could signify something dangerous, it does not represent hardship in the context of line 7.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no indication that stepping over the barbed wire is meant to symbolize, or represent, forgiveness based on the context of line 7. The poet focuses largely on nature, not mankind.
45	Option C is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word "like" or "as." The simile in line 11 presents the ponies as timid and graceful, comparing them to swans bowing shyly.
	Option A is incorrect	In line 11, the speaker uses the word "wet" as an adjective describing swans, but there is no indication the ponies have been in the rain.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 11, the speaker describes how the ponies interact with one another, but the simile does not address how the ponies
	Option t is incorrect	



