2019 STAAR English II Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option C is correct	A transition, which is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas, is created with this sentence. In sentence 4, the author informs the reader "marching bands aren't found in just this state or even just this country," and then in sentence 5, the author begins to focus in on "one country" that has a unique marching band. Adding the sentence after sentence 4 creates an appropriate transition.
	Option A is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would create a disruption in the paragraph by introducing information about marching bands in other countries in between two sentences about marching bands in Texas.
	Option B is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would introduce information about students from around the world in between two sentences about students from Texas. This would be an ineffective place for the new sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	Placing the additional sentence here would confuse the reader by inserting information about marching bands around the world after the author has begun to narrow in to focus on one country.

Item#	Rationale	
2	Option J is correct	Replacing "Furthermore" with "Instead" in sentence 11 creates an appropriate transition, which is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas. Using "Instead" establishes a contrast between the musical cues used by traditional marching bands and the direction of an announcer utilized by NSSU students practicing *shuudan koudou*.
	Option F is incorrect	Sentence 10 refers to music cues typically used by marching students, so using the transition "For example" at the beginning of sentence 11 establishes the expectation that the author will provide examples of music cues.
	Option G is incorrect	The phrase "In conclusion" is typically used to introduce a summary of a topic or idea, which the author is not doing in sentence 11.
	Option H is incorrect	The word "Overall" is typically used to indicate that the author is going to offer a general opinion, but a contrasting idea with sentence 10 is provided in sentence 11.

Item#	Rationale	
3	Option B is correct	A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes. The misplaced modifier error is corrected in this revision by moving the word "flaw" next to the word "visible."
	Option A is incorrect	A confusing sentence is created with this revision, and the misplaced modifier error is not adequately repaired.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma-splice error, which occurs when two clauses are incorrectly joined, is introduced in this revision.
	Option D is incorrect	Because the phrase "visible flaw" is used in the sentence, it is redundant to also say that the flaw "can be seen."

Item#	Rationale	
4	Option J is correct	The focus of sentences 19 through 23 is the benefit students at NSSU obtain from participating in precision walking. J.T. can remove the extraneous information about master's and doctoral degree programs, since there is no connection between this sentence and the rest of the information in the paragraph.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 2, J.T. describes synchronized walking. In sentence 9, J.T. describes the actions of students participating in *shuudan koudou*, which helps the reader have a better idea of what synchronized walking is, so it should not be deleted.
	Option G is incorrect	In sentence 13, J.T. offers additional information about what is involved in synchronized walking. This information is helpful to the reader and not extraneous.
	Option H is incorrect	The focus of sentences 16 and 17 is on the preparation students put into synchronized walking. J.T. includes additional information in sentence 18 to elaborate on this idea.

Item#	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	A position statement, or thesis statement, is a statement that summarizes the main point or claim of a piece of writing. In sentence 6, Mimi tells the reader that the consumption of bottled water "needs to stop now!" In this replacement, Mimi clarifies her claim, which is that reusable containers are a much better alternative to plastic water bottles and can solve problems.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Mimi does refer to buying bottled water as a problem, she does not clearly establish her claim in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Mimi telling the reader to immediately stop doing something and protest is not a clear position statement, because she offers a demand instead of a clear explanation of her ideas.
	Option D is incorrect	Mimi does not offer a clear position statement that clarifies her ideas in this sentence.

Item#	Rationale	
6	Option F is correct	Mimi expresses a similar idea in sentences 8 and 9: bottled water is just attractively packaged tap water. The most effective way to combine the two short sentences into a single sentence is through the use of a comma and a coordinating conjunction.
	Option G is incorrect	By combining the sentences in this manner, Mimi introduces an erroneous cause-and-effect relationship. Bottled water is not processed tap water because of the packaging.
	Option H is incorrect	In this sentence, Mimi uses the coordinating conjunction "so," which suggests a cause-and-effect relationship that does not exist between the two clauses within the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	By combining the sentences in this manner, Mimi introduces an erroneous cause-and-effect relationship. Bottled water is not attractively packaged because it is processed tap water.

Item#	Rationale	
7	Option D is correct	In sentences 14 through 18, Mimi focuses on the monetary cost of bottled water. In sentences 19 through 23, Mimi describes the cost to the environment. By adding this sentence as a transition, which is a word, phrase, or sentence that connects topics or ideas, Mimi is connecting the ideas that purchasing bottled water is a huge cost both in terms of money and environmental damage.
	Option A is incorrect	By adding this sentence, Mimi is restating what she has already explained in sentences 14 through 18, rather than improving the transition between the third and fourth paragraphs.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding this sentence does not make sense, as Mimi does not make the claim that people think bottled water is harmless, nor does she compare different types of plastic containers.
	Option C is incorrect	By adding this sentence, Mimi would be repeating an idea from the previous sentence, rather than creating a transition between the third and fourth paragraphs.

Item#	Rationale	
8	Option F is correct	By making the revision to sentence 21, Mimi is clarifying that the bottles decompose "over hundreds of years" and release chemicals in the process. The awkward original sentence is better clarified with this revision.
	Option G is incorrect	Mimi wants to make the point that landfills are filled with discarded bottles that release chemicals as they decompose, not that landfills are filled with chemicals that decompose the bottles.
	Option H is incorrect	Based on the revision, the reader may think that chemicals, rather than bottles, have been discarded into landfills. The resulting sentence is still awkward and unclear.
	Option J is incorrect	By making this revision, Mimi is suggesting that there are two separate problems—bottles filling up landfills and bottles decomposing and releasing chemicals—when in fact the two issues are directly related.

Item#	Rationale	
9	Option B is correct	A call to action is a statement that encourages the reader to consider an idea or change a behavior. Throughout her paper, Mimi informs the reader about the economic and environmental costs of purchasing bottled water. By inserting this statement after sentence 30, Mimi reiterates the issues and encourages readers to take action.
	Option A is incorrect	By including this statement, Mimi is reminding the reader that plastic water bottles are a problem, but she is not offering an actionable solution.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Mimi does remind readers about a specific problem associated with bottled water, she only focuses on the environmental points of her essay in this sentence. It is too narrow to serve as a clear call to action.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Mimi is reminding readers that bottled water is an avoidable expense, she does not include any reference to the environmental costs of bottled water.

Item#	Rationale	
10	Option F is correct	A sentence fragment is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include. By making the revision, Savannah is clarifying that she is the subject of the sentence and the one being "transported back to childhood." This change corrects the existing sentence fragment in sentence 2.
	Option G is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "childhood" creates an unnecessary pause in the sentence. The sentence fragment is not corrected.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing "plays" to "playing" introduces a verb-form error in the sentence and does not correct the sentence fragment.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence unchanged does not correct the sentence fragment.

Item#	Rationale	
11	Option B is correct	A run-on sentence is an error in which two or more clauses are joined incorrectly. By inserting the conjunction "as" at the beginning of sentence 5, Savannah corrects the run-on.
	Option A is incorrect	Unnecessarily adding the word "that" in front of "teases my nostrils" does not correct the run-on error. Instead, a sentence fragment, which is a group of words containing an incomplete thought and lacking the grammatical structure that a sentence must include, is created.
	Option C is incorrect	Removing the subject "I" reduces the clarity of the sentence and creates a sentence fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	The first clause in the sentence is improved in this revision, but the change to the second clause creates a sentence fragment.

Item#	Rationale	
12	Option J is correct	Proper nouns refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event and are capitalized. "Soccer" is not a proper noun and does not need to be capitalized.
	Option F is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "grass" incorrectly separates the subject and the verb in the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "reminds" to "reminding" introduces a verb-form error into the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing "playing" to "to play" introduces a verb-form error into the sentence.

Item#	Rationale	
13	Option C is correct	Changing "centers'" to "centers" fixes a punctuation error involving the incorrect use of a possessive noun. In sentence 18, Savannah is referring to two centers: emotion and memory. She is not referring to something that belongs to a center.
	Option A is incorrect	Inserting a comma after "way" would introduce an unnecessary separation between the clauses in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing "is processed" to "has processed" would incorrectly change the verb tense from present to past.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving the sentence unchanged would not correct the inappropriate use of a possessive noun.

Item#	Rationale	
14	Option J is correct	As written, sentence 20 is free of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors, so no change is needed.
	Option F is incorrect	The comma is used correctly in the sentence, as it separates the introductory clause from the main part of the sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	This change creates a punctuation error by inserting an unnecessary comma.
	Option H is incorrect	Changing “innocent” to “inocent” would create a spelling error.

Item#	Rationale	
15	Option B is correct	Changing the colon to a comma corrects a punctuation error in the sentence. The text before a colon should be a grammatically complete sentence, so a comma is the appropriate punctuation to use in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “Organization” is part of the proper noun” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.” Proper nouns, which are nouns that refer to a specific person, place, idea, or event, should be capitalized.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing “species” to “species’” introduces a punctuation error into the sentence by incorrectly making the noun possessive with an apostrophe.
	Option D is incorrect	Leaving the sentence unchanged would not correct the inappropriate use of a colon instead of a comma.

Item#	Rationale	
16	Option H is correct	Changing "to trying" to "to try" corrects a verb-form error in sentence 11.
	Option F is incorrect	Removing the word "since" will result in a run-on sentence, which is an error in which two or more clauses or phrases are joined incorrectly.
	Option G is incorrect	Changing "accustomed" to "acustomed" would introduce a spelling error.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence unchanged would not correct the verb-form error.

Item#	Rationale	
17	Option C is correct	Changing “preferances” to “preferences” corrects a spelling error in the sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing “Doing” to “When we do” changes the meaning of the sentence. The change makes it seem like the author is referring to something that happens, instead of something that might or could happen.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “though” is being used as an adverb in the middle of a sentence, and the author is correctly setting off the adverb with a comma before and after it.
	Option D is incorrect	The use of “simply” is correct because it is being used as an adverb to modify the verb “are.”

Item#	Rationale	
18	Option F is correct	Changing "whose" to "who's" corrects a usage error in the sentence. Adam is describing his uncle, who is "very adventurous." The word "who's" is a contraction linking the words "who" and "is," while "whose" is the possessive form of "who."
	Option G is incorrect	Adam is describing an action his uncle performed in the past, so using "brought" is appropriate.
	Option H is incorrect	It is appropriate to use a comma before the conjunction "and" when separating two independent clauses, which are clauses that can stand alone as complete sentences.
	Option J is incorrect	Leaving the sentence unchanged would not correct the usage error in the sentence.
19	Option C is correct	Personification is a type of figurative language where human or animal characteristics are applied to something that is not alive. The poet uses personification in lines 17 through 19 to create a somber mood. With the words "the trees no longer silver/but black fingers scratching a grey sky," the poet gives trees the human quality of fingers to suggest that with age the painter may replace pretty silver branches with branches that are jagged and bare.
	Option A is incorrect	In lines 3 through 5, the poet is explaining that the "green birds" in the painting look "almost real." When he uses the words "lonely child," he is referring to an actual child, so there is no personification in these lines.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does not attribute any human or animal characteristics to the gifts, so there is no personification in lines 9 and 10.
	Option D is incorrect	The poet is addressing the child, not giving human characteristics to an inanimate object, so there is no personification in lines 28 and 29.

Item#	Rationale	
20	Option F is correct	In lines 20 and 21, the author suggests that the speaker wants to be honest about how little he understands the creative impulse. The speaker says, "(I was lying/before when I said I knew.)" He is trying to be honest and admit that he does not truly understand his daughter's artistic drive.
	Option G is incorrect	The speaker is talking about a lack of understanding regarding his daughter's creative drive. There is no suggestion that he worries about misleading his daughter about her artistic talent.
	Option H is incorrect	The speaker is not risking hurting his daughter's self-esteem by telling her the truth about her work; rather, he is telling her the truth about his lack of understanding of her creative drive.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the speaker admits how little he really understands about his daughter's creative impulses, he is not confused about the life choices of creative people in general.
21	Option D is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The poet uses the imagery in lines 26 and 27 to suggest that there is danger that artists may get lost in their own creations. In these lines, the artist isn't literally drowning but figuratively being swept into the dreamlike world of artistic creations.
	Option A is incorrect	The poet uses imagery in these lines to suggest that artists may become lost in their own creations, not to suggest that a child imagines the sky in one particular way.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence that the imagery in these lines is intended literally or that the speaker hopes to save his daughter from a terrible future.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet is not referring to the emotions of artists in lines 26 and 27. He is referring to the possibility that an artist's own creations may be overwhelming.

Item#	Rationale	
22	Option G is correct	In the final line of the poem, the speaker expects his daughter's art to transform as she grows older. His daughter's paintings of birds will "change from green to blue to brown" as she loses her childlike view of the world and adopts a more realistic approach to painting.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker expects that his daughter's paintings will change as she grows older, but there is no evidence that her interests will become more practical and move her away from painting.
	Option H is incorrect	The speaker believes his daughter's paintings will become more realistic as she grows and develops her skills, which means they will become less whimsical, not more whimsical.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker is contemplating how his daughter's paintings will change, but there is no evidence that the speaker believes his daughter will become a professional artist.
23	Option C is correct	The poet uses this sentence to describe the shift in the poem's focus. In stanza 1, the speaker focuses on his daughter's art as an expression of childhood, since he explains she paints things such as green birds "without reasoning" (line 6), as any child would. In stanza 2, the speaker shifts focus to his daughter's future as an artist, suggesting that when she is older she will be painting trees more realistically and "no longer silver" (line 18).
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker does not suggest that his daughter has any creative struggles in stanza 1 — she paints intuitively, "without reasoning" (line 6). In stanza 2, there is no evidence to support the idea that the speaker expects his daughter to become a successful artist.
	Option B is incorrect	The speaker focuses on his daughter's artwork throughout both stanza 1 and stanza 2. There is no focus on his own artwork.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no context in stanza 1 to support the idea that the speaker's daughter has had early artistic success, and there is no evidence in stanza 2 that the speaker questions whether she should pursue painting as a future career.

Item#	Rationale	
24	Option H is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. In this paragraph, the author uses imagery to emphasize how aged and decrepit the father appears to his son. The father's hand is described as "old" and "scaly." The nails are unkempt and are described as "cracking and dull."
	Option F is incorrect	Although a description of the father's hand and its actions are presented in paragraph 15, there is no evidence to support the idea that the son is afraid of being touched by his father.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no evidence provided in paragraph 15 regarding the father's death and when it will occur.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the description of the father's hand is indicative of the man's age and decrepit state, there is no evidence that the son has a lack of respect for his father.
25	Option B is correct	In paragraph 16, the author reveals that the son thinks his father never gave them the opportunity to be close. The son says that he would tell his father he missed him all those times he wasn't home, except he didn't know what he was missing because he wasn't able to spend more time with his father.
	Option A is incorrect	The son is not taking blame for his father's long absences; he is telling his father that he doesn't know what he missed because his father was not able to spend more time with him.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 16 is about the distance that existed between father and son, not about the father lying to the son.
	Option D is incorrect	The son is willingly sharing his feelings about not being close with his father, so he is not unwilling to share what he knows.

Item#	Rationale	
26	Option F is correct	Evidence that the father is questioning his priorities is presented in this line of dialogue from the end of paragraph 20, after the father describes some of the things he accomplished in his life that could be considered great. Now he is questioning whether those things are even important.
	Option G is incorrect	Although in this line of dialogue the father poses a question to his son, the father isn't questioning his own priorities with this question.
	Option H is incorrect	This is something that the father accomplished, but it is just a statement of a fact; the father's concerns about his priorities are not evident in this line of dialogue.
	Option J is incorrect	In this line of dialogue, the father is teasing his son, not questioning his own priorities.
27	Option D is correct	In paragraphs 3 through 5, the phrases "Let me guess" and "no doubt" are used to give the son's dialogue a sarcastic tone. The son is used to his father's unbelievable stories, so he is sarcastically guessing why his father spent a lot of time away from home.
	Option A is incorrect	The son does not actually believe his father's stories, so he is not naïve.
	Option B is incorrect	The son does not present a hypercritical tone about his father in these paragraphs, but he does have a sarcastic tone regarding his father's stories.
	Option C is incorrect	The son does not have an indignant tone in these paragraphs. He does express sarcasm through the phrases "Let me guess" and "no doubt."

Item#	Rationale	
28	Option H is correct	In paragraph 17, the author suggests that the son is motivated to listen to his father because he believes his father is dying. When the father motions for the son to come closer so he can listen to what the father is going to say, the son explains, "I want to hear. The next word could be his last."
	Option F is incorrect	Although the son wants to hear his father's words, it is because they might be the last words he speaks, not because the son values his father's advice.
	Option G is incorrect	Although in other paragraphs the son indicates that he is tired of hearing his father's repeated stories, in paragraph 17 there is no evidence to support the idea that he regrets not paying attention to his father.
	Option J is incorrect	The son wants to hear what his father is going to say because these words could be his last. There is no indication that the son believes his father will tell him a secret.
29	Option D is correct	This statement best describes the father's moral dilemma. The father was not home much because he was out trying "to be a great man" (paragraph 18), and at the end of his life he must reconcile his desire to be important with the knowledge that he neglected his own family.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 20 the father admits he had a few failed businesses, and throughout the selection there are references to the fantasy stories he often shares with his son. However, there is no evidence that he is making a choice between impressing his son with stories and admitting financial failure.
	Option B is incorrect	The father does not attempt to persuade his son to follow in his footsteps in the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	The father does not express a desire to continue to pursue his dreams or to devote himself to helping his son in the selection. Instead, he reflects on choices he made in the past.

Item#	Rationale	
30	Option G is correct	In paragraph 20, the father's recollections reveal that he views his childhood home of Ashland as a place with limited opportunities. He asks if his son can imagine "this boy from Ashland having dinner in the same room" with a prime minister, suggesting it was an unlikely occurrence for someone who came from an insignificant place such as Ashland.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence to support the idea that Ashland was a place of tremendous comfort for the father.
	Option H is incorrect	The father does not discuss raising a family in paragraph 20, so there is no context to support the idea that Ashland is the best place to raise a family.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the father describes some memories of failed businesses in paragraph 20, he does not suggest that his memories of Ashland are haunting.
31	Option D is correct	The theme, or central idea, of the story is about a son making peace with his father. The father is old and in failing health, and although he was not close to his son in the past, the son tells him, "[I]f a man could be said to be loved by his son, then I think that man could be considered great" (paragraph 24). The son wants to satisfy his father's desire to be great before his father dies.
	Option A is incorrect	The father is not disappointed in his son. If anything, he is disappointed in himself because he isn't sure if he accomplished what he hoped to accomplish during his life.
	Option B is incorrect	Although at one point the son recounts one of his father's outlandish stories, he is not imitating his father; he is humoring his father's habit of telling outlandish stories as they talk about his father's life.
	Option C is incorrect	The son is not trying to impress his father in the story; he is trying to make peace with his father before he passes away.

Item#	Rationale	
32	Option J is correct	There is evidence in these quotations that the speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" and the narrator in the excerpt from *Big Fish* both feel challenged to explain something difficult. The speaker from the poem is trying to explain his daughter's artistic drive, although he admits he doesn't understand it. The narrator from *Big Fish* is trying to help his father satisfy his lifelong quest for greatness by explaining what a man has to do to be considered great.
	Option F is incorrect	Neither the speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" nor the narrator in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is trying to prove anything. The speaker in the poem openly admits he doesn't understand his daughter's artistic drive, and the narrator in the excerpt admits he is no longer certain about what makes a man great.
	Option G is incorrect	Neither the speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" nor the narrator in the excerpt from *Big Fish* feel embarrassed by their ignorance. Both individuals openly admit that they don't exactly know how to explain the concepts on which they are reflecting.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" and the narrator in the excerpt from *Big Fish* do openly admit that they are struggling to understand the concepts on which they are reflecting, it is because they are explaining difficult concepts, not because they are admitting to mistakes.
33	Option B is correct	In "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent," the father seems caring because he is trying to understand his daughter's artistic drive and addresses his daughter "with love and pride" (line 28). By contrast, the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* comes across as somewhat self-centered, since he is concerned with whether or not he fulfilled his lifelong quest to be great.
	Option A is incorrect	The father in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" is not necessarily optimistic, especially when thinking about the ways his daughter will struggle as an artist, and the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is more self-centered than cynical.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the father in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" seems open-minded toward his daughter's artwork and artistic drive, the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is not judgmental.
	Option D is incorrect	The father in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" is not defensive, and the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is concerned with whether or not he wasted his life, so he is not relaxed.

Item#	Rationale	
34	Option F is correct	A world that seems more fanciful than realistic is depicted in both selections. In "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent," the daughter paints creative images and in the excerpt from *Big Fish*, the father tells fantasy stories.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* tells his son stories with elements from fairy tales, there is no evidence that the daughter in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" bases her paintings on fairy tales.
	Option H is incorrect	The father in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" struggles to understand what inspires his daughter, not her paintings themselves. The son in the excerpt from *Big Fish* has not always understood the choices his father made, but he does not struggle to understand the father's stories.
	Option J is incorrect	Neither the daughter's paintings in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" nor the father's stories in the excerpt from *Big Fish* portray heroic characters.
35	Option A is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. In both quotations, the authors use imagery to convey a sense of inner turmoil. In "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent," the father is sad because he knows that eventually, when his daughter is older, she will paint more realistic trees that look like "black fingers scratching a grey sky" instead of pretty silver trees. In the excerpt from *Big Fish*, the father is creating fanciful stories because he is struggling to admit that he was absent from his family's life.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the reader could interpret the quotation in the excerpt from *Big Fish* as an expression of stubbornness because the father is struggling to admit that he should have spent more time with his family, there is no evidence of stubbornness conveyed in the quotation from "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent."
	Option C is incorrect	Neither quotation is used to convey guilt. The father in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" and the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* both convey inner turmoil through these quotations.
	Option D is incorrect	The imagery in the quotation from "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" is used to show that the father is feeling turmoil about how his daughter's approach to painting will change, not exaggerated self-confidence. The imagery in the quotation in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is used to show the father's turmoil over his past decisions, not exaggerated self-confidence.

Item#	Rationale	
36	Option G is correct	The difference between the attitude of the speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" and the attitude of the narrator in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is stated in this sentence. The speaker in the poem acknowledges that his daughter paints to express her true feelings, while the son in the excerpt believes his father tells fantasy stories as an escape from reality.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" reflects on how his daughter will use her imagination less as she grows older, as opposed to the idea that she will use her imagination more. The narrator in the excerpt from *Big Fish* seems somewhat annoyed at times by his father's fantasy stories, not admiring of the stories.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" that the speaker thinks his daughter paints to bring the family closer together. Although there is evidence in the excerpt from *Big Fish* that the narrator's father distanced himself from the family, there is no evidence that the father's stories are intended to create distance from others.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker in "To a Daughter with Artistic Talent" does not mention his daughter's health, and although the father in the excerpt from *Big Fish* is ill, the stories he tells are not symptoms of his illness.
37	Option B is correct	The author's purpose for writing this article is to advocate for coexistence of humans and wildlife in urban areas. In paragraph 15, the author explains that she believes "cities and nature can mix and need to mix" and states, "We need to foster a daily relationship with our wild, nonhuman kin."
	Option A is incorrect	Although in paragraph 2 the author explains that most of her work has been in national parks, her purpose is to promote the idea that humans and animals can coexist in urban areas, not to encourage people to visit national parks.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author does describe tracking a cougar in Griffith Park, but this is a detail from the article rather than the author's overall purpose.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 11, the author admits "wildlife would be better served if cities were converted back to open space," but she acknowledges that this would never happen. Instead, her purpose is to propose a human coexistence with wildlife in urban areas.

Item#	Rationale	
38	Option H is correct	The words "adapt to life" can be used to help the reader understand the meaning of the word resiliency. In paragraph 7, the author explains that the cougar adapted to life in the city by "crossing two of the busiest freeways in the country to find a new home," which shows the "resiliency of wild things."
	Option F is incorrect	The author uses the word resiliency to describe the ability of wild animals to adapt. The words "relish my experiences" provide no context for the meaning of the word.
	Option G is incorrect	The author uses the word resiliency to describe the ability of wild animals to adapt, not to refer specifically to "cougar kin."
	Option J is incorrect	The author uses the word resiliency to describe the ability of wild animals to adapt. The words "urban interface" do not provide context for the meaning of the word.
39	Option B is correct	A rhetorical question is a question that is asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than get an answer. The author uses rhetorical questions in paragraph 6 to illustrate a shift in her perspective regarding wildlife habitats. The author asks, "Why can't a mountain lion live in a city? Why is the human-built environment seen as off-limits to wildlife?" to demonstrate her thought process and realization that she's been looking at wildlife conservation in the wrong way.
	Option A is incorrect	The author argues that if a mountain lion thinks a human-built environment is "good enough," then "who are we to judge?" She thinks animals can live in human-built environments that are suitable if the animals deem them so; she does not argue against this idea.
	Option C is incorrect	The author's use of rhetorical questions does not explain a difference between mountain lions and other groups of wildlife.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author has experience on the subject of mountain lions, she is using rhetorical questions to show that her experience has led her to view wildlife conservation differently than she once viewed it.

Item#	Rationale	
40	Option J is correct	In paragraph 12, the author refers to milkweed plants as "gas stations" for monarch butterflies because milkweed plants are essential for their migration. Just like people need to stop at gas stations to refuel their cars when they are traveling, monarchs stop at milkweed plants for "fuel" during their migration across North America.
	Option F is incorrect	Only monarch butterflies are mentioned in paragraph 12, so there is no evidence to support the idea that milkweed plants are enjoyed by several species of butterflies.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 12, the author states that milkweed plants along the migration routes of monarch butterflies "have largely disappeared," so they are not becoming more available.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 12, the author compares milkweed plants to gas stations to demonstrate the milkweed plant's function, not to detail where it can be grown.
41	Option B is correct	In paragraph 5, the author conveys a tone of surprise. The author experiences a "life changing epiphany" and suddenly comes to the realization that the cougar has a better imagination than her.
	Option A is incorrect	The author experiences a "life changing epiphany," which would be a surprising and unexpected event, not one that inspires a tone of relief.
	Option C is incorrect	The author is not humiliated by the fact that the cougar has a better imagination than she does. Instead, she is surprised when she realizes this fact.
	Option D is incorrect	The author is not proud of her realization; she is surprised by it.

Item#	Rationale	
42	Option H is correct	The author comes to the conclusion that humans need to change their understanding of wildlife preservation. In paragraph 10, she explains that the traditional approach to wildlife conservation "has been to segregate people and wildlife" but that approach is no longer working, so people should adopt "an expanded view of the national park ethic in our urban spaces" (paragraph 14) to protect wildlife.
	Option F is incorrect	The author does admit in paragraph 11 that people abandoning urban places would be the most effective way to conserve wildlife, but she also realizes it "won't happen any time soon" so this is not a conclusion she makes.
	Option G is incorrect	The author refers to the "resiliency of wild things" in paragraph 7 but does not distinguish between the resiliency of large versus small species.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the author admits, "I'll always be a national park advocate," but she does not convey the idea that she thinks more national parks should be formed to help wildlife.
43	Option A is correct	The author includes this quotation from paragraph 9 to emphasize that wildlife living in urban areas is more common than people think. The author tells the reader, "you'd be surprised at the places where these stories crop up" and then includes the example of foxes living on the Facebook campus among 2,500 people.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses the quotation to give examples of wildlife living in urban areas, not to compare the types of wildlife found in different parts of California.
	Option C is incorrect	The author explains, "Mark Zuckerberg himself took an interest" in the foxes, so she isn't conveying the idea that he was disapproving of the foxes.
	Option D is incorrect	The author includes the quotation about the foxes to demonstrate humans and wildlife successfully coexisting in urban areas, not to question whether the foxes are safe in Menlo Park.

Item#	Rationale	
44	Option H is correct	The phrase "multiple species of plants and animals" is closest in meaning to the word biodiversity. The author is calling for people to view urban areas as places where wildlife are capable of living in order to protect different types of wildlife "around the world."
	Option F is incorrect	The word biodiversity is used to refer to different types of wildlife, not decisions made by people regarding nature.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author is calling for a certain understanding and respect for nature, the word biodiversity is used to describe a variety of plants and animals rather than the understanding people should have of these species.
	Option J is incorrect	The word biodiversity is used to describe plants and animals living "around the world," not specifically in populated urban areas.
45	Option A is correct	The author uses this comparison to illustrate the level of excitement a movie can provide. In paragraph 4, the author compares the experience of watching a movie to "going on a roller coaster" in order to express the idea that movies produce a similar feeling of excitement as going on a roller coaster.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not mention filmmaking techniques in this comparison.
	Option C is incorrect	The author is comparing watching a movie to riding a roller coaster to show the level of excitement viewers perceive, not to show how people use movies to cope with their worries.
	Option D is incorrect	In this comparison, the author does not describe any mental processes involved with making a movie.

Item#	Rationale	
46	Option F is correct	The word "potent" from paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to "powerful" or "effective." In paragraph 3, the author explains that Dr. Norman Holland believes that magic happening in the brains of people watching movies is "particularly potent when we watch movies on the big screen," suggesting that the environment created by the movie theater makes movie magic and the ability for movies to feel real and more powerful.
	Option G is incorrect	The word "racing" is being used to describe the movement of a car, which would not be considered "effective."
	Option H is incorrect	The word "attentional" is used to describe the system our brains use to pick up important information. It does not mean "effective" or "powerful."
	Option J is incorrect	The word "literally" is being used to explain that the actual meaning of the "attentional system" is "the part of the brain that directs what we pay attention to." The word does not mean "powerful" or "effective."
47	Option C is correct	The primary purpose of the boxed information at the end of the article is to give advice for ways to enhance the home movie-watching experience. The title of the boxed information is "Maximizing the Magic of Movies." In the first line, the author states, "The best environment to watch movies is in the theater" and then suggests ways to make your home more like a theater to make the "viewing experience richer and more fun."
	Option A is incorrect	Although in the first line the author explains, "The best environment to watch movies is in the theater," the author then explains how to enhance your movie-watching experience at home. The author is not using the boxed information to persuade the reader to watch movies in the theater.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not provide reasons why watching movies at home is less enjoyable than in the theater; instead, the author gives advice about how to make a home-viewing experience more theater-like.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not mention the appeal or convenience of watching movies at home in the boxed information.

Item#	Rationale	
48	Option J is correct	An anecdote is a brief retelling of an event. In paragraph 1 of the article, the author presents anecdotal details. He includes a short scene from the *Lord of the Rings* film.
	Option F is incorrect	Although there are facts about what happens in a certain scene of a movie, the actual retelling of the scene provided by the author in paragraph 1 is more anecdotal than factual.
	Option G is incorrect	The author does not use any emotions or personal reactions to the scene, so he is not presenting a personal experience.
	Option H is incorrect	The author is recounting a scene from *Lord of the Rings* and does not use any persuasive language.
49	Option C is correct	The main idea of paragraph 5 is that movies can make people ignore the difference between reality and fiction. The author begins by explaining, "as we give up control, our sense of reality changes." Then he explains how a "'suspension of disbelief'" makes us stop questioning the reality of what we are seeing on the movie screen.
	Option A is incorrect	Although emotions such as fear and compassion are mentioned in the last sentence of paragraph 5, the idea that movies cause people to become emotional is not the main idea of the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	The author's main idea in paragraph 5 is to explain that even when movies aren't realistic, our "'suspension of disbelief'" keeps us from questioning their reality. The idea that people relate to a movie depending on how realistic it is opposes the main idea.
	Option D is incorrect	Although people do become less aware of their surroundings in a movie theater, this is not the main idea of paragraph 5.
50	Option F is correct	According to paragraph 6, the limbic system controls emotions. The author explains, "emotions come from a different area, the limbic system, in the back of the brain."
	Option G is incorrect	Selective attention is not mentioned in paragraph 6, and this is not what the limbic system controls.
	Option H is incorrect	The limbic system controls human emotions, not comprehension.
	Option J is incorrect	Spatial awareness is not mentioned in paragraph 6, and this is not what the limbic system controls.

Item#	Rationale	
51	Option B is correct	The author includes paragraph 7 to express concern regarding the ways people often watch movies today. The author believes "the intensity of the emotions that movies produce in us" is diminishing because we watch them "At home, or on our smart phones," which "limits their magic because we're in control."
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not mention the difference in enjoyment between older and newer movies. He does, however, mention the difference between older and newer ways of viewing movies, which he thinks is a concern.
	Option C is incorrect	The author suggests that newer ways of viewing movies result in less emotional responses, not that newer movies themselves lack emotional appeal for viewers.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not discuss a decline in theater attendance in paragraph 7.
52	Option F is correct	The author's purpose for writing the article is to inform people about what makes a movie-watching experience enjoyable. The author includes information about how movies have the ability to affect viewers emotionally and how viewers can enhance their experience when watching a movie.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author does mention a few movie-making techniques, he does not analyze them, so this is not his purpose for writing the article.
	Option H is incorrect	Although there is a comparison made between watching movies at home and in the theater, the author uses these details to help inform readers about what makes movie-watching enjoyable, which is the overall purpose of the article.
	Option J is incorrect	The author's purpose is to inform people about what makes movie-watching enjoyable, not to persuade people to avoid watching movies on smart phones.