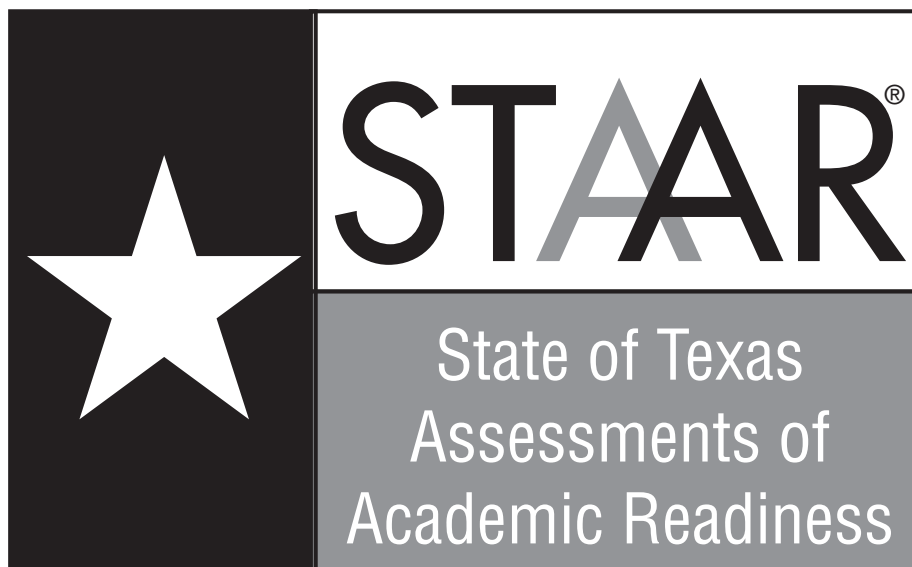


# Texas STAAR 2017 English II

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# **English II**

**Administered April 2018**

**RELEASED**

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Kelly wrote this essay warning readers to avoid a common morning activity. Read Kelly's essay and look for the revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Don't Touch That Button!**

(1) "Five more minutes" is the first thought of people all over the country when their alarms go off in the morning. (2) This first thought is usually followed by hitting the snooze button and falling back asleep for those precious few extra moments. (3) Hitting the snooze button has become routine for millions of people, but the time has come to examine this habit and develop new routines for feeling more rested during the day.

(4) Though the snooze button is intended to allow people a few extra minutes of sleep, it contributes to unhealthy patterns. (5) Most people think if they are tired when they first wake up that they must need more sleep. (6) They are mistaken when they conclude that any sleep is good sleep. (7) Sleeping is a process with different stages or cycles. (8) To feel fully rested, the body must go through all the sleep cycles. (9) Falling back asleep after hitting the snooze button restarts the process, but when the alarm rings again several minutes later, the process is interrupted. (10) The body has not had time to go through all of the stages, and this can cause the body to feel sleepy for the rest of the day. (11) This sleepiness can affect memory, the ability to make choices, and performance at work or school.

(12) People normally fall asleep at night and wake up in the morning because their internal rhythms are operating naturally. (13) Circadian rhythms are negatively impacted by repeated use of the snooze button, which can contribute to feelings of sleepiness during the day and an inability to fall asleep at night. (14) Once that happens, the snooze button becomes even more attractive in the morning.

(15) Rather than relying on the snooze button, people need to consider developing different routines. (16) The easiest option for those who still cannot resist the snooze button is to put the alarm on the other side of the room. (17) Having to get out of bed to turn it off changes the likelihood of hitting the snooze button. (18) Another option, if your schedule allows it, is to just reset the

alarm. (19) Rather than hitting the snooze button several times, setting your alarm for 30 minutes later will extend the entire sleep process instead of constantly restarting it. (20) However, it must be stressed that getting up 30 minutes later in the morning is not an excuse to stay up 30 minutes later the night before.

(21) Though a few extra minutes of sleep may seem to promise a better start to the day, hitting that snooze button creates an unhealthy sleep pattern.

1 What is the most effective transition to add to the beginning of sentence 6?

- A Even though
  - B In contrast
  - C Furthermore
  - D However
- 

2 Kelly wants to add a more effective transition between the second paragraph (sentences 4–11) and the third paragraph (sentences 12–14). Which of the following sentences should be added before sentence 12 to help readers effectively transition from the second to the third paragraph?

- F Using the snooze button can have a negative impact on a person's health.
  - G Perhaps more serious, though, is how this sleepiness can affect a person's mood.
  - H Sleepiness also may occur if the body's circadian rhythm, or internal body clock, is disrupted.
  - J Interfering with the natural circadian rhythms is equally distracting.
- 

3 Kelly has not used the most appropriate word in sentence 17. Which word best replaces **changes**?

- A varies
- B shifts
- C controls
- D decreases

- 4 Kelly is considering whether or not she should add the following supporting detail to the fourth paragraph (sentences 15–20).

*Experts suggest that feeling tired in the morning is sometimes a symptom of sleep deprivation.*

Where could Kelly place this sentence?

- F After sentence 16
  - G After sentence 17
  - H After sentence 18
  - J Kelly should not add this sentence to the paragraph.
- 

- 5 Kelly wants to end her essay with a call to action. Which sentence should she add after sentence 21 to best achieve this goal?

- A The snooze button contributes to unhealthy sleep patterns and should not be used on a regular basis.
- B Banish the snooze button and develop healthier sleep habits to feel rested and ready for your busy days.
- C Put that alarm on the other side of the room and turn off electronics in order to feel more rested.
- D People should stop interrupting sleep cycles with the snooze button in order to get more sleep.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Ken wrote this essay about a place he would like to visit someday. Read Ken's essay and look for revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*



The AquaDom

## The AquaDom

(1) When most people think of an aquarium, they probably imagine a fish tank perched on a stand in someone's living room. (2) Others might imagine a large building where visitors gaze at fish behind extremely large plates of glass. (3) The AquaDom in Berlin, Germany, is an aquarium; it is something that many people would love to experience.

(4) The colossal AquaDom, which stands an amazing 82 feet tall, is located in Berlin's Radisson Blu Hotel. (5) Completed in 2004, the AquaDom is cylindrical instead of rectangular and holds over one million liters of salt water. (6) As many as 1,500 tropical fish swim within these sparkling blue waters. (7) Not surprisingly, the 2,000-ton AquaDom boasts that it is the largest freestanding aquarium in the world.

(8) The AquaDom has some other features like a two-floor elevator that is transparent. (9) It allows visitors to ride up the length of the tank to gaze at the fish from every possible level. (10) Though one might guess that the elevator rides along the outside of the tank, it is actually situated in the tank's center, the clear walls giving riders a truly up-close-and-personal experience with the aquatic residents.

(11) The elevator lets visitors observe the dedicated tank divers hard at work.

(12) This includes watching the divers feed the inhabitants and clean the massive tank. (13) Getting an inside look at people performing this unique job is as interesting as watching the swarms of fish.

(14) Nearly as captivating as the elevator is the tunnel located beneath the AquaDom. (15) Visitors are surrounded by fish on their left, on their right, and over their heads, strolling through the clear shaft. (16) As sea life of all shapes and sizes envelops curious visitors, the experience is breathtaking. (17) People interested in studying marine life can spend hours walking back and forth through the tunnel observing the animals. (18) Being encircled by sea life is both intriguing and educational.

(19) Truly ingenious, the AquaDom is a magnet for people who love marine life. (20) Even people not particularly interested in aquariums or sea life still find it remarkable. (21) The AquaDom, an amazing feat of creativity and engineering, is a beautiful sight to behold.



**6** Ken is not satisfied with his thesis statement in sentence 3. Which of the following should replace sentence 3 to provide a more effective thesis statement?

- F** The AquaDom in Berlin, Germany, is very tall and made of glass; it is an experience that many people would like to have.
  - G** For a worthwhile experience, you should go to the AquaDom in Berlin, Germany; it is a unique attraction.
  - H** The AquaDom in Berlin, Germany, is a completely different kind of aquarium; it is a unique attraction that many people would love to experience.
  - J** The AquaDom in Berlin, Germany, is sort of a different kind of an aquarium; it is something many people would like to go see.
- 

**7** Ken wants to strengthen the topic sentence of his third paragraph (sentences 8–13). Which of the following best replaces sentence 8?

- A** An elevator is a feature that is popular and transparent in the AquaDom.
- B** The 2,000-ton AquaDom includes features that delight its visitors.
- C** One of the most popular features of the AquaDom is its two-floor transparent elevator.
- D** The AquaDom is so large that seeing the entire aquarium is difficult.

- 8 Ken wants to add the following sentence to the third paragraph (sentences 8–13).

*Although this 360-degree view allows people to watch the fish from practically anywhere inside their watery habitat, visitors can catch a glimpse of much more than fins, gills, and tails.*

Where is the best place to insert this sentence?

- F After sentence 10
  - G After sentence 11
  - H After sentence 12
  - J After sentence 13
- 

- 9 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 15?

- A Visitors are surrounded by fish strolling through the clear shaft on their left, on their right, and over their heads.
- B Strolling through the clear shaft, visitors are surrounded by fish on their left, on their right, and over their heads.
- C On their left, on their right, and over their heads, fish are surrounded by visitors strolling through the clear shaft.
- D Sentence 15 should not be revised.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Gabrielle wrote this paper about a memorable experience she had on a trip with her family. Read Gabrielle's paper and think about the corrections she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

## **Touring Cenotes**

(1) My parents and I traveled to Mexico to visit my grandparents last summer, and we visited the *cenotes* (say-NO-tays), the natural swimming holes located on the Yucatán Peninsula. (2) The term "swimming hole" might make you think that cenotes are just average, everyday lakes, but cenotes are truly spectacular. (3) I had the most exhilarating experience of my life exploring these wonders of nature.

(4) Thousands of years old, the cenotes formed when limestone bedrock crumbled, creating sinkholes underneath. (5) The disintegration of limestone exposed secret underground pools of nearly pure water naturally filtered by the earth. (6) Though the ancient Mayans used the cenotes as water sources, people can now swim, snorkel, take photographs, and admire local trees and marine life, all through water as clear as liquid diamond.



© iStock.com/rilcombs

(7) In Cenote Azul, the first cenote we visited, my parents, my grandparents, and I swam through water that seemed too blue to be real. (8) Underneath us, meandering through the same turquoise pool, was schools of tropical fish. (9) I

witnessed countless younger kids diving into the water from a small cliff, but I was hesitant to jump at first. (10) I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.

(11) A few days later, we went to Cenote Ponderosa. (12) We took easy strokes out to the sun-drenched pond, where we lazily floated while others snorkeled and took underwater photographs. (13) Being surrounded by a valley of trees made everything else in the world seem to disappear.

(14) *Grutas de Loltún* were definitely the most magnificent of all the cenotes, even though there was no swimming involved. (15) *Grutas* are caves, and the Grutas de Loltún are among the biggest caves on the entire peninsula. (16) Our guide, Carolina, walked us through a labyrinth of caverns, where we saw many drawings on the cave walls. (17) According to Carolina, the drawings were thousands of years old! (18) Just one glimpse of those drawings made me feel like I had stepped back in time to a forgotten era of history. (19) Just as spectacular were the tree roots growing into the caves' ceilings; it was wondrous to spy roots overhead instead of poking out of the ground. (20) The most amazing parts of Grutas de Loltún were the stalagmites and stalactites, which have actually grown together and fashioned themselves into columns. (21) Our group thought Carolina was joking when she claimed she could make them sing for us, but when she tapped them, we heard what sounded like the words "Lo!" and "Tun"—the name of the caves! (22) I cannot imagine that a concert at Carnegie hall would have been any better.

(23) Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula is brimming with beauty, but the cenotes are by far the most amazing sites anyone can experience. (24) Cenotes are a one-of-a-kind opportunity to commune with nature in a way that is impossible anywhere else on Earth, and I would not hesitate to do it all again.

**10** What change should be made in sentence 5?

- F** Change *disintigration* to **disintegration**
  - G** Change *exposed* to **expose**
  - H** Insert a comma after *water*
  - J** Change *filtered* to **filterred**
- 

**11** What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A** Change *meandering* to **meanders**
- B** Change *turquoise* to **turquoys**
- C** Delete the comma after *pool*
- D** Change *was* to **were**

**12** What is the best way to rewrite sentence 10?

- F** I finally worked up the courage, my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.
  - G** I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest. The experience was invigorating.
  - H** I finally worked up the courage. My initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.
  - J** I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash, instantly, put all my worries to rest and the experience was invigorating.
- 

**13** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 22?

- A** Insert a comma after *imagine*
- B** Change *hall* to **Hall**
- C** Change *would have been* to **would not have been**
- D** Sentence 22 should not be changed.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Florence has written this essay to encourage others to consider listening to music on vinyl records. Read Florence's essay and look for the corrections she needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



## **Open Your Ears to Vinyl**

(1) Decade's ago vinyl records provided music lovers with a way to enjoy recorded music. (2) Considered remnants of our parents' and grandparents' younger years, vinyl records are often thought to be old-fashioned compared to digital music. (3) However, vinyl is making a comeback for many good reasons. (4) Teens should have been giving this earlier form of music recording a chance and experience vinyl records for themselves.

(5) People should experience vinyl for the sound. (6) Although most people think CDs and digital downloads are superior, it turns out that vinyl is the all-star athlete of sound clarity. (7) The vinyl records of the past are not digital; they are analog. (8) For this reason, they capture the original sound of the music, whereas digitally recorded music is more like an estimate of the sounds. (9) Though it is difficult to believe, digital music is unable to truly depict every single sound along the sound wave. (10) The grooves in older vinyl records are responsible for this superiority because they represent the complete waveform of the original music, giving the listener a richer sound and a better listening experience.

(11) In addition, vinyl is not just about the music itself. (12) You might ask, “how can music be about something other than music?” (13) Vinyl is about the entire artistic experience, not just sticking earbuds in your ears. (14) Obviously, vinyl records are much larger than CDs and, unlike downloaded music, are actually something you can hold in your hands and look at. (15) Plastered with large gorgeous artwork, the cover of a vinyl record is something to be appreciated and admired. (16) Some records even come with liner notes filled with information about the artists and the recording sessions, posters, and lyric sheets. (17) All of these artistic additions make CDs and MP3s dull in comparison to their older sibling.

(18) Creating a vinyl record is a lot more difficult than creating a digital recording. (19) Nearly anyone can gain access to a computer or other digital device, which means that nearly anyone can make a recording. (20) However, only a select few can make vinyl records because these artists would need to locate and work with a vinyl presser (a company that can physically make the albums). (21) Also, the price of making and shipping the records can be steep. (22) Such a prolonged and expensive endeavor most likely would be undertaken only by someone who sees the value in this type of recording. (23) Few artists today choose to make this risky investment, but if you love music, these are the artists you want to listen to.

(24) Vinyl may not be more popular than CDs and digital downloads, but it is definitely experiencing a resurgence. (25) In fact, almost 50% of today’s vinyl buyers are ages 18 to 35. (26) So if you think vinyl records are the boring technology of the older generations, think again. (27) Open your ears to vinyl because its excellence will never go out of style.



**14** What change is needed in sentence 1?

- F** Change *Decade's* to **Decades**
  - G** Change *provided* to **provides**
  - H** Change *lovers* to **lover's**
  - J** Change *recorded* to **recording**
- 

**15** What change needs to be made in sentence 4?

- A** Change *should have been giving* to **should give**
  - B** Change *earlier* to **earliest**
  - C** Insert a comma after *chance*
  - D** Change *themselves* to **themselves**
- 

**16** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 12?

- F** Delete the comma after *ask*
- G** Change *how* to **How**
- H** Change the question mark to a period
- J** No change is needed in sentence 12.

**17** What change needs to be made in sentence 15?

- A** Insert a comma after *large*
  - B** Delete the comma after *artwork*
  - C** Change *to be* to *will be*
  - D** Change *appreciated* to *apreciated*
- 

**18** What change, if any, is needed in sentence 22?

- F** Change *prolonged* to *prolonging*
- G** Change *endeaver* to *endeavor*
- H** Change *who* to *whom*
- J** No change is necessary.

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS  
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

## WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Persuasive

Read the following quotation from baseball legend Babe Ruth (1895–1948).

It's the way a team plays as a whole that determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

—*Babe Ruth*

Babe Ruth believed that a team could be great only if its individual players were willing to work together. Think carefully about this belief.

Write an essay stating your opinion on whether it's better to succeed individually or as part of a team.

Be sure to —

- state your position clearly
- use appropriate organization
- provide specific support for your argument
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

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

# Living Alone Is the New Norm

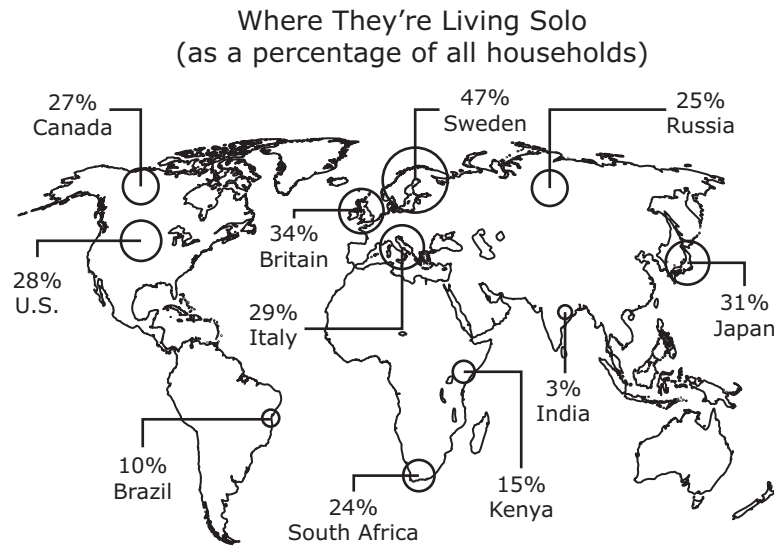
by Eric Klinenberg

Time Magazine

March 12, 2012

- 1 The extraordinary rise of solitary living is the biggest social change that we've neglected to identify, let alone examine.
- 2 Consider that in 1950, a mere 4 million Americans lived alone, and they made up only 9% of households. Back then, going solo was most common in the open, sprawling western states—Alaska, Montana and Nevada—that attracted migrant workingmen, and it was usually a short-lived stage on the road to more conventional domestic life.
- 3 Not anymore. According to 2011 census data, people who live alone—nearly 33 million Americans—make up 28% of all U.S. households, which means they are now tied with childless couples as the most prominent residential type, more common than the nuclear family, the multigenerational family and the roommate or group home. These aren't just transitional living situations: over a five-year period, people who live alone are more likely to remain in their current state than anyone else except married couples with children. They're concentrated in big cities throughout the country, from Seattle to Miami, Minneapolis to New Orleans.
- 4 Living alone, being alone and feeling lonely are hardly the same, yet in recent years experts have routinely conflated them, raising fears that the rise of soloists signals the ultimate atomization of the modern world. The theme of declining communities entered popular culture with *Bowling Alone*, political scientist Robert D. Putnam's book, which was published in 2000. It argued that social splintering had diminished the quality of life in the U.S. More recently, in *The Lonely American*, Harvard psychiatrists Jacqueline Olds and Richard S. Schwartz warn that "increased aloneness" and "the movement in our country toward greater social isolation" are damaging our health and happiness. Their evidence: First, a widely disputed finding published in the *American Sociological Review* that from 1985 to 2004, the number of Americans who said they had no one with whom they discussed important matters had tripled, to nearly a quarter of the population. (One of the study's authors later acknowledged that there was a problem with the data and that the findings were unreliable.) Second, an interpretation: that the record number of people who live alone is a sign of how lonely and disconnected we have become.
- 5 In fact, there's little evidence that the rise of living alone is making more Americans lonely. Reams of published research show that it's the quality, not the quantity, of social interactions that best predicts loneliness. As University of Chicago social neuroscientist John T. Cacioppo concluded in the book he

co-authored, *Loneliness*, what matters is not whether we live alone but whether we feel alone. There's ample support for this idea outside the laboratory. As divorced or separated people often say, there's nothing lonelier than living with the wrong person.



- 6 My research—which included more than 300 interviews with people who live alone and careful scrutiny of the scientific literature on the social connections of solo dwellers—shows that most singletons are not lonely souls. On the contrary, the evidence suggests that people who live alone compensate by becoming more socially active than those who live with others and that cities with high numbers of singletons enjoy a thriving public culture.
- 7 The truth is, nearly everyone who lives alone had other, less expensive options, from finding roommates to living with family. But today most people presented with those choices will opt to go solo. Wouldn't you?
- 8 After all, living alone serves a purpose: it helps us pursue sacred modern values—individual freedom, personal control and self-realization—that carry us from adolescence to our final days.
- 9 Living alone allows us to do what we want, when we want, on our own terms. It liberates us from the constraints of a domestic partner's needs and demands and permits us to focus on ourselves. Today, in our age of digital media and ever expanding social networks, living alone can offer even greater benefits: the time and space for restorative solitude.
- 10 This means that living alone can help us discover who we are as well as what gives us meaning and purpose. Paradoxically, living alone might be exactly what we need to reconnect.

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# Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?

by Jeff Greenwald

Salon.com

November 16, 2010

*Broadband arrives on the world's tallest mountain. But having hiked it, I worry the magic will vanish.*

- 1 When I began my career as a travel journalist in the 1980s, there was lots of talk about "remoteness." This was what many travelers were looking for: places so hard to get to, and so different from the world we knew, that their very existence seemed almost miraculous.
- 2 Today, the value has shifted. What we look for now is connectedness: the opportunity to check our e-mail, upload video clips and chat on Skype—even if we happen to be on the Khumbu Icefall, 18,000 feet high in the Nepal Himalaya.
- 3 Last week, a network of eight 3G base stations began operating along the route to Mount Everest, in Sagarmatha National Park. They were installed by Ncell, a Nepali telecom firm. The news didn't surprise me. But I felt that, irreversibly, another blow had been struck against magic.
- 4 Access to the Internet is starting to seem like a human right, so let me offer a disclaimer. There is no rational downside to the arrival of broadband on the flanks of Everest. I'm not a Luddite, and would never suggest that developing nations should be denied, for any reason, the global access that technology can provide. This 3G network will undoubtedly save lives—not only by providing weather information and support to Everest climbers and trekkers, but as an alert system for the nearby villages threatened by flash floods from Glacial Lake Overflow (GLOF), another peril caused by global warming.
- 5 It's a good thing. So why did the news make me feel like Robert Conway in *Lost Horizon*, looking back on a land to which I can never return?
- 6 During my earliest visit to Nepal in 1979, phoning home even from Kathmandu was an adventure. I'd bike to the Telecommunications Office at 2 A.M. (mid-afternoon in New York), fill out a form, and wait hours for my trunk call to go through. The costly result was often a busy signal—or a barely audible connection. The most reliable means of communication was "snail mail": a metaphor that, with three weeks of lag time between a letter and its response, seemed literally true.

7 Even this much contact was a marvel, compared to the situation in the mountains. When I first trekked the Everest route, in October 1983, it felt as though I'd entered a world completely detached from the familiar. After a harrowing flight to the tiny airstrip at Lukla, the 10-day hike to Base Camp (with an elevation gain of more than 8,000 vertical feet) began. Immersion in the Sherpa Buddhist lifestyle was inescapable, and transformative. Phone calls were impossible. Even writing a postcard was like putting a message in a bottle, and tossing it out to sea.

8 None of this seemed like an inconvenience. Though there were bouts of home-sickness, and the occasional longing for new music and old friends, it was exhilarating to have entered such an isolated realm. This, actually, was the point. Travelers embarked on our journeys to Everest or the Annapurnas aware that it would be a full-body experience—an equation that included our brains.

9 As a result, trekking in the Himalaya never felt like sightseeing. It was a commitment to the here and now, demanding full-time engagement with both Nepalis and fellow travelers. There were infinite opportunities to forge new friendships, experience Sherpa Buddhist culture, or enjoy exquisite solitude. By day, you could walk alone or with companions; at night, the lodges flickered with candles and butter lamps. Out came the maps, backgammon sets and tattered journals. Tales of avalanches and Yeti sightings were shared, along with cups of the dizzying local rakshi.

10 During my most recent trek to the Everest region in 2008, it was clear that the area was changing. Though the mountains looked the same, they felt less like a world apart. For one thing, it was a lot more crowded; an estimated 15,000 trekkers shared the narrow trails. Cell phones were already in use between the main villages, and the isolating aspects of technology were taking hold. Sherpa guides and sinewy porters marched up the steep mountain grades with telltale white headphone cords snaking beneath their parka collars, lost in the private soundtracks of their MP3 files.

11 Getting online was a different story. There were only a handful of cybercafes along the trekking route—the highest of which was at Everest Base Camp itself,

### Technology's Tall Order



A woman uses a laptop in Mount Everest National Park, Nepal. This national park is the highest in the world, with the entire park located above 3,000 meters (9,700 feet). The park includes three peaks higher than 8,000 meters, including Mount Everest.

at 17,500 feet—with Internet access via satellite. Connections were sluggish; it often took Gmail more than five minutes to load. Sitting in a cozy inn, immersed in conversation, was far more seductive than surfing the Web.

- 12 The arrival of 3G will change all that—and not just how quickly trekkers can upload their photos, keep tabs on their investments, or stream the latest episode. Wireless broadband, barely imaginable even 25 years ago, will change the way future travelers and locals interact in the world’s highest mountains.
- 13 For the Sherpas of Sagarmatha, of course, it may well seem that one kind of magic has simply been traded for another. Broadband on Everest! What next? If the Yeti buys an iPad, he might even decide to “friend” Bigfoot on Facebook.
- 14 For the rest of us, this constant connectedness may have a bittersweet aftertaste. My recent trek into the Himalaya was a reminder of the pleasures of remoteness. It was a joy to escape from the hamster wheel of distractions, and immerse myself in the expanded moment of real time. Because being connected—really connected, with the place you’re in and the people you’re with—requires disconnecting, at least temporarily, from everywhere else.
- 15 We are far past the time when we can expect to find a Shangri-La,<sup>1</sup> anywhere, beyond the reach of the Internet. But as the world races towards connectivity, travelers might stop to consider why we travel in the first place, and which connections we really want to make.

Used with permission.

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<sup>1</sup>Shangri-La is a fictional place of harmony whose inhabitants live isolated from the outside world.



**Use “Living Alone Is the New Norm” (pp. 24–25) to answer questions 19–25. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

**19** The author includes paragraph 5 to —

- A** analyze the benefits of living alone
  - B** address a misconception about living alone
  - C** suggest that research into loneliness is inconclusive
  - D** explain that people prefer living alone to living with someone else
- 

**20** According to the author, the growing number of people living alone —

- F** makes it difficult to study how happy people are
- G** is an inevitable result of a decline in family values
- H** should not be interpreted as a sign of increased loneliness
- J** will almost certainly affect the economy in a variety of ways

**21** Which of these is the best summary of the article?

- A** While social scientists have long recognized that the number of people living alone has exploded, they have erred in interpreting the trend as a social problem. In fact, the growing number of households without children has improved the social fabric of the United States.
  - B** Single-person households in the United States have become much more prevalent than many realize. Contrary to the views of some experts, however, this development does not signal growing isolation and social disintegration. Many find that living alone allows them to pursue happier and more socially active lives.
  - C** The author's research into modern American domestic habits suggests that the rise in solo living has been misunderstood. In the past the nuclear family was the most common form of household, but this type of living arrangement did not necessarily lead to the greatest happiness. People today are decreasingly concerned with raising a family, and it is time policy makers begin to understand this trend.
  - D** Many more people live alone today than in the past. Some researchers think this is a worrisome development, but their concern is misplaced. Because of modern technology, people often feel overwhelmed by their social networks and constant connectedness to others.
- 

**22** In the article, the author mentions his own research in order to —

- F** cite further evidence that promotes a positive aspect of living alone
- G** explain why he chooses to live by himself
- H** demonstrate that research in favor of living alone is not valid
- J** detail the ways in which people who live alone spend their time

**23** Which word best describes the author’s attitude in paragraph 4 toward researchers who express alarm at the growing popularity of solo living?

- A** Aggressive
  - B** Understanding
  - C** Critical
  - D** Enthusiastic
- 

**24** Which sentence best supports the author’s belief that living alone is an appealing choice for many people?

- F** *The theme of declining communities entered popular culture with Bowling Alone, political scientist Robert D. Putnam’s book, which was published in 2000.*
- G** *The extraordinary rise of solitary living is the biggest social change that we’ve neglected to identify . . .*
- H** *Living alone, being alone and feeling lonely are hardly the same . . .*
- J** *Today, in our age of digital media and ever expanding social networks, living alone can offer even greater benefits: the time and space for restorative solitude.*

**25** The graphic titled “Where They’re Living Solo” suggests that the practice of living alone is —

- A** global
- B** temporary
- C** dominant
- D** cyclical

**Use “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” (pp. 26–28) to answer questions 26–32. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 26** In paragraph 8, the word *exhilarating* means something that —
- F** creates happiness and excitement
  - G** prompts a longing to return home
  - H** provokes a fear of the unknown
  - J** gives assistance and comfort
- 
- 27** In 2008, what did the author notice about how the new technology was affecting those who work near Mount Everest?
- A** They did not have the means to take advantage of the new technology.
  - B** They were becoming much more efficient in their jobs.
  - C** They preferred to stick with traditional forms of communication.
  - D** They were embracing the new technology rapidly.
- 
- 28** What is the most likely reason the author wrote the article?
- F** To recall how his love of trekking in the Himalaya in Nepal developed
  - G** To show readers that bringing broadband service to the Himalaya is dangerous
  - H** To convince readers that Internet service has changed the experience of trekking the Himalaya
  - J** To criticize the growing popularity of Mount Everest with climbers and tourists

**29** How does the author try to convince readers of his point in paragraph 9?

- A** He fondly describes his past experiences.
  - B** He provides expert testimony from other climbers.
  - C** He acknowledges that his experiences may have been rare.
  - D** He provides an emotional appeal for change.
- 

**30** Read this sentence from paragraph 14.

*Because being connected—really connected, with the place you’re in and the people you’re with—requires disconnecting, at least temporarily, from everywhere else.*

Based on this sentence, the reader can conclude that —

- F** the Himalaya is a difficult place for disconnecting from the modern world
- G** making a real connection in the modern world demands effort
- H** the impulse to be connected to others is a modern phenomenon
- J** modern society does not value connectedness

**31** In which sentence does the author seem to accept that technology on Mount Everest is inevitable?

- A** *This was what many travelers were looking for: places so hard to get to, and so different from the world we knew, that their very existence seemed almost miraculous.*
  - B** *When I first trekked the Everest route, in October 1983, it felt as though I'd entered a world completely detached from the familiar.*
  - C** *Sitting in a cozy inn, immersed in conversation, was far more seductive than surfing the Web.*
  - D** *We are far past the time when we can expect to find a Shangri-La, anywhere, beyond the reach of the Internet.*
- 

**32** The photograph and its caption make the use of technology atop Mount Everest seem —

- F** challenging
- G** elitist
- H** normal
- J** whimsical

Use “Living Alone Is the New Norm” and “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” to answer questions 33–37. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

- 33** What is a significant **difference** between the opinions expressed in **both** articles?
- A** The author of “Living Alone Is the New Norm” uses research to convey his ideas, while the author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” largely relies on personal experience.
  - B** The author of “Living Alone Is the New Norm” accepts change brought about by technology, while the author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” rejects it.
  - C** The author of “Living Alone Is the New Norm” thinks social interaction is important, while the author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” favors a life of social isolation.
  - D** The author of “Living Alone Is the New Norm” predicts improvements in the environment, while the author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” foresees ecological trouble.
- 

- 34** How are the authors of the articles **similar**?
- F** Both worry that their views may be out of step with those of the majority.
  - G** Both are interested in how changes to culture affect the human experience.
  - H** Both express an intention to continue their research.
  - J** Both believe it is important to examine trends in other cultures.
- 

- 35** **Both** articles conclude with a —
- A** bold contradiction
  - B** stern warning
  - C** reflective suggestion
  - D** pessimistic prediction



**36** Which statement do **both** articles support?

- F** Life was better before the Internet.
  - G** Change is inevitable.
  - H** Most people dislike change.
  - J** Technology should be embraced.
- 

**37** Read these quotations from the two articles.

**Living Alone Is the New Norm**

*On the contrary, the evidence suggests that people who live alone compensate by becoming more socially active than those who live with others and that cities with high numbers of singletons enjoy a thriving public culture.*

**Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?**

*This 3G network will undoubtedly save lives—not only by providing weather information and support to Everest climbers and trekkers, but as an alert system for the nearby villages threatened by flash floods from Glacial Lake Overflow (GLOF), another peril caused by global warming.*

The tone of **both** quotations can best be described as —

- A** guarded
- B** surprised
- C** incredulous
- D** positive

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

## A Blessing

*by James Wright*

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,  
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.  
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies  
Darken with kindness.

5 They have come gladly out of the willows  
To welcome my friend and me.  
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture  
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.  
They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness

10 That we have come.  
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.  
There is no loneliness like theirs.  
At home once more,  
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.

15 I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,  
For she has walked over to me  
And nuzzled my left hand.  
She is black and white,  
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,

20 And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear  
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.  
Suddenly I realize  
That if I stepped out of my body I would break  
Into blossom.

James Wright, "A Blessing" from *Collected Poems*. © 1971 by James Wright. Reprinted by permission of Wesleyan University Press.

**38** Read the following dictionary entry.

**contain** \kən-'tān\ *v*  
**1.** to hold or be capable of holding within a fixed limit or area **2.** to consist of; comprise **3.** to keep (one's feelings, behavior, etc.) within bounds; restrain **4.** to prevent (enemy forces) from operating beyond a certain level or area

Which definition best matches the use of the word *contain* in line 9?

- F** Definition 1
  - G** Definition 2
  - H** Definition 3
  - J** Definition 4
- 

**39** Which line from the poem provides context that supports the meaning of the word *grazing* in line 8?

- A** Line 4
- B** Line 9
- C** Line 14
- D** Line 17

**40** Which of these lines contains poetic language that conveys a sense of gentleness?

- F** And the eyes of those two Indian ponies  
Darken with kindness.
  - G** At home once more,  
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.
  - H** We step over the barbed wire into the pasture  
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
  - J** She is black and white,  
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,
- 

**41** Which of these best describes the structure of the poem?

- A** A regular pattern of rhyming couplets
- B** Triplets of three successive rhyming lines
- C** Unrhymed lines all in the same meter
- D** Free verse with no rhyme or meter

**42** Read line 12 from the poem.

There is no loneliness like theirs.

What tones are conveyed by this line?

- F** Mournful and intimate
  - G** Bitter and disgusted
  - H** Scornful and cynical
  - J** Resigned and baffled
- 

**43** Lines 13 and 14 suggest that the ponies —

- A** have traveled far
- B** are in a comfortable and familiar place
- C** have not had a chance to eat for a while
- D** are excited to see their visitors

**44** In line 7, the act of stepping over barbed wire represents the speaker's —

- F** increasing self-awareness
  - G** imagined hardships
  - H** desire to embrace nature
  - J** ability to forgive mankind
- 

**45** The simile in line 11 —

- A** suggests that the ponies have been in the rain
- B** describes how the speaker and his friend interact with the ponies
- C** presents the ponies as timid and graceful
- D** reflects the ponies' fearful behavior

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

## *from* **Miracle Polish**

*by Steven Millhauser*

- 1 A polite no would have done the trick, no thanks, I'm afraid not, not today, then the closing of the door and the heavy click of the latch, but I'd seen the lines of dirt in the black shoe-creases, the worn-down heels, the shine on the jacket sleeves, the glint of desperation in his eyes. All the more reason, I said to myself, to send him on his way, as I stepped aside and watched him move into my living room. He looked quickly around before setting his case down on the small table next to the couch. I'd made up my mind to buy something from him, anything, a hairbrush, the Brooklyn Bridge, buy it and get him out of there, I had better things to do with my time, but there was no hurrying him as he slowly undid each clasp with his bony fingers and explained in a mournful voice that this was my lucky day. In the suddenly opened case I saw six rows of identical dark-brown glass bottles, each a bit smaller than a bottle of cough medicine. Two things struck me: the case must be very heavy, and he must not have sold anything in a long time. The product was called Miracle Polish. It cleaned mirrors with one easy flick of the wrist. He seemed surprised, even suspicious, when I said I'd take one, as if he had wandered the Earth for years with the same case filled to bursting with unsold bottles. I tried not to imagine what would drive a man to go from house to house in a neighborhood like this one, with porches and old maples and kids playing basketball in driveways, a neighborhood where Girl Scouts sold you cookies and the woman across the street asked you to contribute to the leukemia drive but no strangers with broken-down shoes and desperate eyes came tramping from door to door lugging heavy cases full of brown bottles called Miracle Polish. The name exasperated me, a child could have done better than that, though there was something to be said for the way it sat there flaunting its fraudulence. "Don't trust me!" it shouted for all to hear. "Don't be a fool!"
- 2 When he tried to sell me a second bottle, he understood from my look that it was time to go. "You've made a wise choice," he said solemnly, glancing at me and looking abruptly away. Then he clicked his case shut and hurried out the door as if afraid I'd change my mind. Lifting a slat of the half-closed blinds, I watched him make his way along the front walk with the sample case pulling him to one side. At the sidewalk he stopped, put down his case next to the sugar maple, wiped his jacket sleeve across his forehead, and gazed up the block as if he were the new boy in school, getting ready to cross the schoolyard where faces were already turning to stare at him. For a moment he looked back at my house. When he saw me watching him, he grinned suddenly, then frowned and jerked his head away. With a sharp snap I let the blind-slat drop.
- 3 I had no interest in mirror polish. I placed the bottle in a drawer of the hutch, where I kept extra flashlight batteries, packages of lightbulbs, and an unused photograph album, and gave no more thought to it.

4 Early one morning, a week or so later, I stepped over to the oval mirror in the upstairs hall, as I did every morning before leaving for work. As I tugged down the sides of my suit jacket and smoothed my tie, I noticed a small smudge on the glass, near my left shoulder. It had probably been there for years, ever since I'd brought the mirror down from my parents' attic, along with a faded armchair and my grandmother's couch with the threadbare arms. I tried to recall whether I had ever cleaned the oval mirror before, whether I had ever bothered to dust the old mahogany frame carved with leaves and flowers. I understood that I was having these thoughts only because of the stranger with the bony fingers and the worn-down heels, and as I went down to the hutch I felt a burst of irritation as I heard him say: "This is your lucky day."

5 Upstairs I pulled a tissue from the box in the bathroom and unscrewed the top of the brown bottle. On the dark glass, in white capital letters, stood the words MIRACLE POLISH. The liquid was thick, slow, and greenish white. I applied a bit to the tissue and wiped the smudge. When I lifted my hand I was almost disappointed to see that the spot was gone. I was aware of another thing: the rest of the mirror looked dull or tarnished. Had I really never noticed it before? With another dab of polish I set to work wiping the entire surface, right up to the curves of the frame. It was done quickly; I stepped back for a look. In the light from the overhead bulb with its old glass shade, mixed with sunlight from the window on the nearby landing, I saw myself reflected clearly. But it was more than that. There was a freshness to my image, a kind of mild glow that I had never seen before. I looked at myself with interest. This in itself was striking, for I wasn't the kind of man who looked at himself in mirrors. I was the kind of man who spent as little time as possible in front of mirrors, the kind of man who had a brisk and practical relation to his reflection, with its tired eyes, its disappointed shoulders, its look of defeat. Now I was standing before a man who resembled my old reflection almost exactly but who had been changed in some manner, the way a lawn under a cloudy sky changes when the sun comes out. What I saw was a man who had something to look forward to, a man who expected things of life.

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**46** Read this quotation from paragraph 1.

*I'd seen the lines of dirt in the black shoe-creases, the worn-down heels, the shine on the jacket sleeves, the glint of desperation in his eyes.*

This description of the salesperson shows that the narrator feels —

- F** appreciation for the salesperson
  - G** pity for the salesperson
  - H** frustration toward the salesperson
  - J** suspicious of the salesperson
- 

**47** The point of view used by the author gives the reader insight into the —

- A** narrator's thoughts
  - B** salesperson's feelings
  - C** salesperson's behaviors
  - D** narrator's fears
- 

**48** The author establishes conflict in paragraph 1 by describing the —

- F** obvious weight of the salesperson's case
- G** narrator's observations of the neighborhood
- H** narrator's thoughts as he allows the salesperson into the house
- J** salesperson's movements as he brings out his product

**49** Which sentence shows that the narrator has been affected by the encounter with the salesperson?

- A** *I understood that I was having these thoughts only because of the stranger with the bony fingers and the worn-down heels, and as I went down to the hutch I felt a burst of irritation as I heard him say: "This is your lucky day."*
  - B** *Then he clicked his case shut and hurried out the door as if afraid I'd change my mind.*
  - C** *When he tried to sell me a second bottle, he understood from my look that it was time to go.*
  - D** *Two things struck me: the case must be very heavy, and he must not have sold anything in a long time.*
- 

**50** Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

*Now I was standing before a man who resembled my old reflection almost exactly but who had been changed in some manner, the way a lawn under a cloudy sky changes when the sun comes out.*

In this sentence, the author uses a metaphor to describe the —

- F** improvements to the mirror
- G** confusion felt by the narrator
- H** transformation of the narrator
- J** weather outside

**51** Which phrase best describes the shift in tone from the beginning to the end of the excerpt?

- A** From defiant to sympathetic
  - B** From distrustful to optimistic
  - C** From fatigued to energetic
  - D** From uncooperative to concerned
- 

**52** The narrator's polishing of the mirror suggests a theme of —

- F** the opportunity for renewal
- G** the importance of self-care
- H** the inaccuracies found in images
- J** the rewards of honest work



Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
1	5	Readiness	E.13(C)	D
2	5	Supporting	E.16(D)	H
3	5	Readiness	E.13(C)	D
4	5	Supporting	E.16(A)	J
5	5	Supporting	E.16(D)	B
6	5	Supporting	E.15(A)	H
7	5	Supporting	E.15(A)	C
8	5	Supporting	E.15(A)	F
9	5	Readiness	E.13(C)	B
10	6	Readiness	E.19(A)	F
11	6	Supporting	E.17(A)	D
12	6	Readiness	E.17(C)	G
13	6	Readiness	E.18(A)	B
14	6	Readiness	E.18(B)	F
15	6	Supporting	E.17(A)	A
16	6	Readiness	E.18(A)	G
17	6	Readiness	E.18(B)	A
18	6	Readiness	E.19(A)	G
Prompt	4	Readiness	E.16(A)	*
19	3	Readiness	E.8(A)	B
20	3	Readiness	E.8(A)	H
21	3	Readiness	E.9(A)	B
22	3	Supporting	E.9(B)	F
23	3	Readiness	E.9(C)	C
24	3	Readiness	E.9(C)	J
25	3	Supporting	E.11 Fig. 19(B)	A
26	1	Readiness	E.1(B)	F
27	3	Readiness	E.8(A)	D
28	3	Readiness	E.8(A)	H
29	3	Supporting	E.10 Fig. 19(B)	A
30	3	Supporting	E.10 Fig. 19(B)	G
31	3	Supporting	E.10 Fig. 19(B)	D
32	3	Supporting	E.12 Fig. 19(B)	H
33	1	Readiness	Fig. 19(B)	A
34	1	Readiness	Fig. 19(B)	G
35	1	Readiness	Fig. 19(B)	C
36	1	Readiness	Fig. 19(B)	G
37	1	Readiness	Fig. 19(B)	D
38	1	Readiness	E.1(E)	H
39	1	Readiness	E.1(B)	C
40	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	F
41	2	Supporting	E.3(A)	D
42	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	F
43	2	Supporting	E.3 Fig. 19(B)	B
44	2	Supporting	E.7(A)	H
45	2	Supporting	E.7 Fig. 19(B)	C
46	2	Readiness	E.5 Fig. 19(B)	G
47	2	Supporting	E.5(C)	A
48	2	Readiness	E.5(A)	H
49	2	Readiness	E.5 Fig. 19(B)	A
50	2	Readiness	E.7 Fig. 19(B)	H
51	2	Readiness	E.5 Fig. 19(B)	B
52	2	Readiness	E.2 Fig. 19(B)	F

Note: The first character of the Content Student Expectation designates English I or English II.

\*A scoring guide is used to determine the score for the written composition.