



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

English II

Practice Assessment

ENGLISH II

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

from Villages in the Sky

by Ellen Garin

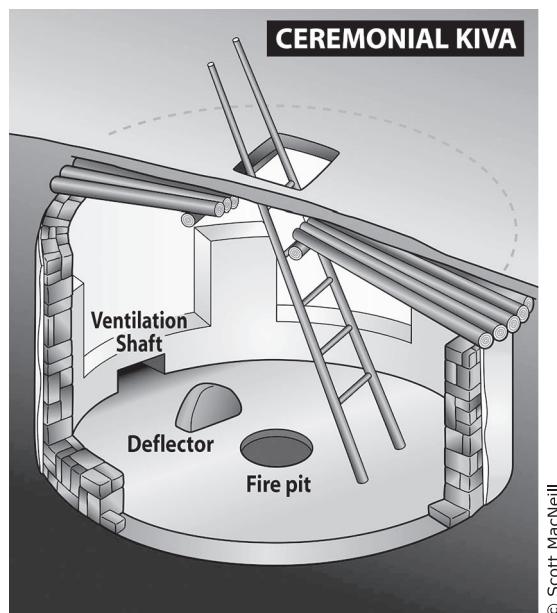
Lost and Found!

- 1 One December morning in 1888, Richard Wetherill and his brother-in-law, Charles Mason, were riding along a mesa in the mountains of southwestern Colorado searching for lost cattle. Their breath turned to vapor in the cold December morning air, and the snow on the ground crunched under their horses' hooves.
- 2 The cowboys followed the cattle tracks until they heard the lowing of their cattle. After they had counted the herd, they looked around at the spectacular views. As they looked across the vast canyon, something caught their attention. There, nestled high up under an overhanging cliff on the other side of the canyon, was something quite amazing. The cowboys rode around to the other side of the canyon, dismounted, and climbed down the cliff on foot to get a closer look. They were about to make an important discovery.

The Cliff Dwellings at Mesa Verde

- 3 Wetherill and Mason had discovered a large cliff dwelling that had been abandoned hundreds of years ago by ancient Pueblo people. It had been built into an alcove where chunks of sandstone had fallen off the cliff, creating an overhang. The overhang protected the cliff dwelling from the weather, which is why it was intact hundreds of years later.
- 4 Like apartment houses today, the dwellings were multilevel, housing many families. People needed to climb up or down ladders to reach lower and upper levels of the cliff dwellings. Living areas in the complex were about six by eight feet. Their ceilings were made of wood planks, and some homes had colorful wall paintings. The low height of the doorways indicates that people then were shorter than they are today.
- 5 Below the living area, and reached only by ladder, was a round room called a kiva (KEE-vuh), which was used for ceremonial purposes.

- 6 The cliff dwellers were clever builders. They constructed ventilation shafts inside the kivas for fresh air, and each fireplace had a deflector in front of it that helped to circulate the heat and the fresh air. The underground kiva stayed at 50 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. It was cool in the heat of summer, and only a small fire was needed to keep it warm in winter.

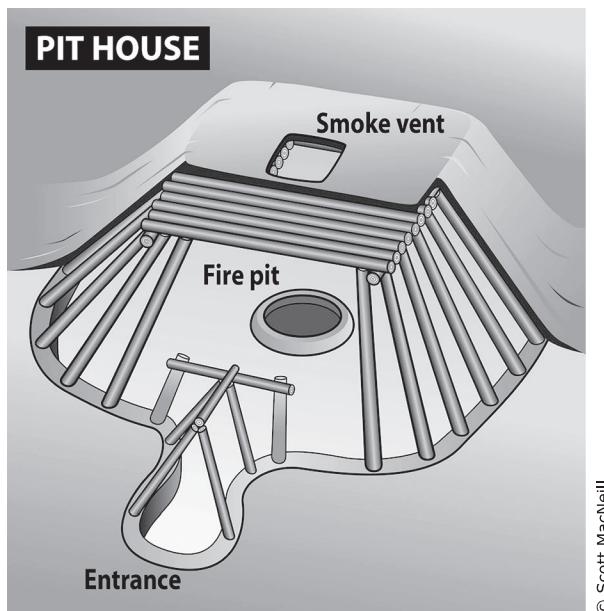


- 7 The kiva's roof formed a courtyard above, which was an area used for working and gathering together. There, women dried food for storage, wove cloth and baskets, and tanned hides from the animals the hunters brought home. People gathered in the courtyard to trade stories while children played and dogs and turkeys wandered about.

The Ancestral Puebloans

- 8 For about 700 years, Mesa Verde was a thriving community of many thousands of Native American people now referred to as Ancestral Puebloans. These people were master builders, skilled craftsmen, and adept farmers of a difficult, dry land. They also traded surplus goods and food with other Native American communities.

- 9 The earliest Ancestral Puebloan settlements date back to the year 600. For most of their time in the Mesa Verde area, these people lived in houses and farmed on top of the mesa. Their first villages consisted of homes called pit houses, which were constructed by digging a shallow pit in the ground. A roof was made by crossing poles over the top of the pit and then covering the poles with branches, grass, or tree bark. The walls of the pit house were often lined with clay or stones.



© Scott MacNeill

- 10 Eventually, the Ancestral Puebloans began building homes above ground that were constructed of adobe and were sometimes two or three stories tall. The people farmed the land on top of the mesa, where they grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash. The mesa got little rainfall and was not easy land to farm. However, the farmers were expert in dryland farming, creating check dams¹ and channels to direct rainwater to their crops.
- 11 The people gathered wild plants to supplement the food they grew, and they hunted animals such as rabbits and deer. They also used turkeys for food, bone for tools, and feathers for clothing. Dogs were kept as pets and for protection.

¹A check dam is a small dam constructed across a drainage ditch or channel to regulate water flow and limit erosion.

- 12 Then around 1100, these [Ancestral Puebloans] mastered the art of masonry. During the next hundred years they built remarkable cliff dwellings such as Cliff Palace. Now the Ancestral Puebloans no longer lived on top of the mesa. Their homes were built into the side of the cliff. People had to climb up to the mesa using footholds and handholds carved into the side of the cliff to tend their crops or hunt for food.
- 13 Around 1270, the Ancestral Puebloans left Mesa Verde, although we are not entirely sure why they left. We do know that these people settled the area that is now the home of the modern Pueblo tribes, including the Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, and Laguna.

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- 1** Which statement best expresses the thesis of the excerpt?
- (A) Ancestral Puebloans were attracted to the cliffs of Colorado centuries ago.
 - (B) Ancestral Puebloans left behind the ruins of their communities in the cliffs.
 - (C) Ancestral Puebloans were innovators who created a flourishing civilization.
 - (D) Ancestral Puebloans lived in complex communities in southwestern Colorado.
-
- 2** Which quotation from the excerpt best supports the conclusion that the Ancestral Puebloans made efficient use of limited resources?
- (A) *The low height of the doorways indicates that people then were shorter than they are today.* (paragraph 4)
 - (B) *However, the farmers were expert in dryland farming, creating check dams and channels to direct rainwater to their crops.* (paragraph 10)
 - (C) *Now the Ancestral Puebloans no longer lived on top of the mesa.* (paragraph 12)
 - (D) *Around 1270, the Ancestral Puebloans left Mesa Verde, although we are not entirely sure why they left.* (paragraph 13)

- 3** In paragraphs 9, 10, and 12, the details support the key idea that the Ancestral Puebloans —
- (A) developed new construction skills
 - (B) frequently faced challenges in surviving
 - (C) often moved in search of a better home
 - (D) outgrew the available resources
-

- 4** Which detail from the section titled “The Cliff Dwellings at Mesa Verde” (paragraphs 3–7) supports the key idea that social interaction was important to Ancestral Puebloan communities?
- (A) The size of the living areas
 - (B) The location of the kiva
 - (C) The function of the courtyard
 - (D) The proximity of the dwellings
-

- 5** Why does the author most likely include the illustrations in the excerpt?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- To explain how the Ancestral Puebloans used different resources
- To show how the Ancestral Puebloans designed and built structures
- To demonstrate the challenges of building dwellings in the cliff
- To show how the different parts of the cliff dwellings fit together
- To contrast different types of buildings built by the Ancestral Puebloans

- 6** Read this quotation from paragraph 8.

For about 700 years, Mesa Verde was a thriving community of many thousands of Native American people now referred to as Ancestral Puebloans. These people were master builders, skilled craftsmen, and adept farmers of a difficult, dry land.

How does the author's choice of words in this quotation contribute to the tone of the excerpt?

- (A) Phrases such as "thriving community" and "skilled craftsmen" create an admiring tone.
- (B) Phrases such as "adept farmers" and "difficult, dry land" create a somber tone.
- (C) Phrases such as "many thousands" and "Native American people" create a precise tone.
- (D) Phrases such as "about 700 years" and "now referred to" create an accessible tone.

-
- 7** What is the most likely reason the author wrote this excerpt?

- (A) To persuade the reader to visit an important archaeological site to learn about an ancient society
- (B) To provide information about how an ancient society managed to prosper in an inhospitable region
- (C) To describe the impact of an ancient civilization on the history of a populated region
- (D) To share the history of how two cowboys accidentally discovered the ruins of an ancient civilization

- 8** How does the author organize the section titled “The Ancestral Puebloans” (paragraphs 8–13) to develop the thesis?
- (A) By describing the events that forced the Ancestral Puebloans to adapt to changes in their environment
 - (B) By listing the agricultural skills necessary to master farming the land in the Mesa Verde area
 - (C) By explaining how the Ancestral Puebloans altered the natural landscape in ever more significant ways
 - (D) By recounting the establishment of increasingly complex and sophisticated structures in the Mesa Verde area
-
- 9** Which idea about society is developed in the excerpt?
- (A) Communities form in order to satisfy the human desire for new experiences.
 - (B) Civilizations are defined by specific beliefs and economic goals.
 - (C) People adapt to environmental conditions to help their civilizations thrive.
 - (D) People are more likely to survive in communities than on their own.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Volunteering Is Its Own Reward

- 1 In his 1961 inaugural address, John F. Kennedy famously declared, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." With his introduction of the Peace Corps later that year, President Kennedy initiated an era of service and volunteerism that remains as active as ever.
- 2 Today, dedicated Americans still serve communities throughout the world as Peace Corps volunteers. What's more, over the decades new government-sponsored programs have emerged that carry on and expand the mission to serve. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, for example, have touched the lives of millions by engaging youth and senior citizens alike much closer to home, in their own communities.
- 3 These large-scale government-sponsored programs typically require a significant time commitment, but there are also plenty of other opportunities for busy people who still want to do their part. Charities and civic organizations allow time-strapped volunteers to help out where they are needed. Participants can deliver meals to seniors, spend time with dogs in animal shelters, and visit people in hospitals. They can even beautify public parks.
- 4 According to the Corporation for National and Community Service's research report *Volunteer Growth in America*, volunteerism is on the rise. For people over age 65, the rate has increased 64 percent since 1974. Perhaps even more surprisingly, the rate for adults aged 45–64 has increased almost 30 percent.
- 5 This dramatic increase, however, raises an interesting question. At the risk of sounding cynical, what is in it for the volunteers?
- 6 For ambitious youth who want to pad their résumés with good deeds, the answer may seem obvious. The same could be said for retirees with plenty of time on their hands. But what about busy adults with families and full-time jobs?

Or hardworking students with demanding schedules? Why should they make time to do unpaid labor? For those already stressed out and stretched to the limit, why offer to do extra work?

- 7 The answer, actually, is quite simple. It's good for you. Helping others doesn't build stress—it relieves it. People who engage in volunteer activities are happier and stay in good health longer than those who don't.
- 8 Stephanie Watson, of *Harvard Women's Health Watch*, argues that volunteering not only delivers mental health benefits by making people feel socially connected and less lonely, but it also may help people live longer. "A growing body of evidence," she writes, "suggests that people who give their time to others might also be rewarded with better physical health—including lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan."
- 9 Rodlescia Sneed, who conducted a study in 2013 on volunteering, notes that volunteering appears to lower stress. "Many people find volunteer work to be helpful with respect to stress reduction, and we know that stress is very strongly linked to health outcomes," she says. Sneed's study found a correlation between doing 200 hours of volunteer work per year and having lower blood pressure.
- 10 Studies have also shown a link between helping others and being happy. A study conducted by the London School of Economics and published in *Social Science and Medicine* found that the more people volunteered, the happier they were. Compared to people who never volunteered, people who volunteered once a month were 7 percent more likely to report being "very happy." People who volunteered once a week were 16 percent more likely to report being "very happy."
- 11 A 2012 study in the journal *Health Psychology* had a particularly interesting result. Like other studies, it found participants who volunteered on a regular basis lived longer. But what made this study unique was that it examined the motives of the participants. The participants "who volunteered for self-oriented reasons" did not live any longer than those who did not volunteer at all. In other words, to get the health benefits of volunteering, the volunteers had to be doing it for the right reasons. They had to be motivated by a genuine desire to help others and *not* by a desire to make themselves feel better.

- 12 If this study is to be believed, altruism truly is its own reward. Paradoxically, the best way to look after number one may actually be by *not* trying to look after number one.
- 13 Volunteering creates connections, builds communities, and makes everyone involved healthier and happier. It not only helps those being helped, it helps the helpers as well. By asking what you can do for others, you may find what you can do for yourself.

10 In paragraph 12, what does the word *Paradoxically* mean?

- (A) Improbable but humorous
 - (B) Impressive but selfish
 - (C) Contradictory yet accurate
 - (D) Competent yet inconsistent
-

11 What is the best summary of the information in paragraphs 1 through 4?

- (A) The Peace Corps served as an inspiration for the AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs, which allow volunteers to serve near their homes. Some volunteers work with senior citizens and hospital patients. Others work with animals or in outdoor areas. Some adult age groups are volunteering more today than in 1974.
- (B) Since President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, American volunteerism has been widespread. Millions of people have volunteered in government programs around the world and throughout the United States. Many people have also volunteered in local programs run by charities and civic organizations. Volunteerism rates today show significant increases since the 1970s.
- (C) The Peace Corps was started by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, and since then volunteerism in the United States has greatly increased. Americans also continue to volunteer around the world in the Peace Corps. The Corporation for National and Community Service has reported that volunteerism for people over age 65 has increased.
- (D) When President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, he began an era of volunteerism. Volunteers serve around the world and throughout the United States. Some volunteer programs require a large amount of time. Some programs utilize youth and senior citizens. It is surprising that volunteerism has increased for middle-aged adults.

12 The information in paragraphs 9 through 11 supports which conclusion?

- (A) People who find that volunteering increases their happiness most likely recruit other volunteers.
 - (B) Family members who volunteer together regularly most likely share the same motives for volunteering.
 - (C) Future research studies most likely will focus on how volunteers deal with stress experienced while volunteering.
 - (D) Multiple occurrences of volunteering most likely are needed to produce health benefits in the volunteer.
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13 Which group is most likely the author's intended audience?

- (A) Skeptical people who are unsure about devoting the time to be a volunteer
 - (B) Generous people who treasure the joy that comes from doing good deeds
 - (C) Selfless people who believe in doing something virtuous with their lives
 - (D) Ambitious people who are eager to look good to potential employers
-

14 Which statement best expresses the author's claim about volunteerism?

- (A) People should volunteer in order to help themselves as well as others.
- (B) Volunteering is a declining American tradition.
- (C) Volunteering their time is a sacrifice more people should make.
- (D) People who volunteer deserve good health.

15 What is the most likely reason the author includes contrasting ideas about stress in paragraph 7?

- (A) To restate a key point more vividly
 - (B) To question conflicting evidence
 - (C) To emphasize an unusual perspective
 - (D) To challenge an opposing viewpoint
-

16 Which quotation from the article shows that people who volunteer only to boost their résumés are unlikely to experience increased well-being as a result?

- (A) *For those already stressed out and stretched to the limit, why offer to do extra work?* (paragraph 6)
- (B) *Rodlescia Sneed, who conducted a study in 2013 on volunteering, notes that volunteering appears to lower stress.* (paragraph 9)
- (C) *Like other studies, it found participants who volunteered on a regular basis lived longer.* (paragraph 11)
- (D) *In other words, to get the health benefits of volunteering, the volunteers had to be doing it for the right reasons.* (paragraph 11)

- 17** What effect does the shift in tone between paragraphs 6 and 7 have on the author’s argument?
- (A) The shift from a doubtful tone in paragraph 6 to a patronizing one in paragraph 7 undermines the sincerity of the argument.
 - (B) The shift from a dubious tone in paragraph 6 to a reassuring one in paragraph 7 refocuses the direction of the argument.
 - (C) The shift from a cynical tone in paragraph 6 to an indignant one in paragraph 7 strengthens the force of the argument.
 - (D) The shift from an analytical tone in paragraph 6 to a self-confident one in paragraph 7 builds a logical foundation for the argument.

18 Read the article “Volunteering Is Its Own Reward.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following:

Write a letter to your principal in which you argue who would benefit most from a volunteering program at school: student participants or members of the community they could serve.

Write a well-organized letter that responds to this prompt. Use specific evidence from the article to support your answer.

Remember to —

- clearly state your opinion
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use evidence from the selection in your response
- include a counterargument
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can —

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

Record your answer in the box provided.

Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

This story takes place in an industrial city of northern Italy in the early 1950s.

from “The City Lost in the Snow”

*by Italo Calvino
translated by William Weaver*

- 1 That morning the silence woke him. Marcovaldo pulled himself out of bed with the sensation there was something strange in the air. He couldn't figure out what time it was, the light between the slats of the blinds was different from all other hours of day and night. He opened the window: the city was gone; it had been replaced by a white sheet of paper. Narrowing his eyes, he could make out, in the whiteness, some almost-erased lines, which corresponded to those of the familiar view: the windows and the roofs and the lamp-posts all around, but they were lost under all the snow that had settled over them during the night.
- 2 “Snow!” Marcovaldo cried to his wife; that is, he meant to cry, but his voice came out muffled. As it had fallen on lines and colors and views, the snow had fallen on noises, or rather on the very possibility of making noise; sounds, in a padded space, did not vibrate.
- 3 He went to work on foot; the trams were blocked by the snow. Along the street, making his own path, he felt free as he had never felt before. In the city all differences between sidewalk and street had vanished; vehicles could not pass, and Marcovaldo, even if he sank up to his thighs at every step and felt the snow get inside his socks, had become master, free to walk in the middle of the street, to trample on flower beds, to cross outside the prescribed lines, to proceed in a zigzag.
- 4 Streets and avenues stretched out, endless and deserted, like blanched chasms between mountainous cliffs. There was no telling whether the city hidden under that mantle was still the same or whether, in the night, another had taken its place. Who could say if under those white mounds there were still gasoline pumps, newsstands, tram stops, or if there were only sack upon sack of snow? As he walked along, Marcovaldo dreamed of

getting lost in a different city: instead, his footsteps were taking him straight to his everyday place of work, the usual shipping department, and, once he had crossed the threshold, the worker was amazed at finding himself among those walls, the same as ever, as if the change that had cancelled the outside world had spared only his firm.

- 5 There, waiting for him, was a shovel, taller than he was. The department foreman, Signor Viligelmo, handing it to him, said: "Shoveling the snow off the sidewalk in front of the building is up to us. To you, that is." Marcovaldo took the shovel and went outside again.
- 6 Shoveling snow is no game, especially on an empty stomach; but Marcovaldo felt the snow was a friend, an element that erased the cage of walls which imprisoned his life. And he set to work with a will, sending great shovelfuls of snow flying from the sidewalk to the center of the street.
- 7 The jobless Sigismondo was also filled with gratitude for the snow, because having enrolled in the ranks of the municipal snow-shovelers that morning, he now had before him a few days of guaranteed employment. But this feeling, instead of inspiring in him vague fantasies like Marcovaldo's, led him to quite specific calculations, to determine how many cubic feet of snow had to be shoveled to clear so many square feet. In other words, he aimed at impressing the captain of his team; and thus—his secret ambition—at getting ahead in the world.
- 8 Now Sigismondo turned, and what did he see? The stretch of road he had just cleared was being covered again with snow, by the helter-skelter shoveling of a character panting there on the sidewalk.

Excerpt from MARCOVALDO OR THE SEASONS IN THE CITY by Italo Calvino, translated by William Weaver.
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London Snow

by Robert Bridges

- When men were all asleep the snow came flying,
In large white flakes falling on the city brown,
Stealthily and perpetually settling and loosely lying,
Hushing the latest traffic of the drowsy town;
- 5 Deadening, muffling, stifling its murmurs failing;
Lazily and incessantly floating down and down:
Silently sifting and veiling road, roof and railing;
Hiding difference, making unevenness even,
Into angles and crevices softly drifting and sailing.
- 10 All night it fell, and when full inches seven
It lay in the depth of its uncompacted lightness,
Its clouds blew off from a high and frosty heaven;
And all woke earlier for the unaccustomed brightness
Of the winter dawning, the strange unheavenly glare:
- 15 The eye marvelled—marvelled at the dazzling whiteness;
The ear hearkened to the stillness of the solemn air;
No sound of wheel rumbling nor of foot falling,
And the busy morning cries came thin and spare.
Then boys I heard, as they went to school, calling,
- 20 They gathered up the crystal manna to freeze
Their tongues with tasting, their hands with snowballing;
Or rioted in a drift, plunging up to the knees;
Or peering up from under the white-mossed wonder,
“O look at the trees!” they cried, “O look at the trees!”
- 25 With lessened load a few carts creak and blunder,
Following along the white deserted way,
A country company long dispersed asunder:
When now already the sun, in pale display
Standing by Paul’s high dome,¹ spread forth below
- 30 His sparkling beams, and awoke the stir of the day.
For now doors open, and war is waged with the snow;
And trains of sombre men, past tale of number,
Tread long brown paths, as toward their toil they go:
But even for them awhile no cares encumber
- 35 Their minds diverted; the daily word is unspoken,
The daily thoughts of labour and sorrow slumber
At the sight of the beauty that greets them, for the charm
they have broken.

“London Snow” by Robert Bridges—Public Domain

¹The dome of St. Paul’s Cathedral is a prominent feature of London’s skyline.

19 Read the dictionary entry.

blanch \ˈblanch\ v

1. to scald in hot water or steam
2. to bleach by the exclusion of light
3. to make to appear ashen or pale
4. to react with extreme surprise or shock

Which definition best matches the meaning of *blanched* in paragraph 4?

- (A) Definition 1
 - (B) Definition 2
 - (C) Definition 3
 - (D) Definition 4
-

20 Which statement best reflects how the cultural setting influences Sigismondo's attitude in the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow"?

- (A) The competition between snow shoveling makes Sigismondo excited to prove himself to Marcovaldo.
- (B) The fast-paced urban environment explains why workers like Sigismondo must keep the city moving.
- (C) The scarcity of jobs makes Sigismondo appreciate the temporary employment the snow provides.
- (D) The industrialization of the city leads Sigismondo to feel ambitious about his future opportunities.

- 21** Read the question carefully. Then record your answer in the box provided.

How does the rising action in paragraphs 3 and 4 develop a theme in the excerpt? Support your answer with evidence from the excerpt.

-
- 22** How do the events described in paragraphs 1 and 2 contribute to the plot of the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow"?

- (A) They establish the snowfall as a rare, almost magical happening.
- (B) They introduce the confusion Marcovaldo feels throughout the story.
- (C) They provide a sense of approaching danger to Marcovaldo and his neighbors.
- (D) They suggest that the storm has created a unique, unfathomable mystery.

23 How does the setting of “an industrial city of northern Italy” affect the plot in the excerpt from “The City Lost in the Snow”?

- (A) The shipping department workplace suggests Marcovaldo feels confident that his position at work will improve.
 - (B) The snow-covered city on Marcovaldo’s walk to work inspires him to imagine a life without restrictions.
 - (C) The deserted city streets emphasize the reason Marcovaldo must walk slowly on his way to work.
 - (D) The hidden Italian streets convey the importance of Marcovaldo’s job to clear the snow from the sidewalks.
-

24 The author uses irony in paragraph 8 of the excerpt from “The City Lost in the Snow” most likely to show that —

- (A) Sigismondo’s efforts are being erased by the efforts of a fellow worker
- (B) Sigismondo’s crew is unable to keep up with the rapidly accumulating snow
- (C) the snow continues to pile up as the workers race to gain favor with their boss
- (D) the speed at which the workers must shovel is beginning to cause them distress

- 25** How does the language the author uses in paragraph 4 contribute to the mood in the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow"?
- (A) It creates empathy for people who walk to work.
 - (B) It suggests hope that there will be progress for the worker.
 - (C) It emphasizes the sense of fantasy that ends abruptly.
 - (D) It reveals a feeling of warmth that contrasts with the cold outside.
-

- 26** What does the use of alliteration in lines 1 through 9 of the poem "London Snow" convey to the reader?
- (A) The soothing lull of the falling snow
 - (B) The shadowy gloom of the endless snow at night
 - (C) The dangers hidden by the thick snow
 - (D) The exciting thrill of watching the snow fall

27 Read lines 15 and 16 of the poem “London Snow.”

The eye marvelled—marvelled at the dazzling whiteness;
The ear hearkened to the stillness of the solemn air;

How does the figurative language in these lines reveal the speaker’s attitude toward the snow?

- (A) By suggesting that human productivity is hampered by the unexpected weather
 - (B) By conveying how the sight of snow is more appealing than the void of sound
 - (C) By describing how the individual senses are affected by dramatic changes in nature
 - (D) By showing that the newly fallen snow conceals the bleakness of everyday life
-

28 What is most likely the poet’s purpose for using contrast to present the ideas in lines 31 through 37 of the poem “London Snow”?

- (A) To describe the advancements of society despite the dangers of nature
- (B) To reveal the freedom people feel when they live close to nature
- (C) To show the ability of nature to alter the landscape of society
- (D) To illustrate the tranquility nature brings to the lives of people

- 29** How does the language in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the excerpt from “The City Lost in the Snow” **DIFFER** from the language in lines 1 through 9 of the poem “London Snow”?
- (A) The language in the excerpt emphasizes the surprise of a character, while the language in the poem suggests the sadness of the speaker.
 - (B) The language in the excerpt conveys the fear of a character, while the language in the poem reveals the excitement of the speaker.
 - (C) The language in the excerpt conveys the enthusiasm of a character, while the language in the poem reveals the calmness of the speaker.
 - (D) The language in the excerpt emphasizes the objectivity of a character, while the language in the poem suggests the bias of the speaker.
-

- 30** Which sentence best expresses a **SIMILARITY** between the excerpt from “The City Lost in the Snow” and the poem “London Snow”?
- (A) Newly fallen snow can bring a welcome change to everyday life.
 - (B) Forces in nature can be hostile and compel people to work harder.
 - (C) Nature constantly reminds people that progress is only an illusion.
 - (D) Heavy snowfall isolates people from one another.

31 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Read these quotations from the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow" and the poem "London Snow."

He opened the window: the city was gone; it had been replaced by a white sheet of paper.
(paragraph 1 of "The City Lost in the Snow")

Hiding difference, making unevenness even,
(line 8 of "London Snow")

What does the imagery in **BOTH** quotations suggest?

- Ⓐ A heavy snowfall affects everyone in a city equally.
- Ⓑ A heavy snowfall can be destructive to city landmarks.
- Ⓒ A heavy snowfall can transform the appearance of a city.
- Ⓓ A heavy snowfall provides opportunities to everyone in a city.

Part B

Which line from the poem "London Snow" supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ Deadening, muffling, stifling its murmurs failing; (line 5)
- Ⓑ Silently sifting and veiling road, roof and railing; (line 7)
- Ⓒ It lay in the depth of its uncompacted lightness, (line 11)
- Ⓓ But even for them awhile no cares encumber (line 34)

32 What is the **DIFFERENCE** in the way the newly fallen snow affects the working men in the excerpt from "The City Lost in the Snow" and the working men in the poem "London Snow"?

- (A) While the laborers in the excerpt compete for scarce jobs shoveling the snow, the laborers in the poem feel that the snow has made their work much harder.
- (B) While the laborers in the excerpt feel overwhelmed by the increased workload due to the snow, the laborers in the poem trudge through the snow without noticing it.
- (C) While the laborers in the excerpt worry about the monumental task of shoveling the snow, the laborers in the poem think of the snow as a part of their daily struggles.
- (D) While the laborers in the excerpt appreciate opportunities brought by the snow, the laborers in the poem find the snow a short distraction from the drudgery of their day.

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Heike wrote the following paper about an amazing athletic feat. She would like you to read her paper and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Pushing Past Adversity

(1) Swimmers have been both inspired and challenged by the strip of water known as the English Channel. (2) In fact, this slice of ocean has been traversed by more than 2,000 swimmers between England and France. (3) About 40 have swum the channel twice without stopping, and four individuals have even swum three consecutive laps of the channel. (4) Sarah Thomas did something even more remarkable. (5) She is a world-class swimmer who hoped to set a record.

(6) The swim took 37-year-old Thomas a little more than 54 hours, which is 2 full days plus another 6 hours of nonstop swimming. (7) Her accomplishment was even more remarkable because she is a cancer survivor, having recovered just a year before her impressive swim. (8) By dedicating the swim to other survivors, she hoped to be an inspiration. (9) Her determination to overcome adversity was a critical factor in completing this incredible feat.

(10) Due to weather conditions, swimmers have only a two-week window in which they can cross the English Channel. (11) But Thomas wanted to make the journey four times. (12) That made selecting a time to cross even more difficult. (13) To protect her skin from the cold, she covered her body in grease. (14) A light was attached to Thomas's back so that the support team, who followed alongside her in a boat, could see her in the dark.

(15) To make sure she had sustenance, the team threw her a bottle with a liquid mixture inside that gave her energy and kept her awake. (16) The bottle was attached to a rope, which allowed the team to retrieve it and refill it. (17) During the trip, Thomas had to deal with jellyfish stings, mouth and throat pains, and keeping food down. (18) She wanted to give up at one point, but they encouraged her to keep going. (19) The most difficult challenge was still to come, however; it was a surprising shift in the weather.

(20) On the fourth leg of the crossing, the currents pushed Thomas off the path she had so carefully planned. (21) She wasn't initially aware that the currents were causing trouble, but around 3:00 a.m. one of her crew let her know that she still had another three hours to go. (22) Her mother and her husband were actually a part of her crew as well. (23) "I had expected to be done by 3:00 a.m., so it was a stunning blow," Thomas later recalled. (24) "However, we had come that far already, and it never crossed my mind that I wouldn't swim until I had solid ground below my feet again."

(25) Thomas reached solid ground around 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday and was greeted by a large group of enthusiastic supporters. (26) She commented that she felt both numb and stunned. (27) The journey that should have been about 84 miles long turned out to be closer to 134 miles, so after celebrating with chocolate, she said she planned to sleep for the rest of the day. (28) "I'm pretty tired right now," she admitted.

(29) Sarah Thomas accomplished something that had never been done before. (30) "Swimming a channel is filled with hours of nothing," Thomas said, "on moments of incredible."

33 Sentence 2 needs to be revised. In the box provided, rewrite sentence 2 in a clear and effective way.

34 Which sentences can replace sentences 4 and 5 to create a more effective controlling idea for this paper?

- (A) However, one swimmer, Sarah Thomas, has managed to go above and beyond all the rest. She set a new record by swimming the English Channel four times without stopping.
 - (B) But Sarah Thomas is a swimmer who yearned to do more. She has faced some challenging circumstances in her life and felt confident she was ready to tackle the English Channel.
 - (C) As a result, Sarah Thomas was able to accomplish something no swimmer had ever accomplished. She swam across the English Channel and set an impressive record.
 - (D) Yet Sarah Thomas was able to complete a swim that was an incredible feat. She made it across the English Channel with the help of a small team and was proud of her accomplishment.

- 35** Heike wants to add this sentence to the third paragraph of her paper (sentences 10–14).

Finally, on Sunday, September 15, 2019, weather predictions looked favorable, and she set out early that morning.

Where is the best place to insert this sentence?

- (A) After sentence 10
 - (B) After sentence 11
 - (C) After sentence 12
 - (D) After sentence 13
-

- 36** Sentence 18 contains an indefinite reference that affects the clarity of the sentence. What is the best way to revise sentence 18?

- (A) Change **She** to **They**
- (B) Change **but** to **and**
- (C) Change **they** to **crew members**
- (D) Change **her** to **another teammate**

37 Which sentence in the fifth paragraph (sentences 20–24) contains unnecessary information and should be removed?

- (A) Sentence 20
 - (B) Sentence 21
 - (C) Sentence 22
 - (D) Sentence 23
-

38 Heike would like to replace sentence 30 with a more appropriate and relevant quotation. Which of the following can replace sentence 30 to help emphasize a main point of this paper and bring the paper to a more effective conclusion?

- (A) As a Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation committee reported, "It was an outstanding feat of endurance and triumph over adversity. It is, quite simply, the English Channel swim of our age."
- (B) "If you want to swim across the English Channel from England to France—you have to leave your doubt on the beach in England," endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh once said.
- (C) "There are so many stories of people swimming in the same spot for hours until the tide turns," says Colin Hill, a race organizer and member of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.
- (D) "She started swimming when she was just a little tyke but didn't know about open-water swimming until after college," her stepfather Kent Maxson commented.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Julia wrote a story to tell about a girl's surprise opportunity. Read Julia's draft and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Surprise Stop

(1) Art class had always been Natalia's favorite elective. (2) She preferred it over theater, music, and even gym. (3) She loved everything about it—clay, map pencils, markers, papier-mâché—but painting was her greatest interest.

(4) Natalia's eighth-grade art teacher had a Georgia O'Keeffe painting hanging on the wall in her classroom. (5) Natalia admired it daily and tried to paint flowers that looked similar to O'Keeffe's. (6) At home she studied other works by the artist and routinely marveled at her talent. (7) Natalia was in awe of O'Keeffe's paintings of New York and its skyscrapers. (8) The flowers and landscapes of New Mexico most inspired the teenager. (9) She worked hard to perfect her paintings, trying to get them to resemble those of Georgia O'Keeffe.

(10) At the beginning of ninth grade, Natalia's new art teacher encouraged each student to create a project of their choice.

(11) Mrs. Rojas said they were free to utilize any materials but that they needed to make something that highlighted their talent.

(12) Hoping to impress her new teacher, Natalia chose oil paints and began working diligently to create a piece that reflected her skills.

(13) When the painting was nearly complete, Mrs. Rojas walked by and said, "That's quite impressive, Natalia; it looks like an O'Keeffe piece." (14) Beaming, Natalia felt the pride swelling up in her heart.

(15) Eventually Natalia took the painting home and proudly hung it on her bedroom wall. (16) Her parents didn't seem to be as impressed as her teacher had been, which was a bit disappointing to Natalia, but she assumed it was because she already had so many paintings hanging in her room. (17) In addition to this, Natalia continued to work on her technique and learn more about Georgia O'Keeffe.

(18) Summer came, and it was time for Natalia's family to take their annual road trip to visit family in Albuquerque, New Mexico. (19) Early one Saturday morning, Mom, Dad, and Natalia climbed into the car to start the three-and-a-half-hour journey from their home in El Paso to Aunt Jackie's house in Albuquerque. (20) A little more than two hours into the trip, Natalia settled in for a nap, hoping they'd be at their destination by the time she woke up. (21) When she awoke, however, she was confused. (22) Instead, they were driving through a quaint neighborhood, and before long she noticed a sign that read "Georgia O'Keeffe Museum." (23) They weren't in Albuquerque! (24) They were in Santa Fe! (25) Finally Natalia could tell that they weren't going to Aunt Jackie's first.

(26) As the trio walked in the front doors of the building, Natalia's heart beat with anticipation. (27) Moving through room after room slowly, paintings hung neatly on white walls. (28) The art that she had seen only in books was right before her eyes. (29) Looking closely at each masterpiece, she focused on the detail and tried to absorb as much as she could. (30) The family spent the entire afternoon marveling at O'Keeffe's oil paintings and watercolors.

(31) When it was finally time to leave, Natalia hugged her dad and thanked him. (32) He had gone an hour out of the way to surprise Natalia with a visit to her favorite artist's museum. (33) He had wanted to surprise his daughter with a special visit. (34) As the family began the drive toward their original destination, Natalia reached into her backpack. (35) She pulled out her sketchbook, newly inspired for her next painting.

39 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 7 and 8?

- (A) Natalia, who was in awe of O'Keeffe's paintings of New York and its skyscrapers, was a teenager most inspired by the flowers and landscapes of New Mexico.
 - (B) Natalia was in awe of O'Keeffe's paintings of New York and its skyscrapers, but it was the flowers and landscapes of New Mexico that most inspired the teenager.
 - (C) Being in awe of O'Keeffe's paintings of New York and its skyscrapers, the flowers and landscapes of New Mexico most inspired the teenager Natalia.
 - (D) Because Natalia was in awe of O'Keeffe's paintings of New York and its skyscrapers, the teenager was most inspired by the flowers and landscapes of New Mexico.
-

40 Julia has used a weak transitional phrase at the beginning of sentence 17. Select the **ONE** phrase that **BEST** replaces ***In addition to this*** in this sentence.

- (A) As the year went on
- (B) In response to her teacher
- (C) While her parents watched
- (D) After so much disappointment

, Natalia continued to work on her

technique and learn more about Georgia O'Keeffe.

41 Which sentence would best follow sentence 21?

- (A) According to her watch, they should have already arrived at her aunt's house in Albuquerque.
 - (B) This was a long road trip, so no one had been surprised when she had decided to sleep for a good while.
 - (C) She was unsure about a number of things as she rubbed her eyes and looked out the window.
 - (D) As usual there was a lot of traffic on the highway to Albuquerque, so her dad had been driving slowly.
-

42 Julia would like a more effective closing for the fifth paragraph (sentences 18–25). Which sentence can replace sentence 25 to help Julia accomplish this goal?

- (A) When Natalia's dad opened his car door, he asked everyone to gather their things and quickly follow him inside.
- (B) After a great deal of confusion, Natalia put the clues together and deduced that they were not going to go to her aunt's house yet.
- (C) Natalia understood that they had traveled to the museum and would subsequently be late getting to her aunt's.
- (D) When Natalia's dad turned around and asked her if she would like to go into the museum, she squealed in delight.

43 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 27?

- (A) Through room after room she moved slowly, paintings hung neatly on white walls.
 - (B) She moved slowly through room after room of paintings hung neatly on white walls.
 - (C) As she moved slowly through room after room, paintings on white walls hung neatly.
 - (D) She moved slowly through room after room of paintings on white walls that hung neatly.
-

44 Julia has included a sentence in the last paragraph (sentences 31–35) that repeats information. Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?

- (A) Sentence 32
- (B) Sentence 33
- (C) Sentence 34
- (D) Sentence 35

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Vijay is writing a paper about an exciting event that took place in Pennsylvania. Read these paragraphs from the beginning of Vijay's paper and look for corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Skyscraper Games by Kids

(1) On June 10, 2019, the mood in downtown Philadelphia was festive. (2) Music filled the air as people socialized and enjoyed yummy treats from food trucks. (3) At 8:30 p.m., it was time for the main attraction. (4) A few lucky individuals took their spots, picked up their joysticks, and began playing a giant video game on a 29-story glass skyscraper. (5) The video game had been created by students at a Philadelphia middle school who had recently learned to program. (6) They were excited to share their game with others.

(7) The unique event was known as Skyscraper Games by Kids, it was the brainchild of Frank Lee. (8) He teaches digital media and video game design at Philadelphia's Drexel University. (9) Lee had twice before used the same skyscraper as a giant video game screen. (10) In 2013 he had obtained permission to manipulate the building's LED lights to display the video game *Pong*. (11) City residents stood near the skyscraper and used their controllers to bounce a dot back and forth. (12) The next year, Lee programmed the lights to create a skyscraper-sized version of *Tetris*, a game that involves rotating oddly-shaped blocks to make it fit together. (13) The *Tetris* display was 119,600 square feet so big that it could be seen all over Philadelphia.

45 What is the correct way to write sentence 7?

- (A) The unique event, known as Skyscraper Games by Kids, was the brainchild of Frank Lee.
 - (B) Known as Skyscraper Games by Kids. It was a unique event and the brainchild of Frank Lee.
 - (C) The unique event, known as Skyscraper Games by Kids. It was the brainchild of Frank Lee.
 - (D) Known as Skyscraper Games by Kids, a unique event that was the brainchild of Frank Lee.
-

46 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?

- (A) Change **he** to **it**
 - (B) Change **manipulate** to **mannipulate**
 - (C) Change **building's** to **buildings'**
 - (D) No change is needed.
-

47 What change needs to be made in sentence 12?

- (A) Change the comma after **Tetris** to a semicolon
- (B) Change **involves** to **will involve**
- (C) Change **rotating** to **rotatting**
- (D) Change **it** to **them**

48 What change should be made in sentence 13?

- (A) Insert a dash after ***feet***
- (B) Change ***so big*** to ***it was so big***
- (C) Change ***it*** to ***they***
- (D) Change ***could be seen*** to ***had been seen***

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Charles is writing a paper about some interesting towers in Austin, Texas. Read these paragraphs from the body of Charles's paper and look for corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Still Shining After All These Years



Peter Tsai Photography/Alamy Stock Photo

- (1) The first tower was lit in Hyde Park, a streetcar suburb that was then on the north edge of town. (2) It gave light to a 3,000-foot-diameter space, stood 165 feet tall, had a base of 15 feet, and weighed approximatly 5,000 pounds. (3) Similar towers were put into operation soon afterward.
- (4) The moon towers, which is what people now call the structures, is no longer a practical source of light. (5) They are, however, a special part of Austin's history. (6) In 1976 the famous towers were added to an official list known as the National Register of Historic Places. (7) In the early 1990s, the towers were carefully deconstructed and completely restored. (8) The city celebrated their return with a festival.

(9) Though hotels and skyscrapers tower over them today, the moon towers have left a legacy. (10) They have inspired a documentary, *The Last of the Moonlight Towers* that pays homage to this part of Austin's history. (11) The Moontower Comedy Festival is a popular yearly tradition. (12) But an even more popular tradition is the Zilker Park holiday tree, which uses a moon tower as its trunk.

49 What change needs to be made in sentence 2?

- (A) Change ***It*** to ***They***
 - (B) Delete the comma after ***space***
 - (C) Change ***had*** to ***has***
 - (D) Change ***approximately*** to ***approximately***
-

50 What change needs to be made in sentence 4?

- (A) Delete the comma after ***towers***
 - (B) Change ***call*** to ***called***
 - (C) Change ***is*** to ***are***
 - (D) Change ***practical*** to ***practacal***
-

51 What change needs to be made in sentence 10?

- (A) Change ***documentary*** to ***documentery***
- (B) Insert a comma after ***Towers***
- (C) Change ***that*** to ***who***
- (D) Change ***Austin's*** to ***Austins'***

52 What change should be made in sentence 12?

- (A) Change **But** to **While**
- (B) Change **is** to **was**
- (C) Change **Zilker Park holiday tree** to **Zilker Park Holiday Tree**
- (D) Change **its** to **it's**



**STAAR
English II
PRACTICE**

