

2019 STAAR Grade 7 Writing Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option C Correct	A closing sentence of a paragraph should capture the main idea of the paragraph and emphasize an important message. By adding this sentence, the writer emphasizes the potential of the basin and the family's commitment to action.
	Option A Incorrect	This sentence is only vaguely related to the ideas covered in the essay and fails to build upon the key idea of the family's recognition of the basin's potential.
	Option B Incorrect	The writer simply states the obvious and fails to build upon the idea in the paragraph in a meaningful way.
	Option D Incorrect	The writer's interest in exploring the basin is an extraneous detail that does little to emphasize the meaning of this paragraph.

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2	Option F is correct	Changing all of them to our neighbors clarifies with whom Thomas and his family worked to clean up the trash.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing organize to plan creates a sentence that means the same thing and fails to clarify with whom Thomas worked.
	Option H is incorrect	This change results in an unclear sentence because to "cancel trash does not make sense; the change also fails to clarify with whom Thomas worked.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing the trash to it results in a sentence that is even more unclear.

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3	Option D is correct	Deleting sentence 23 removes an extraneous detail since the writer's love of freshly cut grass is irrelevant to the revival of the basin and the rest of the paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	Sentence 20 is important because it is used to show how the basin looked before its revival.
	Option B is incorrect	Sentence 21 is not extraneous, as it is used as a transition between the idea in sentence 20 and the process of change that is described in the rest of the paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	Sentence 22 is important because it is used to introduce the beginning stages of the revival of the basin.

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5	Option A is correct	Deleting that is the music removes unnecessary repetition and improves the flow of the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The repetition of music is simply placed in a different location in the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The repetition of music is removed, but repetition of echoes is introduced.
	Option D is incorrect	The repetition of music is not removed, and additional awkward, repetitive sentence structure is introduced.

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6	Option J is correct	Changing to love it to I love it and adding "I" before "look after it" improve the final sentence by bringing the series into parallel grammatical structure, which enhances the clarity and flow of the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing to love it to I love it is appropriate, but changing look after it to looking after it inappropriately switches the verb tense and results in awkward sentence structure that lacks parallelism.
	Option G is incorrect	This revision results in an inaccurate change in meaning as well as awkward sentence structure that lacks parallelism.
	Option H is incorrect	This revision results in awkward sentence structure that lacks parallelism and clarity.

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8	Option H is correct	Combining sentences 6 and 7 in this way creates a more complete idea by including specific examples of background noises and sound effects, along with their recording limitations, all in one clear and concise sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	This combination results in a confusing sentence because these is an unclear reference, and it is also unclear what the examples (roaring cars, galloping horses, etc.) are intended to exemplify.
	Option G is incorrect	This combination results in an inaccurate change in meaning because the direct cause-and-effect relationship indicated by the use of when is overstated.
	Option J is incorrect	This combination results in a confusing sentence with inaccurate changes in meaning.

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11	Option D is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding <i>In addition</i> to the beginning of sentence 19 effectively builds upon the previous sentence by indicating that a new example will be provided.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding <i>Fortunately</i> to the beginning of sentence 19 would indicate that the idea in sentence 18 is unfortunate, which is not the case.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding <i>Finally</i> to the beginning of sentence 19 would indicate a chronological order of ideas or the closing of an extensive list, which is not how these sentences are organized.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding <i>As a result</i> to the beginning of sentence 19 would indicate that the ideas in sentence 18 caused the ideas in sentence 19, which is not the case.

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13	Option A is correct	

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14	Option G is correct	A double negative occurs when two negative words are used together and result in unclear meaning. Changing <i>isn't</i> to <i>is</i> corrects the double negative and corrects the meaning in the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	The word <i>there</i> is used correctly; <i>their</i> is a possessive pronoun used to indicate possession, which is not the intent in this sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing <i>closely</i> to <i>closer</i> introduces a grammatical error because <i>closer</i> would be used to suggest a comparison, and there is no comparison being made.
	Option J is incorrect	The word <i>it</i> cannot be used to refer to a person or to people. The word <i>them</i> correctly refers to the <i>many people</i> mentioned in the previous sentence.

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15	Option A is correct	Nouns and verbs must agree with one another in number. Since there are multiple parks, is should be changed to the plural form of the verb, which is are.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing made to the present-progressive form making results in an incorrect verb tense.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing especially to especialy would introduce a spelling error.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 8 unchanged would not correct the agreement error in the sentence.

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19	Option D is correct	Sentence 24 is a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that is not a complete sentence, because it lacks a subject. Combining sentences 23 and 24 with a comma and adding they as the subject corrects the sentence fragment and results in a correctly written compound sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Moving the period to after the word popular still results in a sentence fragment in sentence 24 and lacks clear meaning.
	Option B is incorrect	Moving the period to after the word areas still results in a sentence fragment in sentence 24. In

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20	Option F is correct	Changing the past tense <i>lived</i> to the present tense <i>live</i> brings the action into the present and corrects the error in verb-tense consistency. Although sentence 25 appropriately uses the past tense, the remainder of the paragraph consistently uses the present tense. 20 (the)649./ MCjuthe agr20 (the

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21	Option A is correct	Proper nouns are names that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event. Since the Meow Parlour is a specific place, it is a proper noun, and both words should be capitalized.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing <i>advance</i> to <i>advanced</i> introduces a grammatical error; <i>in advance</i> functions as an adverb meaning <i>ahead of time</i> , whereas <i>advanced</i> would function as an adjective or a past-tense verb and would not make sense.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing <i>large</i> to <i>larger</i> introduces a grammatical error because <i>larger</i> would be used to suggest a comparison, and there is no comparison being made.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the capitalization error.

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23	Option B is correct	Inserting a comma after <i>intriguing</i> corrects a grammatical error. The first clause in the sentence is a dependent clause, which cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, whereas the second clause is an independent clause, which can stand alone. When a dependent clause precedes an independent clause, a comma must follow the dependent clause.
	Option A is incorrect	A run-on sentence is an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly. Changing <i>Although the idea</i> to <i>The idea</i> would create a run-on sentence and would also weaken the clarity of the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	A double negative is an error that occurs when two negative words are used together. Changing <i>something</i> to <i>nothing</i> would create a double negative and would not make sense.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the grammatical error.

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24	Option J is correct	Changing <code>supply s</code> to <code>supplies</code> corrects the spelling and grammatical error in the sentence. <code>Supply s</code> would be used to indicate possession, but in this case the intent is to capture the plural of <code>supply</code> , which is <code>supplies</code> .
	Option F is incorrect	Changing <code>were</code> to <code>was</code> would create an error in subject-verb agreement. Since <code>we</code> is a plural pronoun, the verb that agrees is <code>were</code> . In addition, the use of the verb form <code>were</code> in sentences 9 and 10 is a correct application of the subjunctive mood. The subjunctive mood should be used when describing situations that are speculative, imaginary, or wishful. In these instances the plural form of the verb is used with both singular and plural subjects.
	Option G is incorrect	A semicolon is used to link two independent clauses. Since the first clause is dependent and cannot stand alone, replacing the comma with a semicolon would create a grammatical error. The comma correctly separates the dependent clause from the independent clause.
	Option H is incorrect	Adding a comma after <code>people</code> would create a punctuation error by interrupting the flow of the sentence for no reason.

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25	Option C is correct	Changing <i>to far</i> to <i>too far</i> corrects the grammatical error since the word <i>too</i> is the intensifying adverb that should be used to convey how far away the planet is.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the verb <i>is</i> to <i>was</i> incorrectly shifts the verb tense, suggesting that the planet is no longer there or that events have already occurred.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing <i>simply</i> to <i>simpley</i> would introduce a spelling error.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the grammatical error.

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Item#	Rationale	
26	Option G is correct	A proper noun is a name that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event. Since the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a specific place, it is a proper noun and all words should be capitalized.
	Option F is incorrect	A possessive noun shows possession by the addition of an apostrophe. As written, researchers correctly indicates a plural noun rather than a possessive noun. Adding an apostrophe creates a punctuation error.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing disagree to the present progressive form disagreeing does not make sense in this sentence and is grammatically incorrect.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 14 as is would not correct the capitalization error.

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27	Option A is correct	As written, sentence 16 includes a comma-splice error, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined only by a comma. Reorganizing the sentence in this way corrects the error and expresses the idea more clearly and concisely.
	Option B is incorrect	The general structure of this sentence is correct, but changing <code>says</code> to <code>saying</code> creates an error in verb tense.
	Option C is incorrect	A sentence fragment is a group of words that is not a complete sentence or thought. This change results in a sentence fragment beginning with <code>Who also says</code> .
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 16 as is would not correct the comma-splice error.

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28	Option J is correct	Changing <i>subsaquent</i> to <i>subsequent</i> corrects the spelling error.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing <i>say</i> to the past tense <i>said</i> results in an incorrect shift in verb tense because the writer is describing events that occur in the present, not the past.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing <i>there</i> to <i>they re</i> introduces a grammatical error because <i>they re</i> is used to indicate a contraction of a subject and verb (<i>they are</i>). <i>There</i> is used correctly to indicate a location.
	Option H is incorrect	Deleting the preposition <i>with</i> removes the key functional word from the prepositional phrase, which results in an incomplete idea.

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29	Option D is correct	Sentence 23 is written correctly as is, with correct punctuation of the elements in the series and with parallel grammatical structure.
	Option A is incorrect	Breaking up the sentence this way creates a sentence fragment, a group of words that is not a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Breaking up the sentence this way creates a sentence fragment, a group of words that is not a complete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	A run-on sentence is an error in which two main clauses are joined incorrectly. This revision results in

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30	Option H is correct	Changing the period in this sentence to a question mark corrects the punctuation error because this sentence is a question, not a statement, and should have a question mark.
	Option F is incorrect	The writer is asking if we as a society should take care of our problems, so changing the pronoun from we to you (to you take care) results in an incorrect shift in point of view and alters the meaning of the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing our own planet to our on planet would introduce a spelling error.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the punctuation error.