

2023 STAAR Grade 10 Reading Rationales

1	Option A is correct	The author describes feeling “reluctant and unenthusiastic” (paragraph 2) about meeting up with her friends. Because the people she is meeting are her friends and the author made the plans “excitedly,” the reader can infer that the author wishes she did not feel this way.
	Option B is incorrect	The author explains that she is traveling home to Turkey in paragraph 2, but she says nothing to suggest that she has been away for too long.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author suggests in paragraph 1 that she is “dreading” the effort it will take to visit friends, there is nothing in paragraphs 1 through 3 the reader can use to infer that she feels nervous about seeing them.
	Option D is incorrect	Only one social outing is mentioned in paragraphs 1 through 3 by the author, which does not imply that she has made too many plans.

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2	Option A is correct	To “grouse” is to complain and using the word “chore” suggests work that is tedious. The author includes these words to convey a feeling of dread about the upcoming activity.





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5	Option B is correct	In paragraph 18, the author uses the word <u>alleviate</u> to mean that “negative consequences” are made less severe. The context of the sentence suggests that “relaxing the structure” makes weekend activities feel less like work.
	Option A is incorrect	Because a decision is not being made in paragraph 18, no context can be used to support the idea that <u>alleviate</u> means to make a decision.
	Option C is incorrect	To emphasize means to give more stress or attention to something. The context of this sentence is used to suggest the exact opposite: that the negative consequences are eased, rather than made worse.
	Option D is incorrect	Although using the word “disregard” can indicate that negative consequences are being avoided, <u>alleviate</u> specifically means that the consequences are reduced, not avoided entirely, which is more appropriate in this context.

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6	Option D is correct  Option A is incorrect	In this quotation from paragraph 17, the author concedes to the argument that plans cannot always be made spontaneously (“For those who do need to make plans days or weeks in advance”) and offers a solution, “rough scheduling.”

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7	Option A is correct	In last sentence of paragraph 17, the author proposes an alternative: "rough scheduling." The author explains that this alternative relaxes "structure" (paragraph 18) and proposes that the reader try making plans more flexible (paragraph 19).
	Option B is incorrect	The author's purpose in this section is not to reinforce the claim that scheduling "will take the fun out of everything"; instead, the information is included to propose an alternative to this claim.
	Option C is incorrect	Although this section appears in the article's conclusion, the author does not include the information in the section to summarize and restate the key arguments in the article.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no recognition of a counterargument by the author in this section; however, the information is used to propose an alternative ("solution") to the consequence of the key argument.







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10	Option D is correct	The conclusion of the study is important to understanding the key idea that leisure activities are less fun when stringently scheduled.
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11	Option B is correct	Definition 2 is correct because both "Kirribilli Wharf" and the Wave Organ <u>amplify</u> , or increase, the importance of the "rhythm of the waves," which is utilized in both works to create music.
	Option A is incorrect	The "rhythm of the waves" is not expanded by closer analysis.
	Option C is incorrect	The "rhythm of the waves" is not made complete by "Kirribilli Wharf" and the Wave Organ.

Option



13

Option C is correct

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14	Option D is correct	In paragraph 13, the author describes how the artist Peter Richards “intentionally alters the physical landscape” and “uses[s] pipes and the waves of San Francisco Bay” to make a sculpture that creates “musical sounds on purpose.”
	Option A is incorrect	Richards may have been inspired by a work of art, Fontana’s recording, but that detail is not used to support the key idea that the Wave Organ is also a work of art.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Richards used pipes to create the Wave Organ, including the material the artist used does not provide enough information to support the key idea that the Wave Organ is a work of art.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea that the Wave Organ is a work of art is not determined by where it is located; however, the waves in the natural environment are part of its artistic effect.



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Option B is correct	The speaker is most likely an adult returning to a place he visited in his youth because the speaker uses past tense to convey the memory of the experience: "Where a boy once found . . . The cascading of Leaping Falls." (lines 9 and 12).
Option A is incorrect	The speaker is most likely not a boy exploring a new environment, because the memory is conveyed in past tense: "And so it was I sheered . . . Where a boy once found . . ." (lines 1 and 9).
Option C is incorrect	Because the speaker refers to the journey as "The forgotten journey of a child," the speaker is most likely not a pioneer discovering an unknown land







18

Option A

19

Option B is correct

20	Option A is correct	The theme is shown in the article through the author's description of the Wave Organ
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21	Option A is correct	In the paragraph from the article, “Fontana recorded ‘Kirribilli Wharf’ ” and later “recalled how he did it.” The rhythm of the lines from the poem are used to recreate the natural sound of the icicles falling by flowing each line into the next with rhythm reflective of that falling. The speaker’s language choices add to that rhythm, as in lines 28-30, “ the falls / Leapt at their ledges, ringing / Down the rocks and on each other.”
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the article compares the sound of the waves to the sound of “a hand tapping an African drum” (paragraph 6), but the speaker of the poem does not compare the sound of falling icicles to speech.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 6 of the article does not include a description of the silence before a sound was created, and the lines from the poem include a description of a sound “That rings and ceases,” not continuous sounds (line 32).

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23	Option D is correct	In this quotation, the phrase “her mind worked better” can be used to support the idea that Thea’s room serves as a place for reflection (paragraph 5).
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase “was snugly lined with soft pine” is used to suggest that the room was comfortable, but the author does not use the quotation to indicate that the room serves as a place of reflection (paragraph 2).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the reader can infer from this quotation that Thea reads in her room, the quotation does not include information to support the idea that the room serves as a place of reflection.
	Option C is incorrect	This quotation

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24	Option A is correct	In paragraph 3, the author includes the detail about leaving the window open to show that Thea will endure the cold to protect her singing voice: "Thea asked Dr. Archie about the window, and he told her that a girl who sang must always have plenty of fresh air, or her voice would get husky . . ."
	Option B is incorrect	Although Thea leaves the window open "against her mother's advice," Thea is following the advice of Dr. Archie, which does not support the idea that Thea resists authority (paragraph 3).
	Option C is incorrect	Although Thea's mother advises that the window be kept closed, there is no evidence that Thea believes her family is overprotective.
	Option D is incorrect	Thea's decision to leave the window open follows the recommendation of Dr. Archie but does not follow the advice of her mother or Tillie.





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	Option C is correct	The author reveals, through the description in paragraph 6, that Thea was busy "during the day" as "one of the Kronborg children." Thea found time to be alone at night when "she had no clock, and there was no one there to nag her."
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author writes in paragraph 6 "when the hours were full of tasks, she was one of the Kronborg children," the author does not indicate that childhood is what Thea desires to escape. Thea wants to be alone with "no one to nag her."
	Option B is incorrect	Thea lives a "double life" because during the day she is busy and among the other "

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27	Option A is correct	The idea of Thea “receiving an isolated room” in her house is critical to understanding the plot of the story. In paragraph 5 the author reveals that receiving the room “was one of the most important things that ever happened to” Thea.
	Option B is incorrect	“Tillie helps Thea paper the room” is too minor of a detail for the overall summary.
	Option C is incorrect	The summary paragraph already includes the information that Thea’s family helps her “furnish” the room. The detail describing the “dresser with a broken mirror” is too specific to include in the summary.
	Option D is incorrect	The detail that “Dr. Archie tells Thea that a singer needs to get plenty of fresh air” is important to understanding why Thea leaves her window open but is not necessary to understanding the plot. It does not need to be included in the summary.



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29	Option B is correct	In paragraph 5, the room Thea obtains is described as “one of the most important things that ever happened to her” because it created “the beginning of a new era” where “[s]he thought things out more clearly” and “she had certain thoughts which were like companions.” Thea uses the room as a refuge for reflection.
	Option A is incorrect	The nineteenth-century household items described in paragraph 2 merely contribute to establishing the time period and are not

30	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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31	Option A is correct	Replacing "it" with "a strange smell" clearly describes and adds clarification to the encountered problem Sophia comes across, "A bit of gray smoke was seeping out of the edges of the oven. . . ."
	Option B is incorrect	The reader can infer that Sophia has encountered "a problem," but Mariko needs to clarify what the specific problem is.
	Option C is incorrect	



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Option



33	For SCR Items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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34	Option B is correct Option A is incorrect	The addition of the infinitive verb "see" provides clarity and places equal emphasis on the idea "to just open the windows." Although Sophia is opening the windows for the purpose of seeing if that will fix the problem, "seeing" is the incorrect form of the verb in



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36	Option C is correct	The word “apparently” is the most effective transition to use in this sentence because it signals an explanation of the discovery Sophia makes in the preceding sentence: “That must have been what happened!”
	Option A is incorrect	Although the mistake described in the passage is an accident, “accidentally” does not logically connect the information in sentences 25 and 26.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 26, Mariko does not provide an example of anything; she elaborates on the discovery Sophia makes in sentence 25. Therefore, “for example” is not an effective transitional phrase in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	“In the meantime” could introduce a description of how



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38	Option B is correct	Adding this sentence, with the statistical evidence that that Big Bend contains "[n]early a quarter of the animal species native to North America," best supports the claim in sentence 8 and the topic sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	This option

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39	Option D is correct	This transition sentence best connects the third and fourth paragraphs because the phrase “cooler water” relates by contrast to the closure of the fourth paragraph, which discusses warm water, and “rent a raft” introduces the topic of the fourth paragraph: paddling.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the second person “you” is used to directly address the reader, which is inconsistent with the tone of the essay and does not provide an effective transition, or connection, between the paragraphs.
	Option B is incorrect	Although it is reasonable to say that the activities the third and fourth paragraphs describe can be “fun and exciting,” these opinion words are not consistent with the informative tone and purpose of the essay. As used in the fourth paragraph, the words “rafting and paddling” are redundant.
	Option C is incorrect	This sentence is not concise and does not effectively connect the third and fourth paragraphs because it introduces the idea that rivers create canyons.

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40	Option B is correct	The new sentence contains additional evidence that explains the "signs of the park's early indigenous inhabitants" (sentence 27). The "chipped stone tools" are signs, and "dating back over 12,000 years" specifies the time period the author means with the word "early."
	Option A is incorrect	Whereas sentence 26 features the mention of "many historic sites," the new sentence is about "the site," singular, so adding the new sentence here would create confusion.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding the new sentence here would create an error in logic because the site in sentence 28 is "from the early 1900s" and the site in the new sentence "features a quarry dating back over 12,000 years."
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 29, Raul describes a site "established in the early twentieth century." The new sentence refers to a site "dating back over 12,000 years."



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41	Option A is correct	In this sentence, the information is reorganized in a concise and logical way and the conjunction "when" replaces the confusing use of the pronoun "which."
	Option B is incorrect	This option includes a misplaced modifier, "only," which incorrectly emphasizes the word "visited" instead of the correct focus of the sentence, the total number of people.
	Option C is incorrect	This option contains redundancy. "That year" and "in 1944" repeat the time frame.
	Option D is incorrect	The addition of the phrases "was the number" and "when it was opened" introduces redundancies and makes this sentence the least concise option.



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43	Option C is correct	Changing "will head" to "headed" corrects the verb-tense error.
	Option A is incorrect	Deleting the comma after the introductory phrase "Leaving El Paso behind" creates a punctuation error.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "me" to "I" creates an object pronoun error.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing "east" to "East" creates a capitalization error because "east" is being used as an adverb in a general sense here and not as a proper noun.



45	Option D is correct. An apostrophe is needed to form the possessive.
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47	Option A is correct	Because the pronoun should refer back to the singular "seafloor" in sentence 18, it should also be singular. Changing "them" to "it" corrects this agreement error.
	Option B is incorrect	The pair of commas after "them" and "canyon"

48	Option A is correct. Changing "this person" to "who" corrects the run-on sentence.
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49	Option B is correct	Changing the comma after “rodents” to a semicolon corrects the run-on sentence that was created by the incorrect use of punctuation.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing “has owned” to “had owned” creates a verb-tense error because the tense is inconsistent with the tense of sentence

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50	Option B is correct	Changing "are" to "is" corrects the subject-verb agreement error because "Happy Paws Pet Store and Grooming" is singular.
	Option A is incorrect	This change creates a fragment because it removes the subject "I" from the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing "passionate" to "passionite" creates a spelling error.
	Option D is incorrect	This change creates a prepositional error; the word "for" is less precise and introduces confusion.

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51	Option A is correct	Changing "their" to "your" in sentence 17 corrects the pronoun-antecedent error. "Their" refers to customers, and "your" refers to the staff of "Happy Paws Pet Store and Grooming."
	Option B is incorrect	This change creates a spelling error

