

English I Writing

Modified

2011 Released Selections and 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.



Turtle-Cam

Dick de Bruin lost a camera while working in the ocean near the island of Aruba. A sea turtle found the camera, hooked a flipper onto its carrying strap, and turned the device on. Months later Paul Shultz found the camera floating near Key West, Florida. He charged the camera's battery and was surprised to find pictures and videos that had been taken while the camera had been hooked onto the turtle.

Shultz posted some of the pictures on the Internet and was able to figure out who owned the camera. The story of the camera's amazing trip and the photographs it contained quickly spread around the world.

Tasha was curious after seeing the video on the Internet and did some research to learn more about this story. She wrote this paper to share what she learned. Read Tasha's paper and look for the revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Shultz Displaying the Camera and Its Waterproof Case

Turtle-Cam

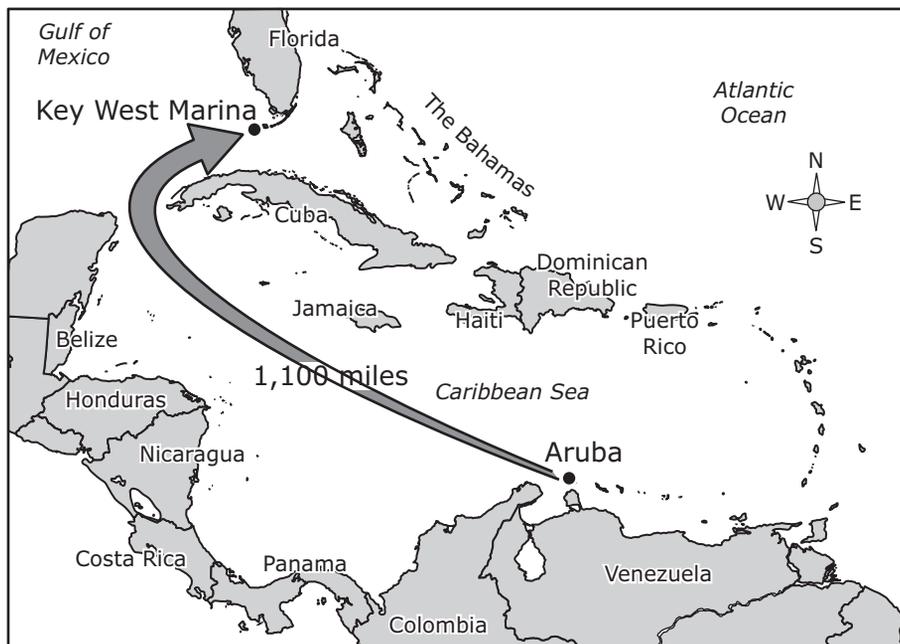
- (1) A wildlife video has attracted attention around the world.
- (2) On one website alone the video has been viewed more than two-and-a-half million times! (3) You would expect the video's photographer to be enjoying his success, but that's not the case.
- (4) In fact, this particular "photographer" is nowhere to be found.
- (5) After making the video, he simply swam away. (6) That's right, he swam. (7) It's what sea turtles do, you know?
- (8) The video was discovered by Paul Shultz. (9) He saw a

camera floating in the water near Key West, Florida. (10) The camera's case was dirty, but the camera was not damaged.

(11) Shultz charged the battery. (12) Then he discovered the video and several photos. (13) He decided to find the camera's owner.

(14) One of the photos on the camera showed two men preparing for a scuba dive. (15) Shultz posted it on an Internet scuba site.

(16) Visitors to the site told Shultz that the photo had been taken on the island of Aruba. (17) Shultz decided to post some family photos from the camera on an Aruban website. (18) Right away, an Aruban woman contacted him. (19) She said that she recognized the children in some of the photos.



(20) The camera belonged to Dick de Bruin. (21) He had lost the camera while working off the coast of Aruba. (22) He had joked with a friend that it would probably be found someday near Costa Rica or Panama.

(23) Of course, we now know that the camera floated much farther than De Bruin had thought it would. (24) We also know that one day a sea turtle swam near the camera. (25) The turtle somehow hooked a flipper on the camera's strap and turned the device on. (26) The result is a 20-minute video that shows the turtle bobbing along in the ocean. (27) At some point the camera and the turtle separate. (28) For the rest of the video, the camera is pointed straight up to the sky. (29) Then the camera suddenly turns off.

(30) The story of the sea turtle's video became big news on the small island of Aruba. (31) When the video was posted on the Internet, the story spread to the rest of the world. (32) While many people are impressed, some have joked about the skills of the photographer.

- 1** How can Tasha revise sentence 7 to more clearly establish the thesis of this paper?
- A** His video was so popular that people around the world have now seen it.
 - B** Who do you suppose the photographer was?
 - C** The photographer who recorded the world-famous video was a sea turtle.
-
- 2** Sentences 11 and 12 are choppy and ineffective. What is the best way to revise these sentences?
- A** Shultz charged the battery, while then discovering the video and several photos.
 - B** After charging the battery, Shultz discovered the video and several photos.
 - C** While charging the battery, Shultz then discovered the video and several photos.

- 3** The meaning of sentence 15 can be improved by changing *it* to —
- A** the dive
 - B** the camera
 - C** the photo
-
- 4** Tasha wants to improve the transition between the third paragraph (sentences 14–19) and the fourth paragraph (sentences 20–22). Which sentence could best follow sentence 19 and help improve this transition?
- A** As soon as the woman identified the children’s family, the mystery was solved.
 - B** She wasn’t certain but thought she might know who they were.
 - C** As a matter of fact, some are calling this woman a hero.

- 5 Tasha wants to add the following detail to the fifth paragraph (sentences 23–29).

In fact, it traveled almost 1,100 miles in its six months afloat!

Where is the best place to insert this sentence?

- A At the beginning of the paragraph
 - B After sentence 23
 - C After sentence 26
-
- 6 Tasha wants to provide a better closing for her paper. Which of the following could best be added after sentence 32 to support the previous ideas and bring a humorous conclusion to the paper?
- A As one viewer quipped, "I didn't like some of the angles chosen and probably could have made a slightly better video, but I recognize I would not be as good at laying eggs on a beach."
 - B Describing the video, Shultz said, "The camera started thrashing around and a fin came into the picture."
 - C De Bruin added, "But we have the sea turtle on film proving the camera floated from Aruba to the U.S. It's unbelievable, but it's true."



Fast Food Must Change

People in the United States eat a lot of fast food. But as your mouth begins watering in anticipation of your next juicy burger, you may want to think about how many calories that meal will put into your body. According to researchers in Maryland, obesity is on the rise in this country, and fast-food restaurants are a big part of the problem. Owners of these restaurants need to provide more balanced options on their menus, and they need to post nutritional information in a place where customers will see it. When consumers are aware of nutritional information, many will make wise choices.

Olivia wrote this paper to persuade others to join her in holding the fast-food industry responsible for encouraging more healthful eating habits. Read Olivia's paper and look for any mistakes she has made. Then answer the questions that follow.



Fast Food Must Change

(1) "Double cheeseburger, fries, and a large soda," you say to the cashier. (2) Your mouth waters in anticipation. (3) But you may not realize that just the cheeseburger alone is close to 800 calories of food! (4) If you add the fries and the drink, you're probably going to eat more than half of your suggested calorie allowance for the day!

(5) Clearly, meals like this are part of the reason obesity has become such a problem in the United States. (6) And a team of researchers in Maryland warns that the situation is going to get even worse. (7) The researchers believe that more than 75 percent of

adults in the United States will be overweight or obese by 2015.

(8) If this happens, a big part of the crisis will be traced back to diets rich in fats, cholesterol, and sugar. (9) These are all standard ingredients at most fast-food restaurants. (10) It's time for fast-food companies to take a look at the nutrition standards they are promoting and start focusing instead on how they can encourage more healthful eating.

(11) The first step fast-food companies must take are to start providing more balanced options. (12) While some fast-food restaurants do offer a few healthy choices, most of their meals are too high in calories and fat. (13) Even if restaurant chains offer fruit and low-fat milk in their childrens' meals, the most popular items still contain 500 calories or more per serving. (14) All fast-food restaurants should offer a greater variety of good-tasting, healthful foods that are lower in calories.

- 1 What change should be made in sentence 4?
- A Delete the comma
 - B Change ***suggested*** to **suggested**
 - C Change ***allowence*** to **allowance**
-
- 2 What change needs to be made in sentence 7?
- A Change ***believe*** to **beleive**
 - B Change ***then*** to **than**
 - C Insert a comma after ***overweight***

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?

A Change **are** to **is**

B Change **balanced** to **balansed**

C No change should be made in sentence 11.

4 What change should be made in sentence 13?

A Change **offer** to **offering**

B Change **their** to **there**

C Change **childrens'** to **children's**

(15) The fast-food industry should also post nutritional information more clearer. (16) Customers need this information to make wise choices. (17) Some restaurants are trying to do this, but in other restaurants, people have no idea what they're actually eating. (18) And while I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice and not something that society should control. (19) People need information if they are going to make good decisions. (20) Research suggests that when people have nutritional information, many will change their behavior. (21) In fact, one New York City study found this, 27 percent of fast-food customers used information about calorie counts to make their choices. (22) This percentage may seem low, but it is a step in the right direction. (23) If people get used to seeing nutritional information, more and more of them will probably start using it to make better decisions about what to eat.

(24) The fast-food industry is a big part of the food market in today's world. (25) As a result, fast-food restaurant owners have a responsibility. (26) Instead of pushing Americans up the obesity scale they should use their position to promote healthful eating and nutritional knowledge.

- 5 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 15?
- A Change *post* to **have posted**
 - B Change *clearer* to **clearly**
 - C No change needs to be made in this sentence.
-
- 6 What is the correct way to rewrite sentences 18 and 19?
- A And I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice, it is not something that society should control, people need information if they are going to make wise decisions.
 - B And while I believe that what someone eats is a matter of personal choice and not something that society should control, people need information if they are going to make wise decisions.
 - C Sentences 18 and 19 are written correctly in the paper.

- 7 What is the correct way to write sentence 21?
- A In fact, one New York City study found that 27 percent of fast-food customers using information about calorie counts to make their choices.
 - B In fact, one New York City study found something. That 27 percent of fast-food customers used information about calorie counts to make their choices.
 - C In fact, one New York City study found that 27 percent of fast-food customers used information about calorie counts to make their choices.
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- 8 What change is needed in sentence 26?
- A Insert a comma after ***scale***
 - B Change ***they*** to ***it***
 - C Insert a comma after ***eating***



LOOK at the photograph.



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WRITE a story about the power of imagination.

Be sure to —

- write a focused story that is complete
- include an interesting plot and engaging characters
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
WRITING Selection 1				
1	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	C
2	5	Readiness	D.13(C)	B
3	5	Readiness	D.13(C)	C
4	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	A
5	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	B
6	5	Supporting	D.15(A)	A
WRITING Selection 2				
1	6	Readiness	D.19(A)	C
2	6	Readiness	D.13(D)	B
3	6	Supporting	D.17(A)	A
4	6	Readiness	D.18(B)	C
5	6	Readiness	D.13(D)	B
6	6	Readiness	D.17(C)	B
7	6	Readiness	D.17(C)	C
8	6	Readiness	D.18(B)	A
Sample Prompt for Literary Writing				
	4	Readiness	D.14(A)	Prompt

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