STAAR™ Modified

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Modified

World Geography

Modified

2011 Released Test Questions

These released test questions represent how the modification process can be applied to the 2011 STAAR Released Test Questions. Not every STAAR released test question has been modified. These test questions are samples only and do not represent all the TEKS student expectations from each reporting category eligible for assessment. Nor do they represent all the ways in which a test question can be modified.

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1 Look at the map below.

In which location did traders use monsoon winds to travel along trade routes?

A 1

B 2

C 3

2 The political organization of Africa changed frequently between 1500 and 1900. What contributed to these changes?

A European countries tried to establish colonies in Africa.

B The economy moved away from mostly agricultural activities to mostly industrial activities.

C Africans stopped trading with Europe and began trading with Asia.

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3 Compare the information about Country 1 and Country 2 below.

Country 1

- Government controls all television and radio stations
- Access to satellite TV is limited

Country 2

- Two commercial television stations
- Cable TV subscription service provides access to foreign channels

Which forms of government best match the descriptions above?

A Country 1—Republic
Country 2—Theocracy

B Country 1—Democracy
Country 2—Absolute monarchy

C Country 1—Dictatorship
Country 2—Democracy

4 In 1999, Turkey became a candidate for membership in the European Union. What would Turkey gain from membership?

A Advanced technology

B Military assistance

C Greater access to markets

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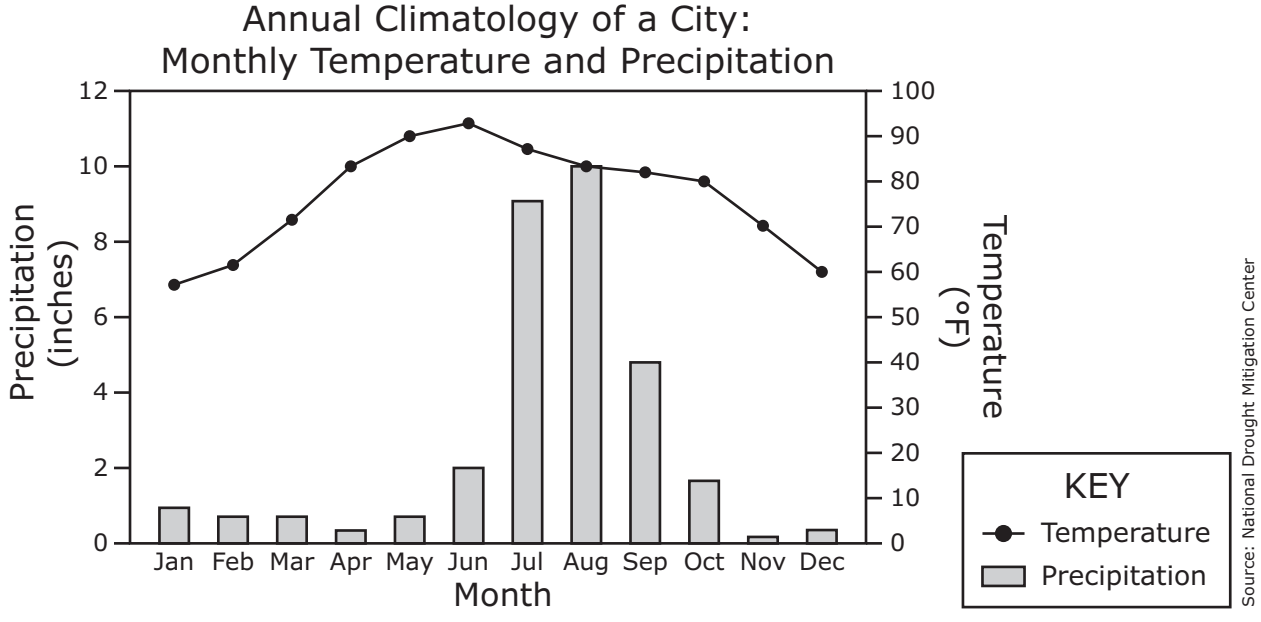
5 Study the climograph below.



Which conclusion is best supported by this climograph?

A This city is in a tropical rain forest.

B This city has seasonal monsoons.

C This city is located at a high latitude.

6 Which of the following commonly occurs in the biosphere?

A Oceanic currents circulate continuously.

B The rate at which thermal energy leaves the planet is controlled.

C Plants and animals interact within specific climate regions.

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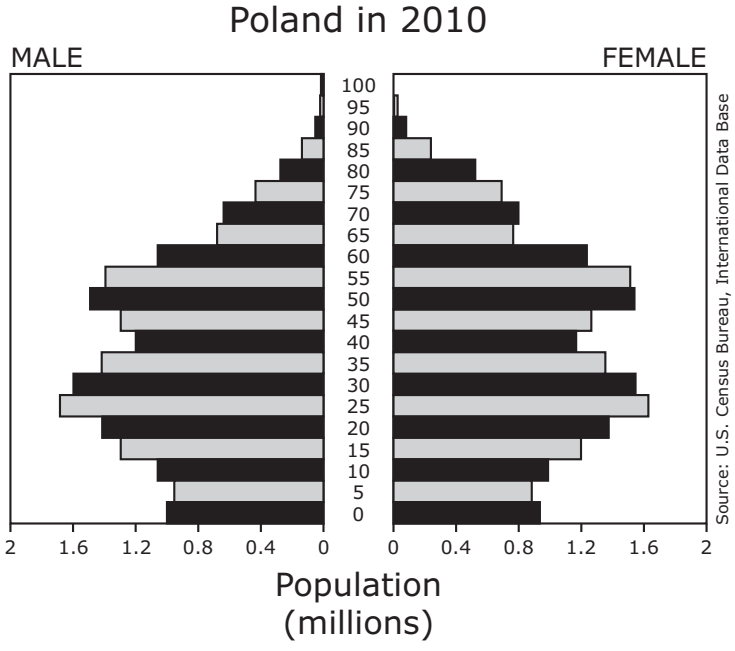
7 Which statement best describes the people that live in the deserts of the Middle East and North Africa?

A They must move to find resources.

B They work mainly in small cottage industries.

C They organize their society around a matriarch.

8 Study the population pyramid below.



Which conclusion about Poland's future is supported by this population pyramid?

A People will spend less money on prenatal care.

B More services for the elderly will be needed.

C Government funding of public education will stay the same.

9 Read the list of pull factors below.

Selected Pull Factors
for Immigration

- More job opportunities
- Political freedom
- Greater access to education

In the twentieth century these pull factors encouraged migration mostly —

A by people who are wealthy

B from developing to developed countries

C among people with the same religious beliefs

10 Read the table below.

Selected Characteristics of
Bolivia, Mexico, and Panama

Country	Official Languages	Primary Religion
Bolivia	• Spanish • Quechua • Aymara	Roman Catholicism
Mexico	• Spanish	Roman Catholicism
Panama	• Spanish	Roman Catholicism

Source: *The World Factbook*, CIA

What is most likely a reason that these countries have similar characteristics?

A The countries had past military alliances with one another.

B The countries preserved Mayan and Aztec traditions.

C The countries were colonized by a European country.

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11 Most of the people living in North Africa and Indonesia —

A depend on the monsoon season

B elect their own rulers

C practice the same religion

12 Read the excerpt below.

?

> The number and diversity of fast-food restaurants across east China have [multiplied] in the past several years with no end in sight. From wonton to pizza to east China's favorite—fried chicken—, fast-food and chain restaurants are popular. . . .
>
> Fast-food restaurants in east China can be defined as Western-style or those specializing in Chinese food.
>
> —Ag Exporter, *USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, July 1997*

Which title would be most appropriate for this excerpt?

A The Diffusion of Cultural Food Practices

B The Globalization of Service Industries

C The Growth of Food-Service Monopolies

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13 Which of these has been a major development in global trade since the 1990s?

A An increased dependence on surface transportation

B The outsourcing of service-sector jobs to developing countries

C The growth of cottage industries and traditional methods of production

14 Read the list in the box below.

Modes of Transportation

- Railroads
- Highways
- Airplanes

How have these modes of transportation influenced the location of economic activities?

A By requiring more population centers to develop near natural resources

B By making it less necessary for settlements to be near waterways

C By encouraging private businesses to spend more on public infrastructure

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15 One argument that supports using genetically modified crops is that doing so —

A protects biological diversity on farmland

B reduces the use of pesticides on crops

C allows farmers to grow native plants

16 Read the excerpt below.

> Costa Rica ranks among the greenest countries on earth. It promotes eco-tourism, operates vast national parks, and is working to become the first carbon-neutral country.
>
> Perhaps most impressive, the nation produces more than 80 percent of its electricity in hydroelectric plants. . . .
>
> —*Jon Hamilton, National Public Radio*, *February 11*, *2008*

Which of the following would most affect Costa Rica's ability to produce electricity?

A No business incentives for developing green technology

B A change in climate resulting in less rainfall

C Poor enforcement of laws that protect conservation areas

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Process Student Expectation	Correct Answer
1	1	Readiness	G.1(A)	G.21(C)	C
2	1	Readiness	G.2(A)		A
3	1	Supporting	G.14(B)	G.21(A)	C
4	1	Readiness	G.14(C)		C
5	2	Readiness	G.3(B)	G.21(A)	B
6	2	Supporting	G.3(C)		C
7	2	Readiness	G.5(A)		A
8	2	Supporting	G.7(A)	G.21(A)	B
9	2	Readiness	G.7(B)	G.21(A)	B
10	3	Readiness	G.17(A)	G.21(A)	C
11	3	Supporting	G.17(B)		C
12	3	Supporting	G.18(D)	G.21(A)	A
13	4	Supporting	G.10(D)		B
14	4	Readiness	G.11(C)	G.21(A)	B
15	4	Readiness	G.19(C)		B
16	4	Supporting	G.20(B)	G.21(A)	B

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