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

Emilio wrote a report about an unusual plant called a Venus’s flytrap. Read Emilio’s report and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.

![Photograph courtesy of © Bill Ross/CORBIS.](image)

**An Unusual Plant**

(1) Most plants get their food from the soil, but there are some plants that catch and eat bugs for food. (2) The Venus’s-flytrap is one of those unusual plants. (3) This insect eater grows naturally in the swamps of North and South Carolina. (4) The soil there has very little nitrogen, which plants need to survive. (5) Instead, the Venus’s-flytrap has to get its nitrogen from insects.

(6) As the name suggests, the Venus’s-flytrap is a sneaky trap for unsuspecting insects. (7) It has leaves with small, stiff hairs inside. (8) When something touches them, the leaves close. (9) Pointed spikes are on the leaves. (10) They lock together to form a trap. (11) The pitcher plant is another kind of insect eater that catches its food when bugs fall down its slippery tube and drown in a liquid.
(12) When the leaves of a Venus’s-flytrap first begin to close, they do not shut all the way. (13) This allows the escaping of small insects. (14) After a few seconds the leaves finish closing, trapping any large insect caught between them. (15) The trap tightens, and the plant gives off special juices. (16) The liquid softens the insect. (17) The Venus’s-flytrap can digest it. (18) The process of digestion can take a week or longer. (19) The insect-eating plant is now ready to catch another bug.
Revising for Organization, Progression, and Development of Ideas

Writers revise and organize drafts by inserting, deleting, or rearranging details to create a unified, logical progression of ideas in narratives or expository writing.

1. Emilio wants to add a sentence to the end of his first paragraph (sentences 1–5). Which sentence could he add to clearly state the central idea of his paper?

A. The Venus’s-flytrap gets its name from the Roman goddess of love called Venus.

B. Insects provide a source of nitrogen for insect-eating plants, which helps them stay healthy.

C. People do not need to be afraid of the Venus’s-fly trap.

D. The Venus’s-flytrap is a remarkable insect-eating plant that is specially adapted to catch its prey.

2. Emilio would like to add the following sentence to the third paragraph (sentences 12–18).

When the Venus’s-flytrap finally finishes its meal, the leaves open up again.

Where is the BEST place to insert this sentence?

A. At the beginning of the paragraph

B. After sentence 18

C. At the end of the paragraph

D. This sentence should not be added to the paragraph.
3 Emilio needs to add a transition word or phrase to help his readers move from sentence 14 to sentence 15. Which transition could BEST be added to the beginning of sentence 15?

A Then  
B However  
C For example  
D Above all

4 Which sentence does NOT belong in this report?

A Sentence 2  
B Sentence 5  
C Sentence 11  
D Sentence 18
Revising for Word Choice

Writers revise drafts by replacing words with specific, well-chosen words that contribute to the quality and clarity of a narrative or essay.

5 Look at sentence 15. The phrase *gives off* does not express what Emilio was trying to say. Which word could BEST replace *gives off* and help Emilio improve the meaning of this sentence?

A builds  
B leaks  
C presents  
D produces

6 Sentence 8 is unclear. Emilio can improve the meaning of this sentence by replacing *them* with —

A the insects  
B the traps  
C the hairs  
D the nitrogen
Revising for Sentence Structure

Writers improve sentence structure by combining simple sentences and revising awkward sentences.

7 What is the BEST way to combine sentences 9 and 10?

A Pointed spikes form and lock together on the leaves.
B Pointed spikes on the leaves lock together to form a trap.
C Pointed spikes trap and lock together forming on the leaves.
D No revision is needed.

8 What is the BEST way to rewrite sentence 13?

A This allows small insects to escape.
B The escaping of small insects allows this.
C Escaping, small insects are allowed.
D This allows escaping insects that are small.

9 What is the BEST way to combine sentences 16 and 17?

A Softening the liquid, the insect can digest the Venus’s-flytrap.
B The liquid softens and digests the insect for the Venus’s-flytrap.
C The insect softens the liquid so that the Venus’s-flytrap can digest it.
D The liquid softens the insect so that the Venus’s-flytrap can digest it.
# Revision Answer Key for An Unusual Plant Passage

## Progression, Organization, & Development of Ideas

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<td>Insert central idea to strengthen coherence &amp; organization</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Delete detail to improve coherence &amp; organization</td>
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## Word Choice

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Replace imprecise word with precise word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Replace indefinite pronoun reference with noun to improve coherence</td>
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## Sentence Structure

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<td>7</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Combine sentences to improve sentence fluency</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Revise awkward sentence structure to improve clarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Combine sentences to improve sentence fluency</td>
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</table>
Brent wrote a story about a time when something turned out better than he expected. Read Brent’s paper and think how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.

Brent’s Vacation

(1) It was a hot day in June. (2) School was out for the summer, and most of the students were excited. (3) Some children were taking swimming lessons, and others were going to camp. (4) A few were going to visit their grandparents. (5) Summer vacation is fun because the days are so long. (6) However, Brent Peterson wasn’t excited. (7) He was going to be staying in a cabin all summer while his father worked in the mountains.

(9) “This is going to be the most boring summer of my life,” Brent said, but his parents just continued packing. (10) Mom filled up the grocery bags and ice chests. (11) Dad loaded the trunk of the car. (12) Soon the Petersons were on their way.

(13) All afternoon the family drove through the mountains. (14) Along the way entertaining themselves, they played fun travel games. (15) They finally arrived at Echo Lake. (16) Then they had to load their junk into a boat and row across the lake to a log cabin in the woods. (17) Driving in a car can be boring.
(18) Later that evening, Brent and his parents caught catfish for supper. (19) They went for a walk. (20) They wanted to find wood for the fire. (21) A deer came to the lake to drink, and an owl hooted in the distance. (22) Some baby rabbits hopped past the cabin. (23) Brent was surprised. (24) For the first time, Brent began to look forward to his summer.

Revising for Organization, Progression, and Development of Ideas

Writers revise and organize drafts by inserting, deleting, or rearranging details to create a unified, logical progression of ideas in narratives or expository writing.

1. Brent would like to add the following sentence to the second paragraph (sentences 9–12).

   When the last bag was packed, Dad told everyone to climb inside the car.

   Where is the BEST place to insert this sentence?

   A. At the beginning of the paragraph
   B. After sentence 11
   C. At the end of the paragraph
   D. This sentence should not be added to the paragraph.
2 Brent wants to add a sentence to create a satisfying ending to his story. Which of the following could **BEST** follow sentence 24 and close this paper?

- A Summer vacation is the best time of year!
- B Sometimes bad experiences turn out worse than you think.
- C A variety of wildlife make their home in the mountains.
- D Staying in the mountains might actually turn out to be fun.

3 Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this story?

- A Sentence 6
- B Sentence 13
- C Sentence 17
- D Sentence 20
Revising for Word Choice

Writers revise drafts by replacing words with specific, well-chosen words that contribute to the quality and clarity of a narrative or essay.

4 Look at sentence 7. The word staying does not express what Brent was trying to say. Which word could BEST replace staying and help Brent improve the meaning of this sentence?

A stuck  
B living  
C growing  
D changing

5 Brent can improve the meaning of sentence 16 by changing they to —

A the car  
B the children  
C the family  
D the grandparents
Revising for Sentence Structure

Writers improve sentence structure by combining simple sentences and revising awkward sentences.

6 What is the BEST way to rewrite the ideas in sentence 14?

A Along the way and entertaining themselves, they played travel and fun games.
B Along the way, they played fun travel games to entertain themselves.
C Along the way, the fun, entertaining travel games played themselves.
D Along the way, they traveled, entertained, and played fun games.

7 What is the BEST way to combine sentences 19 and 20?

A To find wood, they went for a walk for the fire.
B They went for a walk in the woods to find fire.
C If they went for a walk, they wanted to find wood for the fire.
D They went for a walk to find wood for the fire.
## Progression, Organization, & Development of Ideas

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<td>Insert detail to improve organization &amp; create a satisfactory conclusion</td>
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## Word Choice

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<td>7</td>
<td>D</td>
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</table>
Cookie Season

(1) Some kids look forward to summer vacation. (2) Others can’t wait for spring and the start of baseball season. (3) My favorite time of year comes shortly after the winter holidays. (4) One day I’ll notice a girl sitting at a table in front of the grocery store. (5) As I walk by, she will politely ask, “Would you like to buy some cookies?” (6) At that point I jump for joy.

(7) Girl Scouts have been selling cookies for almost 100 years. (8) In the early days Girl Scouts sold only original sandwich, chocolate mint, and shortbread cookies. (9) There are many interesting flavors available, including lemon, peanut butter, and caramel. (10) Everyone
seems to have a favorite, but the cookies that remain the most popular are the original chocolate mint.

(11) The tasty cookies sell for about $3.50 a box. (12) More than 200 million boxes are sold each year, which adds up to more than $700 million a year for the Girl Scouts! (13) But leaders say that raising money isn’t the only reason Girl Scouts sell cookies. (14) Ordering and selling cookies helps girls get better in important ways. (15) Each girl learns how to operate a small business, manage customers, and set financial goals. (16) These skills can help them become self-assured and resourceful businesswomen in the future.

(17) Jennifer Sharpe, a Girl Scout from Dearborn, Michigan, is one of this generation’s success stories. (18) In 2008, after years of selling cookies door to door, she decided to set up a cookie table on a street corner in her hometown. (19) Her mother helped her. (20) Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season. (21) Her hard work paid off. (22) In the end the teenager sold more than 17,000 boxes of cookies! (23) When asked about the effect the cookie program had on her daughter, Jennifer’s mother said, “It’s made her really confident. (24) I remember when she first started selling, she was very shy and quiet, and you had to push her out to talk to customers, but now she’s right out there, first to the door.” (25) Jennifer Sharpe’s story shows that the Girl Scout cookie program is accomplishing its goals.

(26) That’s why I love Girl Scout cookies.
1 Samantha wants to add a sentence to the end of her first paragraph (sentences 1–6). Which sentence could she add to clearly state the central idea of her paper?

A I jump higher than you can imagine.
B She is talking to me, and I know it’s here!
C Girl Scout cookie season has finally arrived!
D Spring break and winter holidays are nothing compared with this.

2 Samantha needs to add a transition word or phrase to help her readers move from sentence 8 to sentence 9. Which transition could BEST be added to the beginning of sentence 9?

A After all
B Today
C At first
D Then
3 Look at sentence 14. The phrase *get better* does not express what Samantha was trying to say. Which word could BEST replace *get better* and help Samantha improve the meaning of this sentence?

A mature  
B improve  
C prepare  
D think

4 Samantha would like to add the following sentence to the third paragraph (sentences 11–16).

*In fact, some of today’s most successful businesswomen say they got their start by selling Girl Scout cookies.*

Where is the BEST place to insert this sentence?

A At the beginning of the paragraph  
B After sentence 13  
C At the end of the paragraph  
D This sentence should not be added to the paragraph.
5 What is the BEST way to combine sentences 19 and 20?

A Her mother helped her sell cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season for Jennifer.

B Before her mother helped her, Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season.

C Her mother helped her, Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season.

D With her mother’s help, Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season.

6 Samantha wants to add a conclusion to her paper. Which of the following could BEST follow sentence 26 and close this paper?

A They don’t just taste good. They also do good things for girls.

B They’re so tasty.

C And I’m so proud of Jennifer Sharpe. She’s amazing!

D Let’s go buy them!
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For more information about the new STAAR assessments, go to www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/.
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Bianca wrote about a special visitor to her classroom at school. Read Bianca’s paper and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Dr. Cobra’s Visit

1. I know Dad will be happy when I tell him about the special guest we had at Taylor Elementary School today.  (2) A snake expert named Dr. Cobra came to visit our class.  (3) He didn’t just tell us about snakes.  (4) He brought several harmless snakes with him.

   (5) Dr. Cobra explained that snakes are important animals.  (6) They are part of the balance of nature.  (7) Without them, we would probably have too many rodents, such as rats and mice.  (8) Also, snakes are food for eagles, hawks, and other animals.  (9) The bald eagle used to be an endangered bird.  (10) Dr. Cobra explained that we should think of nature as a long, connected chain.  (11) If we remove one link, we could destroy the whole chain.

   (12) During his discussion, a corn snake wrapped around his hand, Dr. Cobra walked.  (13) He said the snake got its name from hunting rats in the buildings where farmers stored their corn long ago.  (14) He allowed us to touch the harmless corn snake.  (15) The scientist said that although most snakes are shy and not dangerous, some will strike if they are afraid.
(16) After putting the corn snake into a cage, he asked us if we had ever seen an earth snake.  (17) The scientist explained that the harmless earth snake lives in the Houston area.  (18) He pulled out an olive brown snake about the size of a new pencil.  (19) Dr. Cobra held the reptile in his hand and told us that the earth snake is nocturnal.  (20) This means it is more active at night than during the day.  (21) If the earth snake is bothered, it will stay still or try to get away.

(22) Just before Dr. Cobra left, he asked whether any of us had ever thought about having a snake for a pet.  (23) About five people raised their hand, including me.  (24) To learn more about snakes, we should read some books first, and Dr. Cobra suggested that.  (25) He told us that keeping snakes can be a lot of work.

(26) Everyone was surprised when Dr. Cobra’s presentation came to an end.  (27) We thanked him for teaching us the interesting facts about snakes.  (28) I went straight to the school library.  (29) I checked out four books to share with my mom and dad.  (30) I hope what I learn about snakes can tell them I am responsible.
Revising for Organization, Progression, and Development of Ideas

Writers revise and organize drafts by inserting, deleting, or rearranging details to create a unified, logical progression of ideas in narratives or expository writing.

1. Bianca would like to add the following sentence to the first paragraph (sentences 1–4).

   He is a scientist called a herpetologist who studies reptiles and amphibians.

   Where is the BEST place to insert this sentence?

   A. At the beginning of the paragraph
   B. After sentence 2
   C. At the end of the paragraph
   D. This sentence should not be added to the paragraph.

2. Which sentence could BEST be inserted after sentence 7?

   A. Snakes shed their skin once a year.
   B. We had mice in our garage one time.
   C. Snakes are cold-blooded reptiles.
   D. That’s because snakes eat these rodents.

3. Which sentence should be deleted from this paper to improve the focus?

   A. Sentence 9
   B. Sentence 11
   C. Sentence 15
   D. Sentence 21
4 Bianca needs a stronger connection between sentences 13 and 14 to help the reader better understand the ideas. Which sentence could **BEST** be inserted after sentence 14?

A Corn snake is a funny name for a reptile.
B However, Dr. Cobra warned us to never touch a snake in the woods.
C My dad loves learning about different kinds of snakes.
D The venom from a rattlesnake is deadly to most animals, including humans.

5 Bianca needs to add a transition word or phrase to help her readers move from sentence 17 to sentence 18. Which transition could **BEST** be added to the beginning of sentence 18?

A Tomorrow
B Earlier
C Often
D Then

6 Bianca wants to add a sentence to create a satisfying ending to her story. Which of the following could **BEST** follow sentence 30 and close this paper?

A Corn snakes and earth snakes rare harmless reptiles that require little care.
B A rattlesnake would not make a good pet, since it is poisonous.
C Dr. Cobra’s visit made me realize that I am ready to care for a pet snake.
D My parents will celebrate my birthday with a snake party.
Revising for Word Choice

Writers revise drafts by replacing words with specific, well-chosen words that contribute to the quality and clarity of a narrative or essay.

7 Look at sentence 1. The word happy does not express what Bianca was trying to say. Which word could BEST replace happy and help Bianca improve the meaning of this sentence?

A lucky  
B bored  
C excited  
D disappointed

8 Bianca can improve the meaning of sentence 7 by changing they to —

A Dr. Cobra  
B snakes  
C animals  
D nature

9 Sentence 16 is unclear. Bianca can improve the meaning of this sentence by replacing he with —

A Dad  
B Dr. Cobra  
C the farmer  
D the reptile
10 Look at sentence 30. The word *tell* does not express what Bianca was trying to say. Which word could **BEST** replace *tell* and help Bianca improve the meaning of this sentence?

A convince  
B remember  
C teach  
D appreciate
Revising for Sentence Structure

Writers improve sentence structure by combining simple sentences and revising awkward sentences.

11 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 12?

A During his discussion, Dr. Cobra walked around with a corn snake wrapped around his hand.
B During his discussion, walking around, Dr. Cobra wrapped a corn snake around his hand.
C During his discussion, Dr. Cobra walked around wrapping his hand with a corn snake.
D No revision is needed.

12 What is the BEST way to rewrite the ideas in sentence 18?

A To learn more about snakes, we should read some books, and Dr. Cobra suggested that first.
B We should read some books to learn more about snakes first, so suggested Dr. Cobra.
C Dr. Cobra suggested that we read some books first to learn more about snakes.
D Dr. Cobra suggested that we learn more about snakes, because we read some books first.

13 What is the BEST way to combine sentences 28 and 29?

A I went straight to the school library sharing four books and checking out with my mom and dad.
B I went straight to the school library and checked out four books to share with my mom and dad.
C I went straight to the school library, but I checked out four books to share with my mom and dad.
D I went straight to check out four books at the school library to share with my mom and dad.