

2018 STAAR Grade 7 Writing Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option C is correct	Adding this sentence effectively introduces the idea that Jayden's birthday gift is a ride on a hot-air balloon, which is the focus of the entire story.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding this sentence introduces repetitive information because the idea has already been presented in sentence 5.
	Option B is incorrect	The description of the balloons is an unnecessary detail that does not tell what the story is about, resulting in an ineffective opening.
	Option D is incorrect	The idea that it was time for a birthday celebration does not add specificity and lacks the emphasis necessary for an effective opening.
2	Option J is correct	Combining the ideas from two short sentences to form a single complex sentence eliminates the repetition of "flames" and is an effective way to combine the sentences.
	Option F is incorrect	Combining the sentences by rearranging the ideas in sentence 13 creates an awkward sentence because the idea that the burner inside the balloon is heating the air is incorrect.
	Option G is incorrect	Although it is logical to combine the sentences, using the conjunction "because" is inappropriate and creates confusion by suggesting that the heated air is causing flames to shoot out of the burner, which is incorrect.
	Option H is incorrect	Combining the two sentences with a comma creates a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma, and is grammatically incorrect.
3	Option A is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding the transitional word "Finally" and the idea that "it was time for the riders to climb inside the basket" improves the transition because the information added logically supports the series of events described in the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding the information in this sentence introduces repetitive information because this idea is already presented in sentence 15.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding the information in this sentence introduces repetitive information because this idea is presented in sentence 17.
	Option D is incorrect	Adding the information in this sentence does not improve the transition because the information is inaccurate and is not supported by the ideas in the rest of the paragraph.
4	Option G is correct	Rearranging the ideas to clarify that the "air in the balloon grew hotter" eliminates the awkward phrasing in the sentence and clearly shows the connection of ideas.
	Option F is incorrect	The idea that "the air in the burner" grows hotter is incorrect and not an appropriate revision.
	Option H is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way introduces a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma, and creates a run-on sentence. A run-on sentence occurs when two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option J is incorrect	The idea that "the balloon grew hotter" is inaccurate and not an appropriate revision because it is the air in the balloon that grows hotter.
5	Option C is correct	Adding this sentence supports the ideas expressed in sentence 23 because specific details about what different objects look like are provided.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the idea presented in this sentence may be accurate, including the sentence does not specifically support the ideas expressed in sentence 23.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding this

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12	Option J is correct	A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes. Moving "Worcestershire, England" directly after Griffiths's name corrects the misplaced-modifier error in the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	The idea presented in this awkwardly constructed sentence is inaccurate.
	Option G is incorrect	This revision results in the introduction of a misplaced modifier, and the information in the sentence is incorrect because the idea presented suggests that the "Guinness World Record" Donna Griffiths "earned" is from "Worcestershire, England."
	Option H is incorrect	A comma-splice error occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma. This revision is incorrect because a comma-splice error is introduced, resulting in a run-on sentence.





