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By **Progress Testing**

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Read "Organic Architecture" before answering the questions that follow.

## Organic Architecture

*by L. M. Accord*

- 1 We have all heard the term "organic foods." Entire stores are devoted to them, as well as to other organic products of all types. We understand that organic vegetables, for instance, have been grown naturally, without the use of pesticides, growth stimulants, or other chemicals. Anything "organic" is understood to occur naturally. The term "organic architecture" is one that is less familiar to most of us. It is a term that was coined by the innovative American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959).

### An Explanation

- 2 Organic architecture promotes harmony between human habitation and the natural world through a design approach so well integrated with the land that buildings, furnishings, and surroundings become part of a unified, interrelated composition. In this context, the word "organic" refers to being an integral element of a whole or to having the characteristics of an organism. Wright's mentor, Louis Sullivan (1856-1924), held the modern belief that in architecture, "form follows function," but Wright carried that idea still further with his conviction that "form and function are one." Wright, a lover of nature, believed that a building should be a natural part of its environment. The site, the building materials, the form of the building itself — all should function together.

### Illustrations

- 3 His own creations illustrated this belief. Fallingwater, a home built in rural Pennsylvania, was built directly over a waterfall and creek so that these elements are incorporated into the building itself. The generous use of windows and balconies helps to create the feeling that exterior and interior flow together. Stones from the site were used to build the fireplace. Even in the city, he tried to make the most of nature. When asked to plan the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, Wright was disappointed because it was to be built in such a crowded metropolis. Finally, he chose a location close to Central Park, the nearest thing to nature that he could manage. Inside, the spiraling design of the ramp in that extraordinary building brings to mind a nautilus shell.

### **Wright's Style**

- 4 From the time of his Wisconsin childhood, he was keenly aware of and drawn to the patterns and textures of nature, so their major role in his lifework is not surprising. He used the materials of nature in his building and greatly preferred the use of stone and natural woods to painted finishes. Wright's advice to students of architecture was to "study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."
- 5 Wright's ideas about the interiors of his structures have much in common with those of Gustav Stickley (1858-1942), who was both a furniture maker and an architect. Stickley liked to eliminate unnecessary barriers in the building so that there was more open living space, to use natural light from many windows, and to build in bookcases and seating. He also preferred using local materials in his structures and having the structures look as though they belonged in their settings. Wright made use of the same ideas in his designs, but these were unusual at the time.

### **Wright's Legacy**

- 6 He and his wife established the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in 1940, and it is housed at Taliesin West, Wright's home in Scottsdale, Arizona. Among its functions, the Foundation preserves his archives and maintains Taliesin West and Taliesin (his home in Wisconsin). Both also serve as centers to encourage the continued growth of organic architecture and to educate aspiring young apprentices in architecture. Since his death, other architects have elaborated upon Wright's concept of organic architecture. Rather than create a shell and then its interior, organic architects allow their buildings to unfold, to develop like an organism from a seed. Like Wright, they feel that the building must "grow" from its site.
- 7 Today, Frank Lloyd Wright is a household name. Even those who know nothing of architecture know that his work was extraordinary. During his career of more than 70 years, Wright revolutionized architecture, designing a total of 1,141 works. His buildings still draw admiring visitors today. Although his structures are unmistakably modern in design, many were built 100 years ago. Taliesin was built in 1911 and was lighted by gas lamps, yet it looks very much at home in today's world. Organic architecture — like nature itself — appears to be a permanent part of our world.

Use "Organic Architecture" to answer questions 1-10.

**1 Expectation: E.1(A)**

The word *innovate* comes from the Latin word *innovāre*, meaning "to renew or alter." Based on this meaning, what does the word *innovative* mean in paragraph 1?

- A** Groundbreaking
- B** Contrasting
- C** Sophisticated
- D** Respected

**2 Expectation: E.9 Fig. 19(B)**

Readers of the selection can infer that Wright —

- F** preferred rural settings.
- G** refused to design buildings for the public.
- H** refused to build in cities.
- J** preferred privacy barriers in his buildings.

**3 Expectation: E.8(A)**

Wright's use of windows and balconies at Fallingwater demonstrates the importance of —

- A** instituting a sense of privacy in a large city.
- B** protecting the house from the waterfall.
- C** creating a spiraling design to reflect the water.
- D** uniting exterior spaces with interior spaces.

**4 Expectation: E.9(C)**

The main organizational structure of the selection is —

- F** a comparison and contrast of two types of architecture.
- G** a central discussion about Wright supported by details.
- H** a question and answer format about organic architecture.
- J** a chronological presentation of events from Wright's life.

**5 Expectation: E.9(C)**

What does the author use to support the claim that Wright believed form and function should be one?

- A** Examples of Wright's buildings that illustrate this principle
- B** Anecdotes about how Wright learned about the concept
- C** Expert opinions that elaborate on the meaning of "one"
- D** Statistics on the number of buildings that apply the idea

**6 Expectation: E.9 Fig. 19(B)**

What is reasonable for readers to infer about Wright's work?

- F** It is not possible to be improved upon.
- G** It was specifically for homes or residences.
- H** It can be found in many different areas.
- J** It can be built only in very rural settings.

**7 Expectation: E.12 Fig. 19(B)**

What could be added to the selection to help explain organic architecture?

- A** Photographs of Wright's house Taliesin
- B** Photographs of different types of architecture
- C** Photographs of organic items
- D** Photographs of Wright

**8 Expectation: E.1(A)**

The word *mistake* comes from the Old Norse word *mistaka*, meaning "to take wrongly" or "to take in error." Based on this meaning, what does the word *unmistakably* mean in paragraph 7?

- F** Imprudently
- G** Unattractively
- H** Distinctly
- J** Sensibly

**9 Expectation: E.9 Fig. 19(B)**

It is reasonable for readers to conclude that —

- A** most people have heard of Wright's work, but not organic architecture.
- B** organic architecture doesn't seem like it will stand the test of time.
- C** people may be interested in architecture, but not know about Wright's work.
- D** organic architecture doesn't seem like it blends well with nature.

**10 Expectation: E.9(C)**

The evidence that supports Wright's ideas about interiors is presented through the use of —

- F** descriptive details.
- G** a comparison to his mentor.
- H** expert opinions.
- J** a description of his foundation.



## STAAR ELA II Reading made with STAAR Test Maker 1-800-930-TEST

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Reading Selection 1				
1	1	Supporting	E.1(A)	A
2	3	Readiness	E.9 Fig. 19(B)	F
3	3	Readiness	E.8(A)	D
4	3	Readiness	E.9(C)	G
5	3	Readiness	E.9(C)	A
6	3	Readiness	E.9 Fig. 19(B)	H
7	3	Supporting	E.12 Fig. 19(B)	A
8	1	Supporting	E.1(A)	H
9	3	Readiness	E.9 Fig. 19(B)	A
10	3	Readiness	E.9(C)	F

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