

Writing **Grade 7**

2011 Released Selections and Test Questions

These released questions represent selected TEKS student expectations for each reporting category. These questions are samples only and do not represent all the student expectations eligible for assessment.

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

Nina read about a courageous young boy who lives in China. She wrote this paper to tell about what she learned. Read Nina's paper and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.



© Andrew Mills/Star Ledger/CORBIS

Lin Hao and Yao Ming

A Real Hero

(1) Approximately four billion people watched the televised opening ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympics. (2) They saw an amazing show. (3) Amid lights and music, athletes from around the world marched into the huge stadium in Beijing, China. (4) A famous basketball player carried the Chinese flag named Yao Ming. (5) The seven-and-a-half-foot-tall superstar was a sight to behold, but most viewers weren't even looking at him. (6) They were watching the small boy who came into the stadium with the athlete. (7) The boy's entrance brought enthusiastic cheers. (8) That's because nine-year-old Lin Hao was more than just a kid.

(9) Just a few months earlier, on May 12, 2008, Hao had been in his classroom on a typical day at school. (10) Without warning the ground beneath him began to tremble. (11) Hao's school in the town of Yingxiu was at the very heart of an earthquake. (12) Windows shattered, and shelves began toppling over. (13) Finally the whole building collapsed. (14) Hao somehow managed to climb out of the rubble and save himself. (15) He risked his life to pull two of his classmates to safety.

(16) Reports say that Hao not only saved two friends but also helped encourage others who were still trapped. (17) He led these schoolmates in songs because rescuers worked to free them from the wreckage.

(18) How could a child be so brave? (19) Why had Hao risked his own life to save his fellow students? (20) Where was this courageous boy's mother? (21) When reporters questioned the young boy, Hao answered, "I was the hall monitor. (22) It was my job to look after my classmates."

(23) The Chinese government has honored Hao. (24) He and 19 other Chinese students were officially named "heroic children." (25) They received this title for their bravery during and after the earthquake. (26) The Olympic ceremony helped spread Hao's fame. (27) Lin Hao is known as a hero all over the world.

- 1 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 4?
- A A famous basketball player named Yao Ming carried the Chinese flag.
 - B The famous basketball player who carried the Chinese flag, he was named Yao Ming.
 - C A famous basketball player carried the Chinese flag he was named Yao Ming.
 - D A famous basketball player carried the Chinese flag. Who was named Yao Ming.
-
- 2 Which sentence could be added after sentence 8 to strengthen the introduction to this paper?
- A He was a great kid.
 - B He was in school.
 - C He was a national hero.
 - D He was exceptionally cute.

- 3 Nina would like to add the following sentence to the second paragraph (sentences 9–15).

Then, despite his own injuries, Hao went back into the ruins.

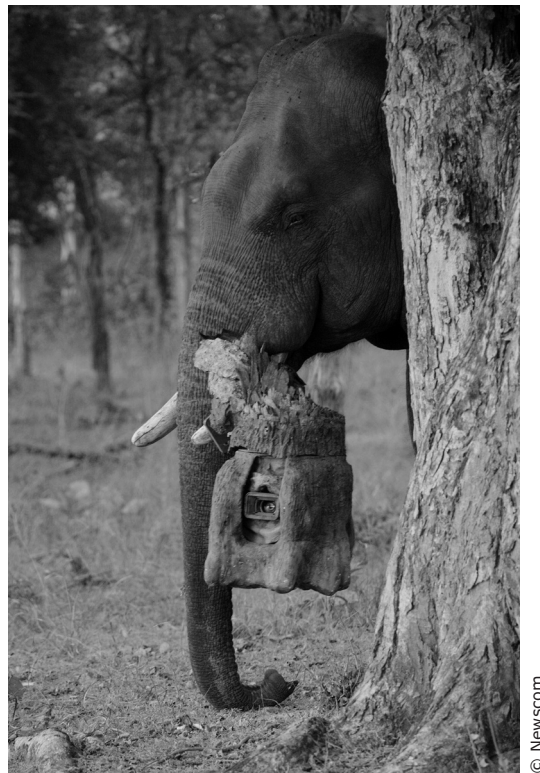
Where is the BEST place to insert this sentence?

- A After sentence 9
 - B After sentence 10
 - C After sentence 12
 - D After sentence 14
-
- 4 The word **because** does not appropriately connect the two clauses in sentence 17. Which word should replace the word **because**?
- A if
 - B while
 - C although
 - D where

- 5** Which sentence in the fourth paragraph (sentences 18–22) should be deleted?
- A** Sentence 18
 - B** Sentence 19
 - C** Sentence 20
 - D** Sentence 22
-
- 6** Which transition word or phrase could BEST be added to the beginning of sentence 27 to help conclude this paper?
- A** Now
 - B** Later
 - C** In comparison
 - D** Furthermore

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

Isabel found some beautiful photographs of jungle animals online. She read about how the photographs were taken and then wrote this paper to share what she learned. Proofread Isabel's paper and look for any mistakes she has made. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



An Elephant with a Trunk-Cam

Jungle Close-ups

(1) British filmmaker John Downer wanted to capture some footage of jungle animals. (2) But jungle animals can be difficult to film. (3) They don't usually let humans get very close to them and they travel in places too dense for wildlife photographers to go. (4) Downer came up with a creative way to overcome these obstacles. (5) In a remote jungle in the heart of India, he used elephants to help him shoot the film.

(6) Downer had been trying to film a TV series about tigers. (7) His cinematographers wasn't having much luck getting footage of the big cats.

(8) One day, while watching some elephants at the campsite, Downer has an idea.
(9) The elephants were using their trunks to gently lift and move firewood for their trainers. (10) Would the animals be willing to carry cameras around for him?

(11) Downer and his crew began to experiment. (12) They outfitted the elephants with two types of cameras and allowed the animals to roam freely.
(13) Some of the cameras were remote-controlled trunk-cams that had been made to look like logs. (14) An elephant could carry this kind of camera with its trunk.
(15) Other elephants carried smaller cameras that hooked right over the elephants tusks. (16) Although both types of cameras were capable of taking sharp images, Downer wasn't sure what to expect. (17) He wondered whether the elephants would move steadily enough for the cameras to get clear shots.

(18) When the elephants returned to the campsite, Downer and the other filmmakers were amazed at what they saw. (19) The images that the elephant cameras had captured were impressive, no human cinematographer could have captured such realistic footage.

(20) Clearly, the jungle animals were not afraid of the elephant cameras.
(21) As a result, the elephants were able to film creatures that are often leery of people. (22) Curious monkeys reached out for the tusk-cams deer stood still and allowed the cameras to film them. (23) Jungle mothers let the elephants get very close to their babies.



Real Images Captured by Elephant Cameras

(24) "This sort of thing hasn't been done before," Downer later commented.
(25) "But now," he added, "It seems the most natural thing in the world."

-
- 1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?
- A Insert a comma after ***them***
 - B Delete ***and***
 - C Change ***places too dense*** to ***places to dense***
 - D No change should be made.
-
- 2 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
- A Change ***wasn't having*** to ***weren't having***
 - B Change ***much luck*** to ***no luck***
 - C Insert a comma after ***luck***
 - D Make no change
-
- 3 What change should be made in sentence 8?
- A Change ***while watching*** to ***he was watching***
 - B Delete the comma after ***campsite***
 - C Change ***has*** to ***had***
 - D Change ***idea*** to ***ideal***

4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 15?

- A Insert a comma after **cameras**
 - B Change **hooked** to **hooking**
 - C Change **elephants tusks** to **elephants' tusks**
 - D No change is needed.
-

5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?

- A Change **wondered** to **wandered**
 - B Change **weather** to **whether**
 - C Change **clear** to **clearer**
 - D No change needs to be made.
-

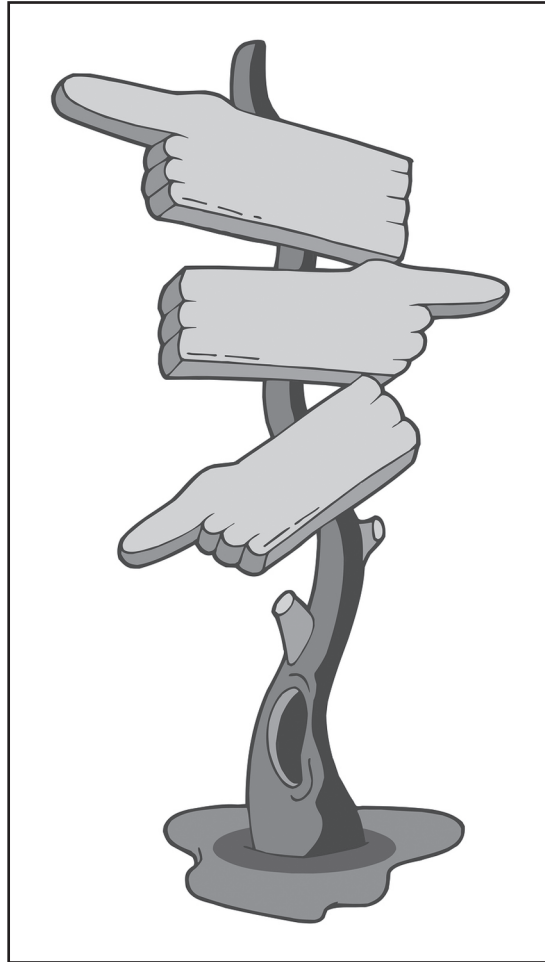
6 What change needs to be made in sentence 19?

- A Change **were** to **was**
- B Change **impressive** to **impresive**
- C Change the comma to a semicolon
- D Change **realistic** to **realism**

- 7 What is the correct way to write sentence 22?
- A Curious monkeys reached out for the tusk-cams. Deer standing still and allowing the cameras to film them.
 - B Curious monkeys reached out for the tusk-cams, deer stood still and allowed the cameras to film them.
 - C Curious monkeys reached out for the tusk-cams. While deer stood still and allowed the cameras to film them.
 - D Curious monkeys reached out for the tusk-cams, while deer stood still and allowed the cameras to film them.
-

- 8 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 25?
- A Change the comma after **added** to a period
 - B Change **It** to **it**
 - C Change **world** to **World**
 - D No change should be made in sentence 25.

Look at the picture below.



© BigStockPhoto.com/3979408

Sometimes it's hard to make a decision because there are so many choices.

Write a personal narrative about a time when you had to make a decision. Be sure to write in detail about the choice you made and describe what happened as a result of your decision.

READ the following quotation.

A famous businessman once said, "Players win games; teams win championships."

THINK carefully about the following statement.

Sometimes you can accomplish good things by yourself but better things with other people.

WRITE an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or with a group.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Writing Selection 1				
1	2	Readiness	7.14(C)	A
2	2	Readiness	7.14(C)	C
3	2	Readiness	7.14(C)	D
4	2	Readiness	7.14(C)	B
5	2	Readiness	7.14(C)	C
6	2	Readiness	7.14(C)	A
Writing Selection 2				
1	3	Readiness	7.20(B)	A
2	3	Supporting	7.19(A)	A
3	3	Supporting	7.19(A)	C
4	3	Readiness	7.20(B)	C
5	3	Readiness	7.21(A)	B
6	3	Supporting	7.20(B)	C
7	3	Readiness	7.19(C)	D
8	3	Readiness	7.20(A)	B
Sample Prompt for Personal Narrative				
	1	Readiness	7.16(A)	Prompt
Sample Prompt for Expository Writing				
	1	Readiness	7.17(A)	Prompt

For more information about the new STAAR assessments, go to www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/.