

## 2018 STAAR English I Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option A is correct	Sentences 3 and 4 are short, choppy, and closely related. Sentence 4 is correctly presented as an interrupter that is set apart using commas within the context of sentence 3.
	Option B is incorrect	Although it is logical to combine the two related ideas, the comma that combines the two is insufficient without a conjunction. This creates a run-on sentence, an error where two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly, that requires a conjunction or a semicolon.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting the word “that” in the first part of the sentence creates a run-on sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The pronoun “which” is followed by the pronoun “it” in the second part of this sentence, which results in a run-on sentence.
2	Option G is correct	In sentence 12, the specific noun “researchers” is used to replace the ambiguous “they,” which helps the reader understand the meaning of the sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the phrase “these teens” is used in sentences 10 and 11, the phrase is necessary for clarity. Replacing “these teens” with the pronoun “they” would create a repetitive and ambiguous sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	“Saying” is no more specific than “suggesting.” Therefore, this revision would not improve the clarity of the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the phrases “a while” and “some time” are similar, specific detail is not provided by either phrase. Therefore, this revision would not improve the clarity of the sentence.
3	Option B is correct	Introducing specific verbs into the parallel phrases “speaking over the phone, sending texts, or writing online posts” reduces repetition and provides the most effective revision.
	Option A is incorrect	The addition of a repetitive parallel verb phrase, “they communicate in different ways,” is grammatically incorrect in this instance. Further, the revision substantially alters the meaning of the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The rewording of the methods of communication “over the phone, to send texts, or posting online” does not demonstrate parallel or clear construction.
	Option D is incorrect	The shortening of this sentence to a list with commas in a series oversimplifies the meaning and is grammatically incorrect.
4	Option F is correct	The phrase “This ability to communicate in person” provides a link between the third-paragraph ideas about face-to-face communication and the fourth-paragraph concept of teens entering the job market. The transition, which is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas, creates a seamless shift between paragraphs.
	Option G is incorrect	No transition from the third paragraph to the fourth paragraph is offered with this sentence because the idea of teen communication skills is not included.
	Option H is incorrect	The suggestion that reading people’s communication cues will build opportunities is not the main idea of the fourth paragraph, so the information in this sentence does not provide an effective transition.
	Option J is incorrect	The concept of appropriate communication during an application process is introduced in the fourth paragraph; however, the information about “coworkers” is beyond the scope of the fourth paragraph.

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5	Option B is correct	The importance of offline networking and the assertion that face-to-face interpersonal communication skills “improve a teenager’s well-being and help prepare him for the future” are included in this sentence. The persuasive message of the text is evident through a summary of key ideas, resulting in an improved concluding paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	The persuasive message of the paper is not adequately explained or supported by the idea of teens working with people offline.
	Option C is incorrect	This sentence is too general to provide support for the persuasive message of the paper. In addition, the idea of online communication is not a main idea throughout the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	Although offline communication skills are emphasized, this sentence is too general to provide support for the persuasive message of the paper.
6	Option G is correct	A thesis statement is a statement that summarizes the main point or claim of a piece of writing. The thesis is supported by the factual statistic “There are 3,500 people who call Coober Pedy home,” and the statement “almost all of them live and work under ground” helps the reader to effectively understand the connection to what cannot be seen.
	Option F is incorrect	The main content of the paper is not included in these sentences, making this thesis statement ineffective.
	Option H is incorrect	Specific details from this paper are included in this thesis statement, rather than the main content of the essay.
	Option J is incorrect	This sentence is awkwardly constructed, and the information about Coober Pedy looking abandoned does not help the reader to effectively identify the main content of the paper.
7	Option A is correct	A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. The chronology and cause-and-effect reaction to the 1915 discovery of opal in the Australian desert is unified by the addition of the transition word “Soon.”
	Option B is incorrect	The transition word “Instead” links contrasting ideas instead of the cause-and-effect relationship and is therefore not an effective transition between sentences 7 and 8.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the transition word “Finally” may link ideas chronologically, the rapid cause-and-effect reaction of the miners in sentence 8 is not clear.
	Option D is incorrect	The transition word “Otherwise” links contrasting outcomes, not the cause-and-effect relationship required between sentences 7 and 8.
8	Option J is correct	An infinitive phrase is a verb phrase that functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb in the sentence. The infinitive phrase “To enhance their surroundings” modifies “people,” effectively correcting the misplaced modifier, which is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes.
	Option F is incorrect	The infinitive phrase “To enhance their surroundings” is modifying “installing” instead of “people.”
	Option G is incorrect	A run-on sentence is an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly. This sentence is a run-on because there is no comma before the conjunction “and.”
	Option H is incorrect	The infinitive phrase “To enhance their surroundings” is modifying “windows” instead of “people.”
9	Option A is correct	The ideas presented in sentence 23 are supported by the statistic “More than 150,000 people visit the small town each year” and the names of specific movies filmed in Coober Pedy.
	Option B is incorrect	Supporting information about Coober Pedy as a filmmaking destination is not included in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Supporting information about tourists or filmmakers visiting Coober Pedy is not included in this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Supporting information about Coober Pedy tourists and filmmakers visiting the region is not included in this sentence.

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10	Option J is correct	The second-person pronoun “you” in sentence 5 is replaced with the third-person plural pronoun “they” to agree with the subject “students.”
	Option F is incorrect	The verb “explore” in sentence 5 is consistent with the other present tense verbs in the paragraph. Changing the verb tense would introduce an agreement error.
	Option G is incorrect	The plural noun “texts” requires the plural form of the verb “were written.” Changing the verb tense would introduce an agreement error.
	Option H is incorrect	The word “years” does not express ownership or possession in the sentence. Adding an apostrophe would introduce a punctuation error.
11	Option C is correct	The word “privilege” replaces the erroneous spelling “privilage.”
	Option A is incorrect	A gerund phrase is a phrase that functions as a noun in the sentence. The gerund phrase “Being able to hear those voices from the past” is the subject of the sentence. Inserting a comma after the phrase would incorrectly separate the subject and verb.
	Option B is incorrect	The gerund phrase “Being able to hear those voices from the past” is a singular subject. Changing “is” to “are” would introduce an agreement error.
	Option D is incorrect	The spelling of “grateful” is correct and should not be changed.
12	Option J is correct	Removing the comma and the pronoun “they” and adding the conjunction “and” eliminates the comma splice, an error that occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma.
	Option F is incorrect	The second sentence does not contain a subject and becomes a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that are not a complete sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	The second sentence is a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	The incorrect use of a comma after “fact” instead of a colon creates a punctuation error.
13	Option B is correct	An appositive word or phrase functions as a noun and renames another noun right beside it. Sentence 23 requires a comma after “Davis” because “one of the English professors involved in the study” is an appositive phrase that must be set apart by commas.
	Option A is incorrect	The spelling of “according” is correct, and it should not be revised.
	Option C is incorrect	The capitalization of “Serious” is correct because it is the first word in a quotation.
	Option D is incorrect	Sentence 23 is not correct as is; the appositive phrase “one of the English professors involved in the study” requires commas to set it apart.
14	Option G is correct	The correct spelling of the word “guidance” must replace the incorrect spelling in sentence 6.
	Option F is incorrect	A double negative occurs when two negative words are used in the same sentence. Changing “with” to “without” would introduce a double negative, therefore compromising the mechanics and meaning of the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	The comma that separates the opening prepositional phrase from the rest of the sentence is necessary and should not be deleted.
	Option J is incorrect	The past tense verb “planned” in sentence 6 is consistent with the other verbs in the paragraph. Changing the tense would create an agreement error.

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15	Option D is correct	Proper nouns are nouns that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event. The “World Freestyle Kayak Championships” is a specific competition, which makes it a proper noun requiring capitalization.
	Option A is incorrect	A dependent clause is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. The dependent clause that opens the sentence should be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma, not a semicolon.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing the tense of the verb “became” in sentence 13 would create an agreement error.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding a comma after “age” would create a comma splice, an error that occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma, and compromise the clarity of the sentence.
16	Option G is correct	Adding a period after the word “down” creates two complete sentences and corrects the run-on sentence, an error in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly.
	Option F is incorrect	The first sentence is a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone.
	Option H is incorrect	The second sentence lacks a subject and is not a complete sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	The incorrect placement of a period disrupts the meaning of the sentence and creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that are not a complete sentence.
17	Option C is correct	The incorrect adjective “safe” should be changed to the adverb “safely” to modify the verb “land.”
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the tense of the verb “explained” in sentence 27 would create an agreement error.
	Option B is incorrect	The spelling of “confident” is correct in this context and should not be changed.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving sentence 27 unchanged would not correct the grammatical error.
18	Option F is correct	Rush Sturges’s direct quote is presented in two parts, and quotation marks must be inserted to introduce the second half of the quotation.
	Option G is incorrect	Rush Sturges is providing his own comments in sentence 32, and the first-person singular pronoun “I” is accurate. Changing the pronoun would create an agreement error between the two portions of the quotation.
	Option H is incorrect	The spelling of “testament” in sentence 32 is correct and should not be revised.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving sentence 32 unchanged would not correct the punctuation error in which a direct quotation is not set apart by quotation marks.
19	Option B is correct	The phrase “given but not returned” best matches the word <u>unrequited</u> as used in paragraph 3. The narrator described feeling like a young man in love who glances at a girl from a distance. This action indicates love and admiration are given to the girl but not returned by the girl.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the narrator mentions “how sweet and fragrant American apples would taste” in paragraph 3, he does not physically eat them slowly and enjoyably, as the word “savored” suggests. The word <u>unrequited</u> best aligns with the definition “given but not returned.”
	Option C is incorrect	The narrator uses the word “furtive” when describing the kind of glance a boy gives to a girl he likes. His use of the word suggests a secretive nervousness, not something “given but not returned.”
	Option D is incorrect	The word “sorrow” describes the narrator’s sad and longing feeling; however, it is used in the context of his reaction to not being able to have the apples, not in the analogy used to describe the scenario.

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20	Option F is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using “like” or “as.” The author uses a simile to describe the “stretched out” and “neatly arranged” appeal of the apples. Because the narrator compares the apples to a dragon—a mythical creature in Chinese culture—their mythic appeal is conveyed.
	Option G is incorrect	The simile does not describe advertising techniques.
	Option H is incorrect	Although dragons are symbolic in Chinese culture, the simile does not convey a universal symbolism.
	Option J is incorrect	There are no details about Chinese supermarkets, nor is the simile about supermarkets.
21	Option C is correct	The author develops the daughter as a complex character who displays resentment following a shopping trip. The girl “pouted unhappily the whole day and evening” and “didn’t want to say one word to me,” further contributing to her development as a complex character.
	Option A is incorrect	The daughter does not hide her feelings, so “deceptive” is not an accurate description.
	Option B is incorrect	The daughter is described as being upset about not getting what she wanted, but she is not indicating jealousy, so “envious” is not an accurate description.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the daughter appears to retain her anger for a day, evening, and morning, but she does not appear to think deeply or carefully about her emotions, so “reflective” is not an accurate description.
22	Option G is correct	The narrator is shocked by the “scary appeal” of the apples and by the “stubbornness” they caused in his daughter.
	Option F is incorrect	The narrator is shocked about what caused his daughter’s behavior: the red American apples.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the narrator feels conflicted by his daughter’s reaction to the apples, he does not feel uncertain about buying the apples for her.
	Option J is incorrect	The narrator feels shocked about the appeal of the American apples; however, there is no indication he is angry that apples are marketed to children.
23	Option C is correct	The narrator wants to support his daughter’s open-mindedness by buying her an American apple. In paragraph 5, the apple signifies the daughter’s “fledgling curiosity about the unknown in the world.” It is the motivation for the narrator to earn more money by selling stories and for the trip to the grand mall.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the narrator reveals he purchases two apples to satisfy his daughter’s curiosity. There is no indication that the narrator admires his daughter’s determination.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the narrator presents his child with two apples, which are kept next to the child’s favorite toy in lieu of being consumed. There is no mention that the daughter made other demands or requested additional apples from the narrator.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the narrator is initially confused by his daughter’s preference to display the apples versus consume them, he comes to the realization at the end of paragraph 5 that she “didn’t have the heart” to eat the apples because they “looked so perfect in her mind.”
24	Option F is correct	The daughter’s reaction to the apple’s taste provides an unexpected ending to the story, further developing the plot. The narrator includes details in paragraphs 7 and 8 to provide evidence that although he and his daughter expected the apples would taste good, the apples did not match their expectations.
	Option G is incorrect	The point at which the two characters understand or solve their conflict is not included in paragraphs 7 and 8.
	Option H is incorrect	The narrator does not reflect upon past mistakes or lessons learned.
	Option J is incorrect	Although paragraphs 7 and 8 reveal the detail of the apple’s bad taste, “far worse than ‘Red Fushi,’” the details in these paragraphs do not solve the problem of why the apples were so appealing in the first place.

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25	Option D is correct	The narrator's reluctance stems from not wanting to waste money unnecessarily on possible fads. The narrator strengthens his position by stating the apples are "hot foreign things."
	Option A is incorrect	The narrator already overcame his reluctance to purchase the apples at the point his daughter bit into an apple and "froze."
	Option B is incorrect	Although the narrator describes the apples as "attention-catching" and he claims "people like to chase whatever is fashionable," he does not address his own reluctance to buy the apples.
	Option C is incorrect	The descriptions of the apples do not address why the narrator does not want to purchase them.
26	Option G is correct	The major theme, or central message, in the story is that appearances can be deceiving. In the beginning of the story, the narrator describes the apple's beauty and appeal. Later the narrator describes his disappointment with the "perfect" apple—"I took a bite and my eyebrows furrowed right away, too."
	Option F is incorrect	Although the narrator's daughter doesn't enjoy the apple's taste, there is no indication that she holds her father responsible, nor is there any indication that he does not accept responsibility.
	Option H is incorrect	The narrator does not include details to indicate that working hard is a major theme in the story.
	Option J is incorrect	The narrator does not provide evidence to indicate family bonds are a major theme in the story.
27	Option C is correct	The author's grandfather feels emotionally connected to the objects described in paragraph 2 as evidenced by the term "dear old friends." The comparison is further supported by the grandfather's "mask of sorrow" as he sells the pieces in the Shanghai streets.
	Option A is incorrect	Although a fan is mentioned as a gift to the grandfather in paragraph 4, there is no evidence to support that most of the collection was comprised of gifts.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the grandfather opts to sell some of his precious collection to purchase food for the family, there is no indication he was aware the collection would help him later in life.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication that the grandfather personally knew the original owners or that they were his dear friends.
28	Option F is correct	In paragraph 4, the grandfather shares the emotional impact of his items by describing to the narrator why he "loved them." The emotional impact is further supported when the grandfather shows the narrator a painted fan that was given to the grandfather by his "beloved wife, who had gone to extraordinary lengths to purchase it."
	Option G is incorrect	Although the grandfather shares a story with the narrator in paragraph 4, there is no evidence to support that he shares his life story in full.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no explanation of why the grandfather collected unusual trinkets.
	Option J is incorrect	The reader can conclude the fan is significant because it was a gift from the grandfather's wife, not because it has to do with the arts.
29	Option B is correct	The grandfather anticipates selling a gold nugget for "one one-thousandth," or a <u>pittance</u> , of what he paid for it. This suggests that he often receives an insignificant amount of money for his items.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no indication the grandfather receives a large amount of money for his items or that they are a temporary holder of value.
	Option C is incorrect	The use of the word <u>pittance</u> in paragraph 2 is meant to refer to a small amount of money and not to an exchange of goods.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the grandfather does not get his full money back from selling items, which could indicate a failed investment, the use of the word <u>pittance</u> in paragraph 2 is meant to describe an insignificant amount of money.

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30	Option F is correct	Irony is a type of figurative language where the author expresses the opposite of what is expected. In paragraph 12, the grandfather shares that his previous act of charity is now helping his own family in their time of need, thereby demonstrating irony. The gold nugget was initially purchased from a blind man to “save his children.”
	Option G is incorrect	It was previously stated that the grandfather would receive less money than he paid for the objects, not that the objects had increased in value.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the grandfather must sell items to pay for food during the political changes taking place in his country, irony is not demonstrated, nor will the sales bring closure to the family’s ongoing problems.
	Option J is incorrect	Irony is not demonstrated by the grandfather’s decision to buy or sell the gold nugget, which is of value because selling it will help the grandfather take care of his family.
31	Option B is correct	The author’s message is best conveyed through the grandfather’s actions. The grandfather demonstrates a willingness to sacrifice, or part with, his collection to benefit his family and help those he loves.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the story about the blind man adds to the author’s message about generosity, it does not best convey the author’s message.
	Option C is incorrect	The grandfather is emotionally connected to his valuable collection; however, this detail does not convey the overall message of sacrificing for those you love.
	Option D is incorrect	The overall message of sacrificing for those you love is not supported by this detail.
32	Option J is correct	The description of the grandfather’s smile and his statement “Then again, it seems right, somehow” in paragraph 12 demonstrate that he has made peace with his decision to sell the nugget.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraph 12 to suggest that the grandfather believes selling the gold nugget will cause his family more harm than good.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the grandfather will sell the nugget, he does not indicate he will receive great wealth for it. In paragraph 11, the grandfather laments that he will sell it for “one one-thousandth what I paid for it.”
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 12, the grandfather reflects on the significance, not the insignificance, of the nugget by stating how it “helped a man save his children.”
33	Option D is correct	In buying and selling the gold nugget, both the blind man and the grandfather represent the challenge of making sacrifices to survive. Although the grandfather feels a connection with the nugget, it is something he must give up for the sake of his family.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the gold nugget is one of the grandfather’s material treasures, it does not represent a desire for additional material items; it represents instead the grandfather’s desire to help others in their time of need.
	Option B is incorrect	By selling the gold nugget to help feed their families, neither the blind man nor the grandfather demonstrate excessive pride.
	Option C is incorrect	The grandfather’s statement “I guess this gold nugget has done what it was supposed to do” does not indicate that he feels spiritual peace or tranquility.

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34	Option J is correct	The way the daughter of “American Apple” gently handles her apples and the way the grandfather expresses his love by carefully wrapping, unwrapping, and displaying his objects in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> provide for a similar experience. Both the daughter and the grandfather have a close emotional connection to their belongings.
	Option F is incorrect	The grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> does not go shopping. He buys a gold nugget at the insistence of a blind man, and he later sells the nugget to help his family.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> has a collection of beloved items, he does not forget about them, unlike the narrator and his daughter in “American Apple,” who left their apples “untouched” for a long time.
	Option H is incorrect	The grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> is enchanted by the blind man’s music just as the narrator in “American Apple” is enchanted by the picture of an apple, but these details do not mean they have an overall similar experience.
35	Option A is correct	The selection and variety of goods available to the narrator and his daughter in “American Apple” is very different than the food insecurity and scarcity experienced by the grandfather and his family in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> .
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator in “American Apple” is able to go buy apples on his own with his own money, while the grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> is not able to be self-sufficient because he must sell possessions to buy food.
	Option C is incorrect	The characters in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> are concerned because “Mao’s Red Guard had shut down the farmers’ markets and taken control of the city’s food supply.” There is no mention of the narrator’s suspicion of his government in “American Apple.”
	Option D is incorrect	The commerce in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> is not centered on fairness, as the rations provided sometimes could not feed everyone, resulting in sales on the black market. There is no mention of corruption in “American Apple.”
36	Option H is correct	The apples in “American Apple” represent temptation, while the grandfather’s collection in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> represents sacrifice and difficult choices. The narrator in “American Apple” is tempted by the apples’ perfection, unlike the grandfather, who sacrifices his heirlooms for his family.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence in “American Apple” that the apples represent unreachable goals, since both the narrator and his daughter ultimately taste them. The grandfather’s collection in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> may contain exquisite items, but the true beauty comes from selling the collection, not the collection itself.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the daughter in “American Apple” maintains determination in order to acquire an apple, there is no evidence to suggest that the apples specifically represent determination. The grandfather’s collection in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> does not represent his wisdom. Rather, his wisdom is derived from his lifelong experiences of kindness and humility.
	Option J is incorrect	In “American Apple,” although wanting foreign goods could be viewed as materialistic, the apples themselves do not necessarily represent the danger of materialism. The grandfather’s collection in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> also does not represent the will to overcome temptation since the grandfather never hesitates to sell items in the collection.



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37	Option B is correct	The major difference between the two selections is that the apples, though appearing “perfect,” are a disappointment in “American Apple.” In contrast, the gold nugget in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> , though appearing useless, turns out to be useful and helpful.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the narrator finally does purchase two apples for his daughter in “American Apple,” the purchase is not about giving in to material temptation: it is about supporting his child’s interests. In <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> , there is no mention of material temptations, only that goods may be sold to alleviate a family’s suffering.
	Option C is incorrect	The narrator in “American Apple” puts in effort to buy some apples for his child, but the effort is not necessarily to nourish a relationship. The grandfather’s bond to his family in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> appears as natural as the narrator’s relationship to his daughter in “American Apple.”
	Option D is incorrect	The narrator in “American Apple” embraces the apples from the United States; however, he is ultimately disappointed by them. In contrast, the grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> collects things from Chinese culture, but there is no mention of embracing one culture in lieu of another culture.
38	Option H is correct	The idea that love for family compels action is explored in both selections. The narrator in “American Apple” buys his beloved daughter apples, and love for his family compels the grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> to sell his beloved items for money in order to buy food.
	Option F is incorrect	The grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> is determining his future by selling his items, but there is no mention of this idea in “American Apple.”
	Option G is incorrect	The narrator in “American Apple” works hard to successfully buy apples for his daughter, but there is no indication that the grandfather’s “hard work” brings success in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> . On the contrary, his success comes from selling his beloved collection.
	Option J is incorrect	The daughter in “American Apple” waited for her apples, but neither the apples nor their taste were the “greatest rewards.” Although he waited to sell his gold nugget, the grandfather in <i>Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds</i> did not receive a reward.
39	Option C is correct	The author’s primary purpose is to explain the unusual journey of Happy Feet. Information about the emperor penguin’s presence in New Zealand, including his care at a zoo and subsequent release from a ship, is included in the article to support the conclusion that Happy Feet experienced an unusual journey. The detailed map of his journey also supports the purpose of the article.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s primary purpose is to highlight Happy Feet’s unusual journey from New Zealand to Antarctica, not his remarkable qualities.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Happy Feet was released back into the wild, the author of the article does not present an argument for or against releasing animals from captivity.
	Option D is incorrect	The author’s primary purpose is to highlight one specific penguin’s journey, not a team saving endangered animals.
40	Option J is correct	The reader can use the information from the photograph to support their understanding of what Happy Feet’s “custom-built crate” in paragraph 4 looks like.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no mention of how many crew members attended to Happy Feet, nor is this a key detail in paragraph 4.
	Option G is incorrect	Although there is a slide mentioned in paragraph 4, Happy Feet is at the top of a slide and not actively using it in the photograph.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence in either the photograph or paragraph 4 to indicate terrible weather conditions.

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41	Option D is correct	The statement that Happy Feet “showed no interest in leaving” when they opened his crate indicates that he may have become accustomed to living in captivity.
	Option A is incorrect	The authorities opted to “wait and let nature take its course” when they initially found Happy Feet, so he had not yet been taken into captivity and could not have become accustomed to it.
	Option B is incorrect	The moment when Happy Feet left his captivity is highlighted by this detail, not how Happy Feet became accustomed to captivity.
	Option C is incorrect	This detail explains how Happy Feet’s followers were able to “keep track of him” after his release from captivity, not how Happy Feet became accustomed to captivity.
42	Option G is correct	The reader can conclude the penguin’s nickname, Happy Feet, makes the penguin seem to have a personable and upbeat personality.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no textual evidence to suggest that the penguin has been tamed by his caretakers.
	Option H is incorrect	Although readers may conclude that the penguin’s nickname suggests he is happy and personable, the nickname does not reinforce any existing textual evidence that the penguin has a carefree nature.
	Option J is incorrect	Happy Feet is the only penguin in this article; there is no textual support highlighting the popularity of penguins in general.
43	Option D is correct	The author organizes the article by first describing the efforts taken to release Happy Feet and then backtracking to a recounting of how the penguin was found, rescued, and nursed back to health.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no comparison of Happy Feet’s experience to that of any other penguin.
	Option B is incorrect	The author organizes the article by first providing details of Happy Feet’s release into the wild and then providing information about his rescue and care. Explanation of his illness and the quotations from the veterinarian are specific details from the article.
	Option C is incorrect	The article is not organized using chronological order.
44	Option F is correct	The main idea of the article is that a team in New Zealand helped a lost emperor penguin return to Antarctica after providing medical care.
	Option G is incorrect	The main idea of the article is Happy Feet’s journey back to Antarctica.
	Option H is incorrect	Although Happy Feet was found in New Zealand, the main idea of the article is his return home to Antarctica with the help of the New Zealanders.
	Option J is incorrect	Happy Feet did receive media attention and the attention of followers, but this is one small detail in the article and not the main idea.
45	Option C is correct	The lengthy 2,000-mile distance between New Zealand and Antarctica is highlighted on the map and discussed by the author in paragraph 2 of the article.
	Option A is incorrect	Information regarding where penguins other than Happy Feet have been found is not included in the article or the map.
	Option B is incorrect	Neither the article nor the map includes information about the location of penguin habitats in Antarctica.
	Option D is incorrect	Neither the article nor the map includes information about the overall size of New Zealand.

## 2018 STAAR English I Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
46	Option H is correct	In paragraph 9, the word <u>proficiency</u> means expertise or ability. Once children have the ability to succeed at a task, the concept of competing with others can become appealing.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 9, the word <u>proficiency</u> refers to a child having the expertise or ability to complete a task, not curiosity about a task.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 9, the word <u>proficiency</u> refers to a child having the expertise or ability to complete a task, not the level of investment for a task.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 9, the word <u>proficiency</u> refers to a child having the expertise or ability to complete a task, not the discipline for a task.
47	Option A is correct	Throughout the article, the author emphasizes the idea that children should occasionally experience losing and not be rewarded only for participation. The character-building lessons children learn from this premise are the author's primary purpose for writing the article.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 11, the author mentions three awards she would give if she were a baseball coach; however, these examples speak to the larger purpose of teaching children life lessons and do not serve as the primary purpose of the article.
	Option C is incorrect	This statement contradicts the author's purpose in the article. In paragraph 5, the author declares that "nonstop recognition does not inspire children to succeed. Instead, it can cause them to underachieve."
	Option D is incorrect	The author repeatedly emphasizes that she does not agree with awarding all children for participation; however, there is no textual support that she feels organizations are unfair for giving awards to all children.
48	Option F is correct	The author's use of specific facts, statistics, and figures in paragraphs 3 and 4 provides a logical argument. By providing the numbers and costs of awards, she is appealing to the logic of her audience.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no emotional component found in paragraphs 3 and 4.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author does not agree with the practice of overusing awards, there is no evidence of an ethical argument found in paragraphs 3 and 4.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no evidence of circular logic found in paragraphs 3 and 4.
49	Option B is correct	In paragraph 14, the author provides support for her claim by providing an anecdote about living rooms filled with trophies that teach children that "to succeed, you just have to show up." Statements about college students and office colleagues who exert very little effort and expect high grades and promotions also support the author's claim that society as a whole suffers from this mindset.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 14, there is no textual evidence regarding the adult responsibility to monitor the learning or emotional development of children.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no textual evidence in paragraph 14 that parents and children expect trophies for doing their best.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author mentions statistical facts and figures in paragraphs 3 and 4 regarding the cost of awards and trophies, there is no related information in paragraph 14.
50	Option H is correct	The controlling idea of the article—to avoid routinely rewarding participation alone—is best expressed through the sentence in paragraph 5 that states while awards may motivate, "nonstop recognition does not inspire children to succeed."
	Option F is incorrect	The controlling idea that routinely rewarding children for participation may damage our society is not supported by the inclusion of the author's statement that children may "collapse at the first experience of difficulty."
	Option G is incorrect	Although the information about trophy sales in paragraph 4 supports the author's argument with details, it does not express the controlling idea that routinely rewarding children for participation damages our society.
	Option J is incorrect	The controlling idea that routinely rewarding children for participation damages our society is not supported by this statement.

## 2018 STAAR English I Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
51	Option D is correct	Based on the quotation from paragraph 15, the reader can determine the importance of experiencing more losses than wins—directly challenging an idea that children need constant praise. If a child becomes used to losing, then they will develop internal (not praise-based) motivations to continue working toward goals.
	Option A is incorrect	Readers cannot determine that children need constant praise based on the statement in paragraph 6 that children generally respond well to praise.
	Option B is incorrect	Based on the quotation from paragraph 3, the reader can understand that children are used to constant praise in today’s society; however, this does not effectively challenge the idea that they need the praise.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea that children need constant praise is not challenged by this quotation from paragraph 7, which provides information about an experiment involving praise.
52	Option J is correct	The cartoon best supports the author’s position with the illustration of numerous displayed trophies and the phrase “I won again!” These trophies indicate that children are used to receiving participation trophies and do not routinely experience losing.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the boy in the cartoon expresses excitement, this interpretation of the cartoon does not support the author’s position because the multiple trophies and the phrase “I won again!” reveal that the boy is used to receiving trophies.
	Option G is incorrect	Based on the cartoon, the reader can infer that the boy is used to getting trophies and does not feel the need to work toward winning. This interpretation of the cartoon does not support the author’s position.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no indication that the boy is working toward improving his skills. This interpretation of the cartoon does not support the author’s position.