

2021 STAAR English I Rationales

1	Option B is correct	Adding a comma after the first sentence and changing “I said” to “saying” is the most effective way to combine sentences 2 and 3.
	Option A is incorrect	Combining sentences in this way introduces an error in the sequence of events. Veronica offers to pay her parents back before her father tells her no.
	Option C is incorrect	By combining the sentences in this way, Veronica creates a run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option D is incorrect	Making this change makes the sentence unnecessarily wordy and introduces a grammar error.

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2	Option F is correct	Replacing “use” with “waste” creates a more effective sentence because it emphasizes the importance of not spending money impulsively.
	Option G is incorrect	People do not “designate” the money in their savings accounts on impulsive purchases, so the word “designate” is not the most effective word to use in this sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	The word “need” is not an effective word to use in this sentence. The purpose of a savings account is for a person to have money when one needs it, but one would not be less likely to “need” it on an impulsive purchase.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the word “employ” can be used to mean to “use,” people do not “employ” money on an impulsive purchase.

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4	Option F is correct	

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5	Option C is correct	A call to action is a statement that encourages the reader to consider an idea or change a behavior. Inserting this sentence after sentence 25 provides an effective call to action because it tells teens exactly what Veronica recommends.
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting this sentence does not provide a call to action. Instead it provides Veronica's opinion about something parents should do.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence is a general statement about teen behavior, not a call to action for teenagers.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence is a statement; it does not encourage the reader to consider an idea or change a behavior.

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7	Option C is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Replacing sentence 7 with this sentence strengthens the transition between the second and third paragraph because it more appropriately signals a negative event involving the garden.
	Option A is incorrect	Using “Additionally” would suggest that the garden’s destruction supports the ideas in paragraph 2, instead of providing a sharp contrast.
	Option B is incorrect	Although using this question could suggest that some event will happen, it does not convey the idea that the event will be unfortunate.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence relates only to the positive events described in paragraph 2, and no connection to the contrasting information in sentences 7 and 8 is provided.

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9	Option A is correct	The most effective place to insert this sentence is after sentence 21 because it explains the challenges the children faced in maintaining the sculpture garden, which is an idea introduced in sentence 21.
	Option B is incorrect	Inserting this sentence after sentence 22 puts the ideas out of logical order by presenting the effect (the garden falling into disrepair) before the cause (not enough money to maintain it).
	Option C is incorrect	Adding this sentence after sentence 23 is not the most effective place for the sentence because the ideas in the two sentences are not closely connected.
	Option D is incorrect	Placing this sentence after sentence 24 is not effective because the information does not logically flow from one sentence to the other.

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10	Option G is correct	Changing “florished” to “flourished” corrects the spelling error in this sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing “have” to “has” is incorrect because the subject of this phrase, “people,” is plural, not singular. The subject and verb must agree in number.
	Option H is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “islands” would create an error by adding unnecessary punctuation between two words.
	Option J is incorrect	Adding an apostrophe would create an error because “thousands” is plural, not possessive.

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11	Option A is correct	Capitalizing "University" corrects the error in sentence 14 since the University of Iowa is a proper noun, which is a noun that refers to a specific person, place, idea, or event.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "maintaining" to "having maintained" would introduce an error in verb tense.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing "has" to "have" introduces a problem with the subject-verb agreement because the subject of this phrase is singular, not plural.
	Option D is incorrect	The word "historically" is used to describe the verb "played," so it should remain an adverb. The word "historical" is an adjective, which would modify a noun.

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12	Option H is correct	Changing "were" to "are" corrects the error in verb tense by changing sentence 16 to the present tense.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing "isolated" to "isollated" introduces a spelling error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Deleting the comma after "people" creates a punctuation error because the comma is needed.
	Option J is incorrect	The word "their" is a plural possessive pronoun used to indicate possession, so it is the correct form to use in this sentence.

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13	Option C is correct	Making this revision improves clarity because it accurately states the cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	This revision creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that do not form a complete sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way results in a comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected with only a comma.
	Option D is incorrect	

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14	Option G is correct	Subject-verb agreement is when the subject and the verb of a sentence agree in number. Changing "is using" to "are using" corrects the error in subject-verb agreement because the subject, "kids," is plural.
	Option F is incorrect	This comma is needed to separate the parenthetical element ("including me") from the rest of the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Making this change creates an error in homophones, which are words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spelling.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as it is does not correct the error in subject-verb agreement.

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15	Option A is correct	Adding the conjunction “but” corrects the comma-splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected with only a comma.
	Option B is incorrect	This change would result in the improper use of a colon since a colon is used to introduce a list or to further explain or illustrate an idea.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing the comma to a period results in a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that do not form a complete sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Inserting a period results in a sentence fragment.

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17	Option D is correct	

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21	Option D is correct	In paragraph 6, the description of Miss Chevalier is used to emphasize the contrast between her unusual appearance and her congenial personality. Miss Chevalier is small and short, with a “moon face and chubby fingers and coppery hair” like a poodle, but she is very nice.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no mention of Miss Chevalier’s demands in this paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	Addie explains that Miss Chevalier is a few inches shorter than Addie, but the contrast between them is not emphasized in the paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	Addie explains that Miss Chevalier’s smile “makes you feel like you just did something right,” but this is not just toward Addie.
22	Option J is correct	Addie compares the settlement home to a lantern in paragraph 1 to symbolize the house as a comforting place in a poverty-stricken neighborhood. The house is a bright, warm haven for the residents of the neighborhood.
	Option F is incorrect	The building lights up the dark street, which suggests the warm and welcoming aspect of a lantern, not judgment.
	Option G is incorrect	There is nothing about the house’s comparison to a bright, welcoming lantern that suggests that its services are taken for granted.
	Option H is incorrect	There is nothing about the house’s comparison to a bright, welcoming lantern that suggests that its architecture is particularly beautiful.
23	Option C is correct	A theme, or central message, of the selection is the importance of the power of encouragement. Throughout the selection Addie describes how Miss Chevalier’s encouragement influences her.
	Option A is incorrect	Addie does not have to defend her rights in this selection.
	Option B is incorrect	Other people’s struggle for survival is mentioned in paragraph 2, but Addie’s experience in this selection is not a matter of survival.
	Option D is incorrect	Addie works hard to learn the poem, but there is no indication that she is trying to get ahead by doing so.

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24	Option H is correct	This quotation is used to emphasize Miss Chevalier’s compassionate nature. In paragraph 7, Addie gets embarrassed, and in paragraph 8, her face turns bright red. Miss Chevalier doesn’t want to make Addie feel bad about being embarrassed, so she pretends not to notice.
	Option F is incorrect	Asking Addie to recite a poem does not show that Miss Chevalier is compassionate, only that she thinks Addie is a good reader.
	Option G is incorrect	Asking Addie to define a word does not show Miss Chevalier’s compassion, only her interest in Addie’s education.
	Option J is incorrect	This quotation is used to emphasize a detail about Addie’s life (she has never been asked for her opinion), not Miss Chevalier’s compassion.
25	Option D is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The imagery in lines 1 through 4 appeals to the reader’s sense of hearing through the poet’s use of “sound,” “clatter,” “knock,” “stuck,” and “pounding.”
	Option A is incorrect	In lines 1 through 4, there is no mention of how any of the described objects felt.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the reader can picture these events, sounds, rather than sights, are depicted by the diction and imagery.
	Option C is incorrect	No tastes or flavors are described in these lines.

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26	Option F is correct	In lines 57 through 62, the poet implies that future generations will remember Sybil's deed by stating that the

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28	Option F is correct	The phrases "Clatter of hoofs," "fist struck wood," and "mighty pounding" all contribute to the idea that something momentous is happening. The poet emphasizes the urgency with which the message was delivered with his description of Danbury burning and the rider falling "exhausted in slumber."
	Option G is incorrect	The punctuation is straightforward and does not enhance the setting in any way.
	Option H is incorrect	The main characters are not introduced in these lines.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no metaphor used in these lines.
29	Option C is correct	A theme, or central message, of the poem is that confronting danger requires courage and fortitude. In lines 22 through 30, Sybil confidently offers to spread the message. She rides "swiftly without a stop" (line 39), and even when she is tired and sore (lines 47 and 48), she rides on until the task is done.
	Option A is incorrect	Sybil spreads the message because her father needs someone to do it, which suggests that family is important to her. There is no indication in the poem that "personal sacrifice is more important than family."
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication that the Colonel's trust in Sybil leads to new realizations. He knows Sybil is capable.
	Option D is incorrect	Sybil is not accepting fate. She eagerly volunteered to make the ride.

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32	Option J is correct	Sybil's main motivation in lines 47 through 52 is to prove to her father that she is dependable. She is tired and sore but continues on her journey until every soldier has received the message. She wants to show her father "That he could depend on a Ludington" (line 52).
	Option F is incorrect	Sybil is tired in line 47, but she rides on, expressing no desire to return home and rest.
	Option G is incorrect	Sybil claims she can ride as well as a man (lines 28 and 29) only so that her father will trust her to ride; she is not concerned with proving anything about females in general.
	Option H is incorrect	In lines 47 through 52, the poet describes Sybil's determination but does not mention her "feelings about the war effort."
33	Option C is correct	The conflict of the poem is best identified in this quote. To make the ride a success, Sybil had to be impetuous in both senses of the word. She had to rush with force and determination to push through her exhaustion, and she also had to act suddenly because her message was urgent.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Sybil's feet do not touch the ground when she's riding home, a happy feeling rather than a

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34	Option F is correct	Addie differs from Sybil in that Addie has doubts about her abilities (she feels nervous about practicing the poem and she becomes embarrassed when she doesn't know the meaning of impetuous) while Sybil is certain about her abilities (she convinces her father that she is the right person to deliver the message).
	Option G is incorrect	Addie does get embarrassed in paragraph 8 of <i>Sybil</i> show confidence in her parade
Option A is incorrect		
		Addie is going to be the one to announce the arrival of the famous paragon of paragraph 8 of <i>Sybil</i>

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39	Option A is correct	The author’s advice is to focus on one big idea, which is a practical way to approach writing and speaking.
	Option B is incorrect	

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42	Option F is correct	In paragraph 8, the author advises readers to focus on “expertise” or “passion” and then “what inspires you” or “drives you insane” about this topic.
	Option G is incorrect	This option is incorrect. The author believes that an idea must be worth sharing, as supported by the quotation in paragraph 5: “The only thing that truly matters in public speaking is . . . having something worth saying.”
	Option H is incorrect	There is no support for this idea in the selection. The author does not mention the frequency of topics chosen but instead advises the reader to focus on an area of expertise or passion.
	Option J is incorrect	The author emphasizes that the topic should be something the reader cares about but does not state that others must share that concern.
43	Option C is correct	The author’s message is repeated by Humes, who asserts that having a “key message” is important in several professional situations.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 14, there is a mention of past historical speakers in Hume’s book title. There is no support for the idea that “great speakers in the past” have used the author’s advice.
	Option B is incorrect	Although a “sales talk” is mentioned, the point is that the strategy would help the salesperson, not that being a salesperson would be necessary.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 14, the author focuses on a speechwriter’s opinion, but there is no support for the idea that most world leaders rely on professional writers.
44	Option G is correct	The idea that “anyone” can give a “powerful talk” is encouraging to readers who want to be effective speakers.
	Option F is incorrect	The author cites Chris Anderson to illustrate her views, not justify them.
	Option H is incorrect	The opinion expressed by Anderson is not in conflict with the author’s opinion.
	Option J is incorrect	In the quotation, Chris Anderson explicitly states that the key to effective communication is not talent but having an idea worth sharing.

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47	Option D is correct	The notion that the automobile could travel at such speeds indicates that many people were unfamiliar with automobiles of that time. In paragraph 8, one newspaper mistakenly reported that the vehicle might fly by “at 90 miles per hour” even though the reality was closer to 20 miles per hour.
	Option A is incorrect	This quotation supports the idea that automobiles were not easily purchased but does not necessarily show how familiar people were with automobiles.
	Option B is incorrect	The purchase of a used automobile for a high price indicates only that automobiles were highly valued because they were difficult to obtain. Whether many people were familiar with them is not addressed in this quotation.
	Option C is incorrect	The necessity for goggles only supports the conditions of the roads on dry days. There is no evidence relating to the public’s familiarity with automobiles.
48	Option F is correct	The author’s main purpose for writing this article is to inform the reader about a unique journey at the beginning of the automobile era. The author provides a chronological account of Jackson’s trip, highlighting the challenges and successes of the trip.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author mentions Jackson’s expenses for the trip and that he made a bet, the author does not criticize Jackson.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author writes that Jackson avoids Nevada and the Rocky Mountains, the author does not state that Jackson’s route was the best.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 9, the author states that Packard completed the trip faster than Jackson did.

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49	Option C is correct	The best summary of the article is presented in this sentence. Dr. Horatio Nelson Jackson's goal, the obstacles

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51	Option B is correct	Based on the article, the reader can conclude that Jackson welcomed the challenge of making a never-before-completed trip. Jackson wanted to disprove a belief about automobiles and was “enthusiastic about new vehicles” (paragraph 1).
	Option A is incorrect	Jackson tried hard to complete the trip within the agreed-upon time, but there is nothing to suggest it was a source of worry for him.
	Option C is incorrect	Jackson’s effort was hindered by wrong directions, but there is nothing to suggest he was annoyed by them.
	Option D is incorrect	Jackson made an effort to make the vehicle safe (paragraphs 4 and 5), but there is no evidence to suggest that he was concerned about the spectators’ safety.
52	Option F is correct	In paragraph 5, in order to complete their journey, Jackson and Crocker “used wheels wrapped with rope.” This shows Jackson and Crocker’s inventiveness as they do not let punctured tires keep them from continuing their journey.
	Option G is incorrect	Buying a 9.2ey52 eneg 9.2(them)] TJ -5.822 -1.4 Td,c5 .193.573Opt.2(dT 0 -9.978 7n)1 /A2(