

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding the phrase “For this reason among others” to the beginning of sentence 6 creates an appropriate transition. In the preceding sentences the author provides facts about the Great Barrier Reef, so this transition connects the explanation that these facts contribute to the reef being a popular tourist destination.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the phrase “As a matter of concern” does not provide an appropriate transition between the facts about the Great Barrier Reef and the result of it being a popular tourist destination.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding the phrase “For further evidence” to sentence 6 does not provide a logical transition as there is no additional evidence provided in the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding the phrase “To wipe away any doubt” does not create an appropriate transition, as there is nothing in the preceding sentences that suggests doubts about the Great Barrier Reef being a popular tourist attraction.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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2	Option G is correct	A thesis statement is a statement that summarizes the main point or claim of a piece of writing. The

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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3	Option A is correct	A topic sentence captures the meaning of an entire paragraph. This sentence effectively introduces the idea that a variety of creatures have come to inhabit the Great Barrier Reef. These creatures are discussed throughout the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Although paragraph 3 is about marine species that inhabit the Great Barrier Reef, the idea that these species are threatened is not discussed in paragraph 3.
	Option C is incorrect	It is evident based on paragraph 3 that there is great biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef; however, there is no connection made between biodiversity and the long-term existence of the reef in the paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	Paragraph 3 is about marine animals that inhabit the Great Barrier Reef, but there is no information about researchers studying the animals included in the paragraph.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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4	Option H is correct	In sentences 22 through 25, the author provides examples of how the water surrounding the Great Barrier Reef is teeming with life and lists the different large and small animals that live there. Sentence 26 is redundant because it simply restates what has already been stated in the preceding sentences.
	Option F is incorrect	In sentence 24, Candice provides evidence about plankton that supports the paragraph's topic sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	In sentence 25, Candice provides examples of larger animals that live in the water around the Great Barrier Reef, supporting the topic sentence of the paragraph.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the paragraph intact fails to eliminate the redundant sentence 26.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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5	Option D is correct	A concluding sentence captures the overall meaning of the paper. The author reminds readers of her main points: the Great Barrier Reef is a beautiful and unique place that attracts millions of visitors from around the world.
	Option A is incorrect	Throughout her paper, the author illustrates the significance of the Great Barrier Reef but does not focus on protecting the reef, so concluding with this idea does not summarize the author's ideas.
	Option B is incorrect	Speculation about the Great Barrier Reef is provided in this sentence, not a concluding sentence that summarizes the author's main points.
	Option C is incorrect	The author focuses her entire paper on the Great Barrier Reef, so concluding with the idea that other natural wonders should be explored is off-topic.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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6	Option F is correct	The author begins her paper with the pronoun "They" and it is unclear who "They" refers to. Adding the phrase "Teachers and leaders at our school" clarifies who is telling students that they should become more involved in the community by volunteering their time.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "continually" to "always" replaces a word with an equally effective word and does not clarify the unclear pronoun "They" at the beginning of the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing "telling us" to "instructing us" replaces a phrase with another that has a similar meaning and does not clarify the unclear pronoun "They" at the beginning of the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing "community" with "surrounding neighborhood" does not improve the clarity of the sentence.

## 2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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7	Option C is correct	This sentence correctly combines and connects the two ideas into a single sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.
	Option B is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way creates a run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly. A comma is necessary after "school" in order to avoid this error.
	Option D is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way creates a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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8	Option F is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Adding this sentence connects the ideas about mentoring programs in paragraph 2 with the evidence about why mentoring programs are effective in paragraph 3.
	Option G is incorrect	Although mentoring programs are introduced in paragraph 2, the focus of paragraph 3 is on what the author has learned through her research on mentoring programs, not on her personal thoughts about mentoring programs.
	Option H is incorrect	A continuation of the ideas about helping students in paragraph 2 is presented, but then an idea that is not addressed in paragraph 3 is introduced.
	Option J is incorrect	Although mentoring programs are introduced in paragraph 2, the focus of paragraph 3 is on what the author has learned through her research on mentoring programs, not on her personal beliefs and opinions.





## 2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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10	Option F is correct	Changing the word "benefitial" to "beneficial" corrects the misspelling in this sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "people" would insert unnecessary punctuation between two words.
	Option H 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 "healthier" to its superlative form "healthiest" creates a usage error.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the misspelled word.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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11	Option D is correct	Replacing the comma after “pets” with a semicolon corrects the run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option A is incorrect	Replacing the comma after “pets” with a semicolon would correct the run-on sentence, but inserting a period after “without being judgmental” creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.
	Option B is incorrect	Inserting the semicolon after “without being judgmental” changes the intended meaning of the sentence to suggest that people, rather than pets, are being non out

## 2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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12	Option H is correct	Deleting the comma after "appropriate" removes unnecessary punctuation that would incorrectly separate information essential to the meaning of the sentence from the rest of the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing the word "minimal" to "minamal" would introduce a spelling error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "are" to the past-tense verb "were" creates a grammatical error since the sentence is in the present tense.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 26 unchanged would not correct the unnecessary punctuation.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
13	Option B is correct	The lowercase "until" should be capitalized as "Until" since it is the first word in a quotation that is a complete sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Proper nouns, which are nouns that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event, should be capitalized. In sentence 30, "poet" is not a proper noun so it should not be capitalized.
	Option C is incorrect	

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
14	Option J is correct	Replacing theacing eplacing

## 2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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15	Option A is correct	Changing the verb “have run” to the past-tense verb “ran” corrects a verb-tense error in the sentence, as the events being described took place in the past.
	Option B is incorrect	Removing the comma after “year” would create a run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the past tense “was forced” to the present tense “is forced” creates a verb-tense error, as the events being described took place in the past.
	Option D is incorrect	Making no change would not correct the verb-tense error in the sentence.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
16	Option G is correct	Changing "whom" to



## 2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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17	Option D is correct	As written, there are no errors in the sentence. Therefore, no changes are necessary.
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “performance” would introduce punctuation that unnecessarily separates phrases.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing the comma after “1926” to a semicolon would create a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the word “mechanical” to “machanical” introduces a spelling error in the sentence.



2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
20	Option J is correct	The coaches at IMG ca( .L /GS1 0 1 K 19.706 w /GS1 .w/GS1 0 1 K t) 649.2 ( at futu

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
22	Option H is correct	Throughout the article, the author provides information about IMG Academies, the coaches who work there, and the students who enroll in the school in hopes of fulfilling their dreams. The author's purpose is to inform readers about this unique school and the students who attend it.
	Option F is incorrect	purple2 ( of ( is ) 649.1 ( to ) 649.1 ( ton ) 649.2 ( beend ) 649.2highlight649.1 ( infthor'19

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
24	Option J is correct	At each level of the pyramid depicted in the graphic, the number of players decreases. There are approximately 2,000,000 kids who play Little League in the United States, but only 750 individuals who play in the Major Leagues. This information is included to emphasize how each level of competition in baseball becomes more selective.
	Option F is incorrect	The graphic is used to illustrate that fewer athletes are able to play baseball at each higher level. It does not provide information about their preferences.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no information provided in the graphic to suggest that Little League baseball players participate in multiple sports when they reach high school.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence provided in the graphic to suggest that playing Little League is necessary in order to become a major-league player later in life.
25	Option A is correct	In paragraphs 17 through 20, the author describes the interaction between pitching coach Dave Shepard and player Cameron Varga to illustrate that the coach wants his players to always strive to improve.
	Option B is incorrect	The author provides the interaction in paragraphs 17 through 20 to illustrate that pitching coach Dave Shepard wants to help his player improve. He is not concerned about winning games quickly.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraphs 17 through 20, there is no evidence to suggest that player Cameron Varga is confident in his ability to succeed playing for the University of Florida team.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraphs 17 through 20, there is no reference to the speed of Cameron Varga's pitches.



2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
28	Option G is correct	The definition “prove or confirm to be true” best matches the meaning of <u>validated</u> as it is used in paragraph 3. The author contrasts the school environment, where exams and success at sports prove or confirm a person’s progress or value, with the “real messy world” where progress is not <u>validated</u> in such a concrete way.
	Option F is incorrect	The author does not refer to any declarations or legal measures in paragraph 3 of the article.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no reference made to approving “an expressed agreement” in paragraph 3.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author uses the word <u>validated</u> to refer to confirmation of truth, not to marking
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2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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30	Option J is correct	By explaining the concept of being an “also-ran,” the author describes someone who enjoys participating in a contest even though he or she does not win. The quotation from paragraph 9 expresses the author’s positive viewpoint of “also-rans” who “finish third in a three-horse race.”
	Option F is incorrect	The author’s quotation from paragraph 2 does not support his viewpoint regarding being an “also-ran.”
	Option G is incorrect	The author’s description of his house in paragraph 7 does not provide any explanation of his viewpoint regarding being an “also-ran.”
	Option H is incorrect	The author’s description of Naomi and Kean in paragraph 6 suggests that they will be successful in competitions; however, it does not provide an explanation of his viewpoint about being an “also-ran.”
31	Option A is correct	In paragraph 3, the author contrasts his education with his experience in the “real messy world.” Based on the details provided, the reader can conclude that the author’s education did not fully prepare him for life outside the “sanctuaries of high school and University.”
	Option B is incorrect	Based on the details in paragraph 3, the reader can conclude that the author was successful at both sports and academics while in school. He presents no evidence that he was better at sports than academics while growing up.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author does state that he attended “an elite school” in paragraph 2, there are not enough details provided in paragraph 3 for readers to compare the educational priorities at elite and public schools.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author provides no evidence that students in England are required to attend school through the university level.





2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
34	Option G is correct	In the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," the coaches are realistic about the chances players have of reaching the big leagues. The coaches emphasize characteristics and traits that will help their players succeed in any endeavor, rather than focus on winning and athletic achievement. These ideas contrast with the attitude of being "better than others" and the idea that "achievement and winning were all-important" found in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans."
	Option F is incorrect	In the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," Ketch is emphasizing his passion for baseball. This quotation does not contrast with the attitude expressed in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans."
	Option H is incorrect	This quotation does not contrast with the attitude expressed in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans." Bolek is reflecting on how his job is about more than baseball in the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers."
	Option J is incorrect	The idea that many of the coaches have dedicated years to the game of baseball is expressed in the quotation from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers." This does not contrast with the attitude expressed in the quotation from paragraph 2 of "I Believe in the Also-Rans."
35	Option B is correct	The authors of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" and "I Believe in the Also-Rans" discuss competition and achievement. Both authors include anecdotes to support their main ideas. In the first selection, the author describes Ketchum Marsh and his experience at an elite baseball academy. In the second selection, the author describes a race between his daughter and two of her friends.
	Option A is incorrect	Neither the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" nor the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" provide definitions of key terms in order to add meaning to their texts.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" includes quotations from coaches who have coached in the big leagues and now work at IMG, the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" does not include quotations from any experts.
	Option D is incorrect	Neither the author of "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" nor the author of "I Believe in the Also-Rans" use a cause-and-effect organizational structure to highlight the relationships between key ideas.



2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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37	Option C is correct	In paragraph 32 from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers," Ketchum Marsh explains that it is unlikely for kids growing up with dreams of becoming a professional baseball player to actually achieve that reality. In paragraph 3 from "I Believe in the Also-Rans," the author compares the "sanctuaries of high school and University," where he achieved success in class and on the sports field, to the "real messy world," where success is not as easily or clearly achieved. Both paragraphs are included to illustrate the contrasting realities between adult life and early experiences.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 32 from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" and paragraph 3 from "I Believe in the Also-Rans," the authors focus more on potential challenges people face as an adult than on early disappointments leading to long-term failure.
	Option B is incorrect	
	<del>Option B is incorrect</del>	<del>In paragraph 32 from "A Baseball School for Big-League Dreamers" and paragraph 3 from "I Believe in the Also-Rans," the authors focus more on potential challenges people face as an adult than on early disappointments leading to long-term failure.</del>

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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39	Option C is correct	In the first sentence of the excerpt, the main conflict—the men finding the boys’ rooftop garden—is initiated. The plot is set in motion immediately with this conflict established.
	Option A is incorrect	Foreshadowing is a literary element that offers a warning or indication of future events. In the first sentence, the story’s conflict is initiated, but there is no foreshadowing regarding the resolution.
	Option B is incorrect	The main character, T. J., is not introduced until paragraph 6.
	Option D is incorrect	A question is presented in paragraph 1, but it is answered in paragraphs 5 through 8 of the selection.
40	Option J is correct	Readers can conclude that the boys worked hard to carry soil up onto the roof of the building. From this context, readers can determine that <u>laboriously</u> means “Slowly and with difficulty.”
	Option F is incorrect	Although the soil is clearly important to the boys, there is no evidence that they paid money for the soil.
	Option G is incorrect	T. J. and the boys seem pleased with their rooftop garden, but the context does not provide support to “For good reason” as the meaning of <u>laboriously</u> .
	Option H is incorrect	Before scooping dirt off the roof, T. J. yells, “I won’t let ‘em lay a dirty hand on it.” Based on this context, readers can conclude that <u>laboriously</u> does not mean “quietly and in secrecy.”

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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41	Option C is correct	Irony is a type of figurative language where the author expresses the opposite of what is expected. Despite T. J.'s assertion in paragraph 20 that "It's our earth. It's our land. Can't nobody touch a man's own land," T. J. is actually growing his garden on the roof of a building owned by someone else. Although T. J. believes he has a right to grow a garden on the roof of the building, the opposite is true.
	Option A is incorrect	The irony found in the quotation from paragraph 20 comes from T. J.'s belief that he has a right to grow his garden on the roof of a building owned by someone else. The irony is not in T. J.'s love of the outdoors.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no mention of the men and their concerns over the abandoned rooftop in the quotation from paragraph 20.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 31, the narrator observes that "the task of destruction is infinitely easier than that of creation," but there is not a direct connection regarding irony between this idea and the quotation from paragraph 20.
42	Option G is correct	A theme, or central message, of the excerpt is the idea that people take pride in their work. When T. J. learns that the owner of the building plans to destroy his garden, he tells the man, "We toted it up here, and it's our earth. We planted it and raised it and toted it up here." Later, in paragraph 27, he "fiercely" tells his friends, "They ain't gonna touch my earth." T. J. and the other boys are clearly proud of the work they have done.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the adults are not supportive of the boys' accomplishment of planting a rooftop garden, their response is in the interest of protecting their property, not because they have lost a sense of accomplishment.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 10, the narrator compares the adults on the rooftop to other authority figures such as police officers and teachers. There is no sense that the boys are relying on the adults to maintain order; instead, they wish to defy the adults.
	Option J is incorrect	Although T. J. creates a green space on the roof of the building, the space is only valuable to him and his friends. There is no message about the general value of green spaces.

2019 STAAR English I Rationales

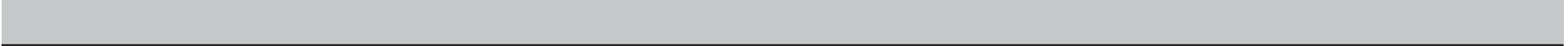
Item#	Rationale	
43	Option D is correct	In paragraph 26, the narrator describes a “decision working” in T. J.’s face. T. J. then turns and heads back up the fire escape in paragraph 28 to take action. He has clearly made a decision to destroy the garden so that the adults cannot do so, and when the other boys join him on the roof, he has them help him take action.
	Option A is incorrect	Although T. J. is defiant toward the men who want to destroy his garden, he acts out of pride and attachment to his work rather than out of difficulty following rules.
	Option B is incorrect	Readers can conclude that T. J. is the leader of the group of boys, but there is no evidence to support the idea that he enjoys this role.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the other boys are surprised by T. J.’s behavior, they follow his lead. There is no evidence to support the idea that they view him as immature.
44	Option J is correct	In paragraph 24, T. J. asks his friends, “‘We can’t stop them?’” referring to the men who plan on destroying his garden. In paragraph 25, T. J.’s friend Blackie responds with finality, “‘No. . .they own the building.’” Blackie’s response is intended to convince T. J. that resisting the adults is pointless in this situation.
	Option F is incorrect	Blackie lets T. J. know it is pointless to resist the men, but there is no evidence that he supports their claim or their decision.
	Option G is incorrect	Blackie reminds T. J. that the men who want to destroy the garden own the building. He then goes back up onto the roof with T. J. to help him. There is no evidence of the boys wishing to go against T. J.
	Option H is incorrect	The words “‘They own the building’” are not used to indicate that the men’s actions are limited. Rather, Blackie’s statement is used to show that the men have the power to make the rules and follow through.





## 2019 STAAR English I Rationales

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47	Option B is correct	The theme, or central message, of the poem is that cherished objects can create connections between family members. The speaker received a cherished desk from her father, who had used the desk as a child and throughout college. The speaker passes down the beloved piece of furniture to her child, promising him or her that one day they'll work on the desk together.
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker desires the desk not because her father valued it, but because of the connection it creates between family members.
	Option C is incorrect	The desk is extraordinary to the speaker, and she believes her child will feel the same way about it someday. The speaker does not suggest that someone else may find the desk ordinary.
	Option D is incorrect	The speaker states that the desk stimulates her imagination. However, she does not suggest that it will be made new again by using imagination.
48	Option H is correct	The speaker's father used the desk as a child and in college, then refinishes and passes it on to the speaker. The desk then accompanies the speaker throughout her life, and she is excited to pass the desk along to her young child, who is just starting out in life. Thus, the desk represents new beginnings that come with each generation.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker's father refinishes the desk, and the speaker suggests that she and her child will eventually strip the finish and repaint the desk. However, the desk represents new beginnings that come with each generation, not simply changes in style.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker's father and the speaker both care about the desk, and the speaker hopes her child will feel the same way, the desk represents new beginnings that come with each generation rather than pride that comes from caring for possessions.
	Option J is incorrect	The desk does inspire the speaker's creativity, but it represents new beginnings as it is passed down through generations.




2019 STAAR English I Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
51	Option A is correct	