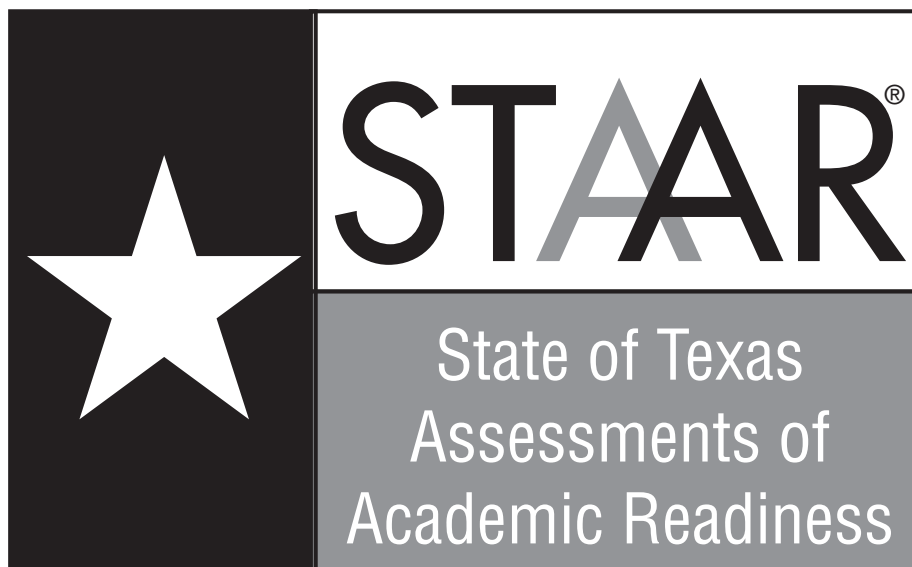


# Texas STAAR 2018 English II

Exam Materials  
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Answer Key Materials  
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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 "Lol" 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?

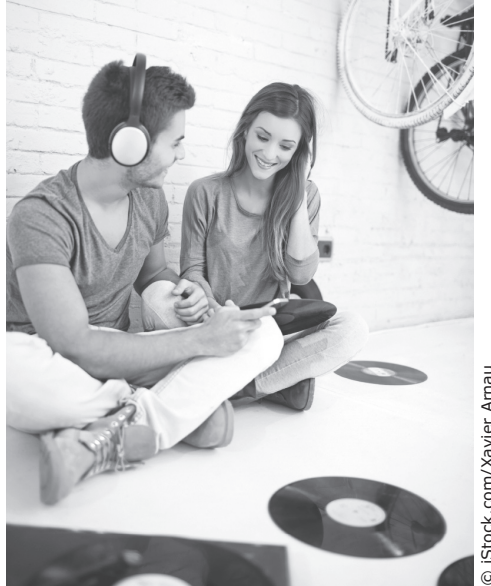
- F** I finally worked up the courage, my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.
  - G** I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest. The experience was invigorating.
  - H** I finally worked up the courage.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

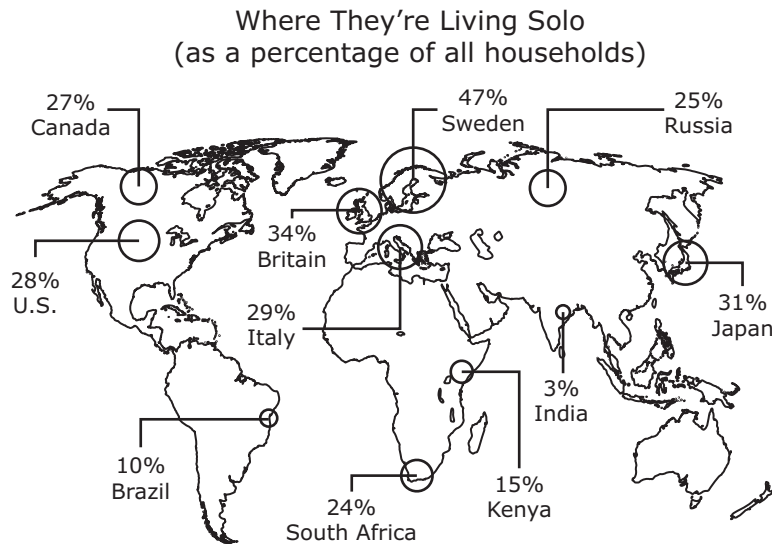
by Eric Klinenberg

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



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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.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option D is correct	Adding the word “However” creates an appropriate transition, which is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. What most people think is explained in sentence 5, and an alternative viewpoint is offered in sentence 6.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the phrase “Even though” to sentence 6 would create an incorrect transition statement because it does not signal an alternative viewpoint.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the phrase “In contrast” does signal an opposing idea, it is too strong to serve as a correct transition between the ideas in these sentences.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding the word “Furthermore” would create an incorrect transition because it suggests the continuation of a parallel idea from sentence 5.
2	Option H is correct	Adding this sentence creates an effective transition, a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas, because it introduces what circadian rhythms are and connects to the previous paragraph by transitioning into another reason for sleepiness.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the topic of sleepiness impacting health is part of the necessary transition, the concept of circadian rhythms is not introduced in this sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Sleepiness affecting one’s mood is an idea mentioned in the second paragraph, but the idea of circadian rhythms is not introduced.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the idea of circadian rhythms is included in this sentence, the concept is not properly explained until several sentences into the third paragraph.
3	Option D is correct	Replacing “changes” with “decreases” in the sentence clarifies the likelihood of individuals hitting the snooze button if the alarm clock is placed across the room.
	Option A is incorrect	Replacing “changes” with “varies” suggests that the likelihood of hitting the snooze button could increase or decrease if the alarm clock is placed across the room.
	Option B is incorrect	Replacing “changes” with “shifts” does not provide additional clarity.
	Option C is incorrect	Replacing “changes” with “controls” does not provide additional clarity. People control their behavior; the placement of an object does not control people.
4	Option J is correct	The sentence should not be added to the fourth paragraph at all. The content of the fourth paragraph is related to ways to avoid relying on the snooze button, not sleep deprivation.
	Option F is incorrect	Adding this sentence after sentence 16 would disrupt the linked ideas in sentences 16 and 17, creating a disjointed and awkward paragraph.
	Option G is incorrect	Adding this sentence after sentence 17 would interrupt the linked ideas suggesting ways to avoid relying on the snooze button, creating a disjointed and awkward paragraph.
	Option H is incorrect	Adding this sentence after sentence 18 would disrupt the linked ideas in sentences 18 and 19, creating a disjointed and awkward paragraph.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
5	Option B is correct	A call to action is a statement that encourages the reader to consider an idea or change a behavior. Direct words such as “Banish” are used in this sentence to establish an effective call to action for people to stop relying on the snooze button.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that people should avoid using the snooze button is included in this sentence, but there is no evidence of an urgency in the tone. The reader is not persuaded because there is no effective call to action.
	Option C is incorrect	Specific examples from the essay are included in this sentence rather than a clear call to action.
	Option D is incorrect	One detail from the essay is included in this sentence rather than a clear call to action.
6	Option H is correct	A thesis statement is a statement that summarizes the main point or claim of a piece of writing. The author provides a strong rationale for visiting the site because it is “completely different” and “a unique attraction that many people would love to experience.” The overall message of the essay is captured, which results in an effective thesis.
	Option F is incorrect	Although some of the aquarium’s physical characteristics are described in this sentence, the overall message of the essay is not adequately provided.
	Option G is incorrect	Reasons to visit the attraction are not provided, and the overall message of the essay is not provided in this sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	No strong language or examples are provided, and the overall message of the essay is not provided in this sentence.
7	Option C is correct	A topic sentence is a sentence that captures the meaning of an entire paragraph. The elevator feature of the AquaDom, which is the focus of the third paragraph, is effectively introduced in this topic sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the elevator feature of the AquaDom is introduced in this sentence, it is awkwardly constructed and lacks the emphasis necessary for a topic sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This is an ineffective topic sentence since the elevator, which is the focus of the third paragraph, is not introduced.
	Option D is incorrect	This is an ineffective topic sentence since the elevator, which is the focus of the third paragraph, is not introduced.
8	Option F is correct	Details from the previous sentence and a transition, which is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas, into the topic of tank divers are present, helping the reader to understand the connection from idea to idea. Without the additional sentence, there is no transition between “aquatic residents” and “tank divers,” and readers could be confused.
	Option G is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would create a disruption in the paragraph by reintroducing information that was already established.
	Option H is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would create a disruption in the paragraph by reintroducing information that was already established.
	Option J is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would disrupt the transition between the third and fourth paragraphs as well as reintroduce information that was already established.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
9	Option B is correct	A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes. “Strolling through the clear shaft” is placed next to “visitors” in this sentence, correcting the misplaced-modifier error.
	Option A is incorrect	“Strolling through the clear shaft” is incorrectly modifying “fish” in this sentence. The fish are not strolling—the visitors are strolling.
	Option C is incorrect	Although an attempt is made to correct the misplaced modifier in this sentence, it results in the introduction of a new modification error since the visitors seem to be the ones surrounding the fish.
	Option D is incorrect	“Strolling through the clear shaft” is incorrectly modifying “fish” in this sentence. The fish are not strolling—the visitors are strolling.
10	Option F is correct	Changing “disintigration” to “disintegration” corrects the spelling error that is present in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing “exposed” to “expose” creates a grammatical error since the sentence is past tense.
	Option H is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “water” would mistakenly separate a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, from the rest of the sentence, resulting in incorrect punctuation.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing “filtered” to “filterred” would create a spelling error.
11	Option D is correct	Changing “was” to “were” corrects the subject-verb agreement error in the sentence, as the verb now agrees with the subject “schools.”
	Option A is incorrect	Changing “meandering” to the present tense “meanders” would introduce a grammatical error into the participial phrase, which is a verbal phrase that modifies a noun or pronoun.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing “turquoise” to “turquoys” would create a spelling error.
	Option C is incorrect	Deleting the comma after “pool” would create a punctuation error since the phrase “meandering through the same turquoise pool” requires a comma.
12	Option G is correct	A run-on error is a sentence in which two or more main clauses are joined incorrectly. Breaking the sentence into two complete sentences corrects the run-on error.
	Option F is incorrect	Removing the word “and” creates a comma splice error, which occurs when two main clauses are connected only with a comma, and does not correct the run-on error.
	Option H is incorrect	Although breaking a run-on sentence into two complete sentences can be an effective solution, the second sentence still contains a run-on error due to the inclusion of a comma splice.
	Option J is incorrect	This sentence is a run-on. It contains multiple comma errors, with extra commas incorrectly setting off the adverb “instantly” and a missing comma after the word “rest.”

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
13	Option B is correct	Proper nouns, which are nouns that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event, require capitalization, so “hall” should be changed to “Hall” as in “Carnegie Hall.”
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “imagine” would create a punctuation error by setting off a dependent clause, which is a clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing “would have been” to “would not have been” creates a double negative, which occurs when two negative words are used in the same sentence. The double negative changes the intended meaning of the sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The name of the concert hall, “Carnegie Hall,” is a proper noun and requires capitalization.
14	Option F is correct	A possessive is a noun or a pronoun that shows possession with the addition of an apostrophe. Changing “Decade’s” to “Decades” removes the unnecessary apostrophe and corrects the possessive error in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing the verb “provided” to the present tense “provides” would create a verb-tense error in the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “lovers” to its possessive form, “lover’s,” would create a punctuation and usage error.
	Option J is incorrect	Changing “recorded” to “recording” would alter the meaning of the sentence and create a usage error.
15	Option A is correct	Changing “should have been giving” to the present-tense verb form “should give” corrects the grammatical error in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	A superlative is a form of an adjective or adverb that is being described as having more of a quality than all others. Changing “earlier” to its superlative form, “earliest,” creates a usage error; music on vinyl records is not the earliest type of music.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting a comma after “chance” creates a punctuation error by incorrectly separating the verbs from their subject—“Teens.”
	Option D is incorrect	Changing “themselves” to “themselfs” would create a spelling error.
16	Option G is correct	The lowercase “how” should be capitalized as “How” since it is the first word in dialogue.
	Option F is incorrect	Deleting the comma after “ask” would create a punctuation error since a comma should appear before a quotation.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing the question mark to a period would create a punctuation error since the sentence is an interrogative question instead of a declarative statement.
	Option J is incorrect	Making no change would not correct the capitalization error present in the sentence.
17	Option A is correct	A serial comma is a series of commas separating multiple words. A serial comma needs to be inserted after “large” since both “large” and “gorgeous” are coordinate adjectives, both modifying the word “artwork.”
	Option B is incorrect	Deleting the comma would create a punctuation error. The comma separates the phrase “Plastered with large gorgeous artwork” from the word “cover,” which it modifies.
	Option C is incorrect	An infinitive is a verb form that often acts as a noun. Changing the infinitive “to be” to the future tense “will be” creates a sentence fragment, which is a group of words that are not a complete sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing the spelling of “appreciated” to “apreciated” would create a spelling error.



## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
18	Option G is correct	Changing the word “endeavor” to “endeavor” corrects the misspelling in this sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Changing “prolonged” to “prolonging” would create a usage error, since the word is being used as an adjective modifying “endeavor.”
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “who” to “whom” is incorrect since in this sentence the pronoun is receiving the action from a verb or a preposition.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence as is would not correct the misspelled word “endeavor.”
19	Option B is correct	The author includes paragraph 5 to address a misconception about living alone. He states that there is “little evidence” to suggest living alone is “making more Americans lonely” and provides additional evidence to support his statement.
	Option A is incorrect	There are no details in the paragraph that analyze the benefits of living alone.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 5 the author provides research addressing the misconception that people living alone are lonely. The author presents the findings that it is the quality, not the quantity, of social interactions that predicts loneliness.
	Option D is incorrect	Although in paragraph 5 the author mentions that living with the wrong person can be lonely, he does not analyze the reasons why people prefer to live alone instead of with another.
20	Option H is correct	According to the author, the growing number of people living alone shouldn’t be interpreted as a sign of increased feelings of loneliness. Disproving this common misconception is one of the main purposes of the article.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no indication the author faced difficulties in studying people’s happiness. For example, in paragraph 6, he details 300 interviews he conducted with people who live alone, many of whom were socially satisfied.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author states people who live alone are likely to continue living alone, there is no correlation shown between choosing to live alone and declining family values.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the author mentions in paragraph 7 that there are “less expensive options” than living alone, there is no evidence indicating that the economy will be affected in a variety of ways.
21	Option B is correct	The best summary of the article is presented in this option. The introduction is restated, the author’s studies and research findings are explained, and comprehensive details from the beginning, middle, and end of the article are included.
	Option A is incorrect	In this option, a few specific details are given instead of the entirety of the author’s message, resulting in a poor summary. There is also no evidence in the article to support the claim in this summary that the social fabric of the United States has improved.
	Option C is incorrect	In this option, a few specific details are given instead of the entirety of the author’s message, resulting in a poor summary. There is no evidence in the article to support the claim in this summary that people are decreasingly concerned with raising a family.
	Option D is incorrect	In this option, a few specific details are given instead of the entirety of the author’s message, resulting in a poor summary. The author does mention social networks in the article, but there is not an explicit claim that people feel overwhelmed by their social networks and constant connectedness to others.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
22	Option F is correct	The author mentions his own research in paragraph 6 in order to provide additional evidence about the positive aspects of choosing to live alone.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no textual evidence that the author himself lives alone.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the interpretation of some research in the article is questioned, the author never suggests that any of the research in favor of living alone is not valid.
	Option J is incorrect	Although in paragraph 6 the author alludes to singletons being socially active and enjoying a public culture, he does not include specific details about the ways people who live alone spend their time.
23	Option C is correct	In paragraph 4, the author has a critical attitude toward past research on living alone. At the end of the paragraph, the author points out “a problem with the data” in a study acknowledged by one of the study’s authors as “unreliable.” The author is also critical of the study’s interpretation of the data: “the record number of people who live alone is a sign of how lonely and disconnected we have become.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author displays a critical attitude in paragraph 4 when discussing past research, he does so logically and without becoming aggressive.
	Option B is incorrect	The author evaluates past research findings in paragraph 4, but his attitude is less understanding and more critical of the research used to support the studies.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not display enthusiasm toward the past research findings in paragraph 4.
24	Option J is correct	The author’s belief that living alone is an appealing choice is best supported by information included in paragraph 9, which states that “living alone can offer even greater benefits: the time and space for restorative solitude” in today’s busy world.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author references the book <i>Bowling Alone</i> to refute the book’s claims and dispel misconceptions about declining communities. The claim that living alone is an appealing choice is not supported by this sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Support for the author’s belief that living alone is appealing is not provided.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the idea that living alone does not necessarily result in loneliness is supported by this sentence, specific support for the author’s belief that living alone is appealing is not provided.
25	Option A is correct	The percentage of people listed in a variety of countries featured in the graphic titled “Where They’re Living Solo” provides evidence for the idea that living alone is a global practice.
	Option B is incorrect	Percentages of people living alone around the world are shown in the graphic, but information about how long individuals choose to live alone is not provided.
	Option C is incorrect	According to the graphic, living alone is widespread throughout the world, but lower percentages in some countries indicate that it is not necessarily a dominant practice in all countries.
	Option D is incorrect	Percentages of people who live alone in a variety of countries are listed in the graphic, not cyclical data.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
26	Option F is correct	In paragraph 8, the word <u>exhilarating</u> is introduced in contrast with “occasional longing” and “home-sickness,” indicating that the author also experiences excitement and happiness in “an isolated realm.”
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author mentions “bouts of home-sickness” and “the occasional longing for new music and old friends,” the word <u>exhilarating</u> means “exciting” and is specifically presented in contrast to these longing emotions.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no textual context indicating that the word <u>exhilarating</u> means “fear of the unknown.”
	Option J is incorrect	The word <u>exhilarating</u> means “exciting.” It does not refer to something that provides assistance or comfort.
27	Option D is correct	In paragraph 10, the author includes details such as the use of cell phones and MP3 audio files. The author’s statement “the isolating aspects of technology were taking hold” suggests that people near Mount Everest were rapidly embracing new technology.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 10, the author mentions that Sherpas and porters wear “telltale white headphone cords” and were “lost in the private soundtracks of their MP3 files,” which suggests that they have access to and enjoy technology.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 10, there is no textual evidence indicating that the technology helped people who work near Mount Everest become more efficient.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no textual evidence in paragraph 10 indicating that trekkers or workers preferred to use traditional forms of communication.
28	Option H is correct	The author’s main purpose is to convince readers to consider how technology and the Internet have changed the experience of traveling in remote places. He focuses specifically on the significant changes in the Himalaya due to technology and access to the Internet.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the author does indicate that he has visited Nepal and trekked the Everest route more than once, he does not discuss his love of trekking or how it developed.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 14, the author does not present evidence indicating that Internet access is a danger to the region.
	Option J is incorrect	The author mentions that the Mount Everest region “was a lot more crowded” in paragraph 10, but the purpose of the article is not to criticize the growing popularity of the mountain.
29	Option A is correct	In paragraph 9, the author describes his past experiences in the Himalaya without the availability of technology as pleasant and focused on being mentally present. He uses many positive examples of making friendships, experiencing the culture, enjoying solitude, playing games, and sharing stories.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no expert testimony presented as evidence in paragraph 9.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 9, the author describes his memories and provides textual evidence indicating that his experiences were quite common and not rare experiences for climbers at that time.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 9, the author fondly describes his experiences as pleasant, but there is no evidence presented to support an emotional appeal for change.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
30	Option G is correct	In this sentence from paragraph 14, the author explains that to be connected and live in the moment, one must temporarily disconnect from other technological and environmental demands for attention. Therefore, making a real, personal connection requires a form of vigilance or effort in addition to temporarily abstaining from technology.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 14 the author does not mention that it is difficult to disconnect from the modern world. He states that interpersonal connections require a form of vigilance or effort in addition to temporarily abstaining from technology.
	Option H is incorrect	The author believes that interpersonal connections require a form of vigilance or effort in addition to temporarily abstaining from technology.
	Option J is incorrect	The author does not mention that society does not value connectedness. Rather, the author believes that interpersonal connections require a form of vigilance or effort in addition to temporarily abstaining from technology.
31	Option D is correct	In this sentence from paragraph 15, the author mentions a fictional location as the only place where Internet likely would not be found. This demonstrates that the author understands the inevitability of Internet access on Mount Everest.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 1, there is no indication of the author's feelings about the inevitability of technology.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication of the author's feelings about the inevitability of technology in this sentence from paragraph 7.
	Option C is incorrect	Although in this sentence from paragraph 11 the author describes the act of talking in person with others as more comforting than using the Internet to communicate, there is no indication of the author's feelings about the inevitability of technology.
32	Option H is correct	A woman working on a laptop is shown in the photograph and described in the caption; people work on laptops on Mount Everest on a daily basis. The photograph and caption help the reader understand that it is a normal occurrence for people to use technology atop Mount Everest.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no indication that using the laptop in that location is challenging.
	Option G is incorrect	Although a laptop can be considered an expensive item, laptop use is made to seem common in the photograph and caption. There is no indication that using a laptop on Mount Everest is elitist.
	Option J is incorrect	Laptop use is made to seem common in the photograph and caption, so it is not a whimsical situation.
33	Option A is correct	Although solitude is mentioned in both articles, the author of "Living Alone Is the New Norm" uses research to explain his ideas, while the author of "Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?" describes his personal experiences and provides anecdotes to support his ideas.
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the article "Living Alone Is the New Norm" primarily discusses technology in the form of digital media, without a strong opinion of whether the media should be accepted or discouraged. The author of "Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?" discusses technology usage on Mount Everest, but he does not reject it.
	Option C is incorrect	Both authors include positive discussions of social interactions; however, there is no evidence that the author of "Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?" favors a life of social isolation.
	Option D is incorrect	Neither author discusses improvements to the environment or predictions of ecological trouble.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
34	Option G is correct	The authors of both articles indicate that cultural changes can affect the human experience. In “Living Alone Is the New Norm,” the author discusses living alone as an acceptable lifestyle, while the author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” discusses Internet connectivity in remote locations and its impact on humanity.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence to indicate that the author of either article worries that his views are not aligned with most of society.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence that either author intends to continue his research.
	Option J is incorrect	Although both authors mention societal trends, there is no evidence that either author is encouraging readers to examine trends in other cultures.
35	Option C is correct	Both authors end their articles by offering reflective suggestions about people connecting in a meaningful way. The author of “Living Alone Is the New Norm” offers the idea that living alone leads to reconnecting, while the author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” suggests that people take the time to consider which connections are most important.
	Option A is incorrect	Neither author concludes by presenting a bold contradiction.
	Option B is incorrect	Although both authors suggest that individuals connect with others or nature, neither issues a stern warning.
	Option D is incorrect	Both authors present optimistic ideas throughout; neither ends with a pessimistic prediction.
36	Option G is correct	Both authors explore how cultural changes occur and the idea that change is inevitable. In “Living Alone Is the New Norm,” the author argues against a common misconception that living alone, while a growing modern phenomenon, leads to increased levels of loneliness. The author of “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?” explores how technology access has changed the environment and communities surrounding Mount Everest.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no claim in either article that life was better prior to the introduction of the Internet.
	Option H is incorrect	Although both authors examine ways humans have adapted to changes, there is no evidence in either article that most people dislike change.
	Option J is incorrect	Although both authors mention technology and being constantly connected to others, the author of “Living Alone Is the New Norm” does not focus on the idea that technology should be embraced.
37	Option D is correct	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. Both quotations have a positive tone. In the quotation from “Living Alone Is the New Norm,” people who live alone are described as “socially active” and enjoying a “thriving public culture.” In the quotation from “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?,” the author mentions how updated technology will “undoubtedly save lives” from potential dangers.
	Option A is incorrect	Although dangerous situations are discussed in the quotation from “Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?,” a guarded tone is not found in either quotation.
	Option B is incorrect	A surprised tone is not found in either quotation.
	Option C is incorrect	An incredulous tone is not found in either quotation.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
38	Option H is correct	Definition 3 is supported by the way the word <u>contain</u> is used in line 9. In line 9, the horses “can hardly <u>contain</u> their happiness,” which means the horses are having trouble keeping their feelings “within bounds.”
	Option F is incorrect	The reader can use information from the dictionary entry to understand the word <u>contain</u> refers to the horses keeping their happiness within bounds and not “holding within a fixed area” as definition 1 suggests.
	Option G is incorrect	The reader can use information from the dictionary entry to understand that in line 9, the word <u>contain</u> refers to the horses keeping their happiness within bounds and not “to consist of” or “comprise” as definition 2 suggests.
	Option J is incorrect	The reader can use information from the dictionary entry to understand that in line 9, the word <u>contain</u> refers to the horses keeping their happiness within bounds and not controlling “enemy forces” as definition 4 suggests.
39	Option C is correct	In line 14, the quotation “munching the young tufts of spring” provides context for the word <u>grazing</u> because “munching” suggests eating.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea in line 4 does not provide context to support the meaning of <u>grazing</u> because the line mentions only the ponies’ eyes and not eating.
	Option B is incorrect	The idea in line 9 does not provide context for <u>grazing</u> because the line refers to the ponies’ reaction to the speaker and not to eating.
	Option D is incorrect	The idea in line 17 does not provide context for <u>grazing</u> because “nuzzled” refers to the ponies’ interaction with the speaker and not to eating.
40	Option F is correct	Poetic language is figurative language that uses words which mean something different than their literal interpretation. The poet uses poetic language in lines 3 and 4 to describe the eyes of the ponies as they “Darken with kindness,” which conveys a sense of the ponies’ gentleness.
	Option G is incorrect	The poet does not convey a sense of gentleness in lines 13 and 14.
	Option H is incorrect	A sense of gentleness is not present in lines 7 and 8.
	Option J is incorrect	A sense of gentleness is not conveyed in lines 18 and 19.
41	Option D is correct	The structure, or form, of the poem is best described as lacking rhyme and regular meter, or rhythm; this is known as a free-verse poem.
	Option A is incorrect	Although there are stanzas, or verses, present in the free-verse poem, the lines do not contain rhyming couplets, or two-line verses.
	Option B is incorrect	Although there are stanzas, there are no triplets made of three successive rhyming lines in this free-verse poem.
	Option C is incorrect	Although there are stanzas and a lack of rhyming words in this free-verse poem, the lines do not contain the same meter.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
42	Option F is correct	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. The poet describes the ponies as having an incomparable loneliness in line 12. The speaker's close-up observation of the animals creates an intimate and mournful tone.
	Option G is incorrect	Although loneliness can sometimes be associated with bitterness, the poet conveys a tone of intimacy and mournfulness in line 12.
	Option H is incorrect	Although loneliness can sometimes be associated with scorn and cynicism, the poet conveys a tone of intimacy and mournfulness in line 12.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker's close-up observation of the ponies creates a sense of intimacy and a mournful tone, not a sense of resignation or bafflement.
43	Option B is correct	In lines 13 and 14, the poet states that the ponies are "At home once more" and suggests that they are becoming comfortable and familiar with the visitors and that they are "munching the young tufts" of spring grass.
	Option A is incorrect	The poet's intention in lines 13 and 14 is to reveal the ponies' comfort with their location, not to suggest they have returned from a trip.
	Option C is incorrect	In line 14, the poet describes the ponies eating grass, but there is no indication that they have been deprived of food.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the poet suggests that the ponies seem happy and excited early in the poem, by lines 13 and 14 there is evidence to suggest the ponies have become comfortable and familiar with the visitors.
44	Option H is correct	In line 7, the speaker's act of stepping over barbed wire represents a desire to embrace nature by approaching and spending time with the ponies.
	Option F is incorrect	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. Although the tone of the poem is personal, the act of stepping over the barbed wire reveals the speaker's connection with nature, not increasing self-awareness.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker stepping over the barbed wire could signify something dangerous, it does not represent hardship in the context of line 7.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no indication that stepping over the barbed wire is meant to symbolize, or represent, forgiveness based on the context of line 7. The poet focuses largely on nature, not mankind.
45	Option C is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word "like" or "as." The simile in line 11 presents the ponies as timid and graceful, comparing them to swans bowing shyly.
	Option A is incorrect	In line 11, the speaker uses the word "wet" as an adjective describing swans, but there is no indication the ponies have been in the rain.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 11, the speaker describes how the ponies interact with one another, but the simile does not address how the ponies interact directly with the speaker and his friend.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the ponies are compared to swans who "bow shyly," there is no indication that the ponies are fearful of the visitors.

## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
46	Option G is correct	Based on the descriptive language in the quotation from paragraph 1, the narrator feels pity for the salesperson. The narrator notes the poor condition of the salesperson's clothes and the "glint of desperation in his eyes."
	Option F is incorrect	Based on the quotation, there is no indication that the narrator has appreciation for the salesperson; instead, he feels pity, as evidenced by the description of the salesperson's clothing and expression.
	Option H is incorrect	Based on the quotation, there is no indication that the narrator feels frustration toward the salesperson.
	Option J is incorrect	Based on the quotation, there is no indication that the narrator is suspicious of the salesperson.
47	Option A is correct	The term point of view refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. The author's use of first-person point of view helps the reader understand the narrator's thoughts.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author uses a first-person point of view and provides a physical description of the salesperson, the reader cannot determine what the salesperson is feeling.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author describes some of the salesperson's actions, there is little insight into why the salesperson behaves any particular way.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author uses a first-person point of view to express the narrator's thoughts, the narrator's fears are not conveyed by the point of view.
48	Option H is correct	In paragraph 1, the narrator feels pity for the salesperson and then awkwardness when he allows the salesperson into the house. The narrator hastily buys an item because he wants the salesperson to leave. The narrator's sense of conflict is evident through his feelings.
	Option F is incorrect	The narrator's observation of how heavy the weight of the salesperson's case is does not effectively establish the conflict in paragraph 1.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the narrator describes his neighborhood, his observations do not effectively establish the conflict in paragraph 1.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the narrator mentions the speed at which the salesperson moves and reveals his product in paragraph 1, these details do not effectively establish the conflict.
49	Option A is correct	The narrator recalls the salesperson's appearance and feels irritated when he remembers the comment the salesperson made while opening his case: "This is your lucky day." The narrator is affected by his encounter with the salesperson based on evidence in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication in this sentence that the narrator is affected by his encounter.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no indication in this sentence that the narrator is affected by his encounter.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication in this sentence that the narrator is affected by his encounter.



## 2018 STAAR English II Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
50	Option H is correct	A metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things that are unrelated but share common characteristics. The author uses the metaphor to indicate the narrator has experienced a transformation. In the sentence from paragraph 5, the narrator compares his changed reflection to a lawn brightening when a cloudy sky changes to a sunny sky.
	Option F is incorrect	In the sentence from paragraph 5, the narrator compares his reflection to a lawn brightening when a cloudy sky changes to a sunny sky; the metaphor does not compare the lawn to the mirror.
	Option G is incorrect	In the sentence from paragraph 5, although the narrator sees a different version of himself, the metaphor does not indicate confusion, only a positive transformation.
	Option J is incorrect	In the sentence from paragraph 5, the narrator compares his reflection to a lawn brightening when a cloudy sky changes to a sunny sky; the metaphor does not literally describe the weather.
51	Option B is correct	Tone is the way the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. The narrator feels pity for the salesperson and is suspicious about the Miracle Polish, resulting in a distrustful tone at the beginning of the excerpt. A shift occurs in paragraph 5 when the narrator cleans the mirror and sees a positive transformation in himself and feels optimism as he notes a “freshness” to his image.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the narrator does feel sympathy for the salesperson, this tone is present at the beginning of the excerpt, not the end. There is never a sense of defiance in the excerpt.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the narrator may feel improved energy at the end of the excerpt, there is no evidence of a fatigued tone at the beginning of the excerpt.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication that the narrator was uncooperative, only that he initially wanted to buy the Miracle Polish so that the salesperson would leave. There is no evidence of a concerned tone at the end of the excerpt.
52	Option F is correct	The narrator’s polishing of the mirror in paragraph 5 suggests a theme, or central message, of renewal. When he cleans the mirror with the polish, he sees a renewed and more positive image of himself.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the narrator polishes the mirror in paragraph 5 and sees an improved image of himself, a theme regarding the importance of self-care is not presented in the excerpt.
	Option H is incorrect	A theme regarding the inaccuracies found in images is not presented in the excerpt.
	Option J is incorrect	The theme of the excerpt refers to the narrator’s renewed self-image and not the rewards of hard work.