

**STAAR CONNECTION™**

**Diagnostic Series™**

English II - Writing

**EOC**  
teacher



**KAMICO®**

**Instructional Media, Inc.**

# STAAR CONNECTION™

## EOC English II Writing

Teacher Edition

# Diagnostic Series™



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Instructional Media, Inc.

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**STAAR CONNECTION™**  
**Diagnostic Series™**  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

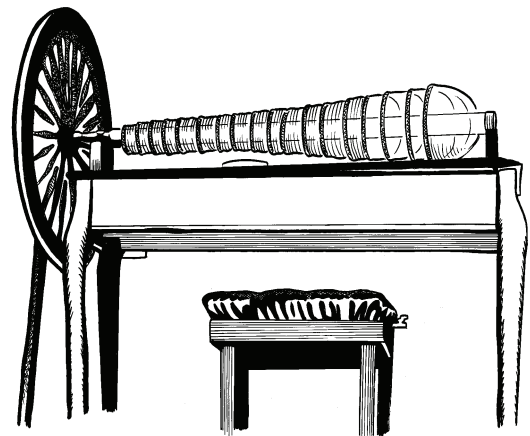
Read the selection, and choose the best answer to each question.

*Giuseppe learned about strange instruments from the past. He wrote this paper to tell about what he learned. Read Giuseppe's paper, and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.*

### **Marching to a Different Beat: Interesting Instruments from around the World**

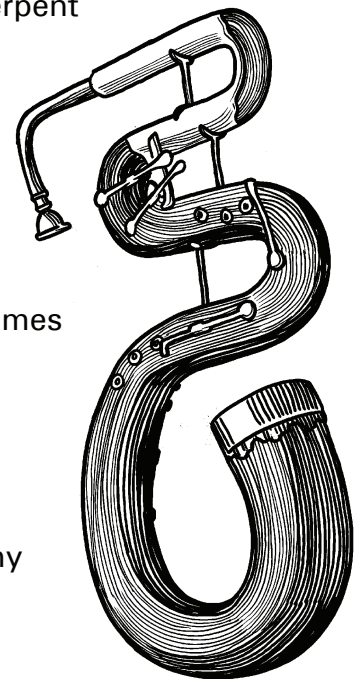
(1) Most casual music fans are familiar with guitars, trumpets, snare drums, and flutes. (2) After all, these instruments—and ones like them—are featured in dozens of different types of contemporary music. (3) However, today's popular instruments are only the most recent development in a long succession. (4) In fact, musical instruments have been around since the beginning of human culture, and over time, they have taken many different forms. (5) In the past, weird woodwinds, bizarre brasses, strange strings, and peculiar percussions were used to create myriad varieties of sounds and music. (6) Some of these are still used today. (7) Three such odd historic instruments are the glass armonica, the serpent, and the didgeridoo.

(8) Few instruments, if any, bear any resemblance in either appearance or sound to the glass armonica. (9) Invented in 1761 by Benjamin Franklin, this instrument produces a sort of droning chime. (10) Before inventing the armonica, Franklin had observed musicians playing songs by running their fingers along the



rims of water goblets that were filled with different amounts of water. (11) He liked the sound, but thought the design of the "instrument" could be improved. (12) Thus, he created the first glass armonica, which consisted of a horizontal spindle on which were mounted thirty-seven different-sized glass bowls. (13) By working a foot pedal, the musician could turn the spindle and the bowls. (14) Then, by placing a moist finger along the rim of the spinning bowls, the musicians could play the instrument. (15) The sound was odd, and some critics believed it would actually drive audiences mad. (16) For a time, though, this instrument was quite popular. (17) As time passed and tastes in musical venues changed, the glass armonica proved too quiet to keep an audience's interest in large concert halls. (18) Its popularity waned, and it became a curious footnote in musical history.

(19) The appearance and construction of the serpent, a Renaissance instrument, are very odd by today's standards. (20) The serpent has finger holes and is usually made of wood like a woodwind, but it also has a mouthpiece like a brass instrument. (21) It is long and winding—typically six feet in length—and twists back and forth three or four times before ending in a large hook. (22) The serpent's sound is peculiar, too. (23) It can be blown softly to produce warm, rich notes or strongly to make a harsh, loud sound that many people think sounds like a large animal in distress. (24) Researchers believe it was probably created to augment



men's voices during sacred songs, providing a blended sound to choral singing.

(25) Some performers and composers still work with the serpent. (26) For the most part, it has been replaced by valved instruments like the tuba.

(27) The oldest of these three bizarre instruments, the didgeridoo, is perhaps the one that is still most widely used. (28) Invented by the Aboriginal people who lived in northern Australia, its popularity has spread slowly throughout the world over hundreds of years. (29) The didgeridoo is essentially a long, hollow log that is narrow at one end and larger at the other. (30) Traditionally, the Aborigines made the instrument from eucalyptus wood whose insides had been eaten away by termites. (31) Today's didgeridoos are made from a variety of natural or synthetic material. (32) A didgeridoo player blows, hums, and vibrates his or her lips on the instrument's mouthpiece, creating a droning, resonating sound. (33) To keep the sound constant, the player uses a difficult breathing technique called circular breathing that can take years to master. (34) Meanwhile, while the instrument may look deceptively simple, it can actually be quite challenging to play. (35) Despite the challenge, many are drawn to the strange sound of the didgeridoo, contributing to its widespread popularity.

(36) In many ways, the glass armonica, serpent, and didgeridoo represent some of the strangest instruments in the world. (37) From their appearances, their construction, and the sounds they produce, these three instruments are odd in many ways. (38) However, each has also contributed to the rich musical history that makes our culture so rich and diverse.

- 1** Giuseppe wants to add a detail to support the idea expressed in sentence 16. Which of the following could best follow sentence 16 and strengthen this paragraph?
- A** Benjamin Franklin considered the glass armonica one of his greatest inventions.
  - B** Today, some of them can still be found in museums throughout the world.
  - C** Mozart, Handel, and Beethoven all composed works for the glass armonica.
  - D** My brother once saw a modern replication of a glass armonica in a music store.
- 2** Giuseppe wants to improve the transition between the second paragraph (sentences 8-18) and the third paragraph (sentences 19-26). Which sentence could go before sentence 19 and help improve this transition?
- F** Another nearly forgotten instrument from the past is the peculiar, snakelike serpent.
  - G** Aztec slit drums, Egyptian lutes, and Chinese zithers are some instruments that were developed long ago.
  - H** When most people hear the word *serpent*, they think of an animal, not an instrument.
  - J** Many mythologies describe the origin of instruments, often ascribing their creation to dieties or supernatural beings.

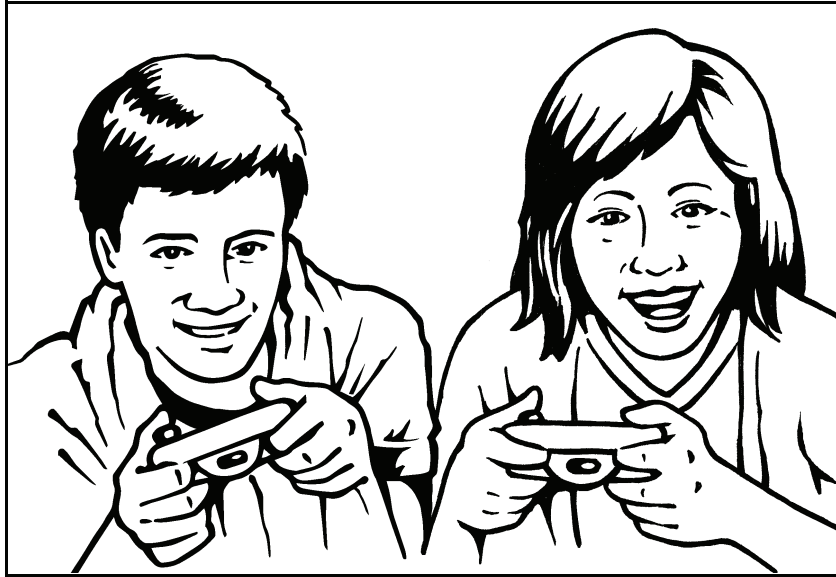
- 3** What is the most effective way to combine sentences 25 and 26?
- A** Some performers and composers still work with the serpent, so for the most part, it has been replaced by valved instruments like the tuba.
  - B** Whenever some performers and composers still work with the serpent, for the most part, it has been replaced by valved instruments like the tuba.
  - C** Some performers and composers who still work with the serpent, for the most part, have been replaced by valved instruments like the tuba.
  - D** While some performers and composers still work with the serpent, for the most part, it has been replaced by valved instruments like the tuba.
- 4** What is the most effective way to rewrite sentence 28?
- F** The didgeridoo was invented by the Aboriginal people who lived in northern Australia, and its popularity has spread slowly throughout the world over hundreds of years.
  - G** Invented by the Aboriginal people who lived in northern Australia, the popularity of the didgeridoo has spread slowly throughout the world over hundreds of years.
  - H** Living in northern Australia, the Aboriginal people invented and their popularity has spread slowly throughout the world over hundreds of years.
  - J** Invented, the Aboriginal people who lived in northern Australia have a popularity that has spread slowly throughout the world over hundreds of years.



- 5 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 30 and 31?
- A Traditionally, the Aborigines made the instrument from eucalyptus wood whose insides had been eaten away by termites because today's didgeridoos are made from a variety of natural or synthetic material.
  - B Traditionally, the Aborigines made the instrument from eucalyptus wood whose insides had been eaten away by termites and today's didgeridoos, which are made from a variety of natural or synthetic material.
  - C Traditionally, the Aborigines made the instrument from eucalyptus wood whose insides had been eaten away by termites, when today's didgeridoos are made from a variety of natural or synthetic material.
  - D Traditionally, the Aborigines made the instrument from eucalyptus wood whose insides had been eaten away by termites, but today's didgeridoos are made from a variety of natural or synthetic material.
- 6 The word ***Meanwhile*** does not effectively convey Giuseppe's meaning in sentence 34. Which of the following would be the best replacement for ***Meanwhile***?
- F Similarly
  - G Besides
  - H Namely
  - J Therefore

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

*Mahalia started her own business. She gets paid thousands of dollars to do something she loves. Mahalia wrote this paper to tell about her experiences. Proofread Mahalia's paper, and look for any mistakes she has made. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



### **My Path to Owning a Business at Seventeen**

(1) Growing up, I was taught that hard work is the key to success in life.  
(2) Therefore, from a young age, I wanted to contribute to society by working.  
(3) I found opportunities babysitting, but as I got older, I found these unfulfilling.  
(4) Then, in my sophomore year, I registered for mr. Gibson's business management course. (5) With my teacher's help, I learned how to create a business plan and how to implement that plan. (6) My business idea was so successful that I was able to launch a company that today generates thousands of dollars in revenue. (7) At the age of seventeen I am one of the most successful business owners in my community.

(8) The most important lesson that my teacher taught me is that a business plan must be meticulously detailed. (9) Entrepreneurs should try to anticipate all possible expenses and obstacles. (10) This planning is challenging because there are many expenses that novice entrepreneurs often do not consider. (11) For example, I knew I did not have much capital—or funds for starting a business. (12) So, I tried to think of a business that would not require much money to start. (13) I knew that a web-based company with a virtual product would not need much space or raw material. (14) I also knew that I enjoyed playing video games. (15) I decided to create a company that would post online videos showing gamers how to do well on video games. (16) I thought I could offer my product for free at first, and then after establishing a loyal market, I could generate revenue from advertisements and subscriptions.

(17) With my idea, I next needed to get supplies. (18) I did not need any production material since my product was virtual. (19) For the same reason, I did not need to acquire a storefront, manufacturing facility, or warehouse. (20) However, I did need a few resources, and these were more than I could afford. (21) Namely, I needed a computer with a lot of memory and a high processing speed. (22) I also needed screen-capture software and video-editing software to record myself playing the video games. (23) I needed a web host for my site. (24) Finally, although I already owned many video games, I needed to purchase or rent some of the newest and most popular ones.

(25) To meet my needs, I approached my parents. (26) They said they would help me acquire the computer, software, host, and games. (27) However, their aid was conditional, they expected a return on their investment. (28) I agreed to provide them a set share of my profits. (29) With everything I needed, we set to work creating my videos and setting up my website.

(30) I started with a handful of videos that showed strategies for conquering bosses, accessing new levels, and how to score maximum points. (31) Word quickly spread. (32) My site began getting more hits every day. (33) On one day alone, I had 123,000 unique visitors to my site from locations across the globe. (34) That kind of traffic got advertisers' attention. (35) I began to be approached by online gaming companies wishing to advertise on my site. (36) That was when I really started making money. (37) Eventually, I hired an attorney to help negotiate deals that would make the most money. (38) I even set up a subscription site for "premium" videos, generating even more revenue.

(39) Today, I run a successful company that employs fourteen people. (40) I believe that I have contributed to society by providing a desirable product. (41) However, the best part is that I get paid to play video games. (42) I am hopeful that, soon, a larger company will offer to buy mine. (43) That sale would leave me adequate capital to start all over with a new and exciting business.

- 7 What change should be made in sentence 4?
- A change *sophomore* to **sophmore**
  - B change *registered* to **register**
  - C change *mr.* to **Mr.**
  - D change *Gibson's* to **Gibsons'**
- 8 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 7?
- F add a comma after *seventeen*
  - G change *successful* to **sucessful**
  - H change *business owners* to **Business Owners**
  - J no change needs to be made
- 9 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?
- A change *knowed* to **knew**
  - B change *much* to **hardly any**
  - C change *business* to **business**
  - D no change should be made to sentence 11
- 10 What change needs to be made in sentence 30?
- F change *handful* to **handfull**
  - G change *that* to **who**
  - H change *bosses* to **Bosses**
  - J change *how to score* to **scoring**

11 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 39?

- A change *l* to *i*
- B add a comma after *run*
- C change *forteem* to *fourteen*
- D make no change

12 Which sentence is a run-on?

- F sentence 18
- G sentence 20
- H sentence 27
- J sentence 43

Read the information in the box below.

Recently, many schools and communities have focused on the issue of bullying in schools. School boards have created programs to address bullying and its effects on the victim as well as the bully. Communities have created ordinances and laws that punish bullies.

Why has bullying become such a prevalent topic? Think carefully about this question.

Write an essay in which you explain bullying and its effects on the bully as well as the person being bullied.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the following quotation.

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots."  
— Marcus Garvey

Think carefully about the following statement.

Some people think that learning history means reading about dates and places and that those things do not connect with the present day or our future; other people think that by understanding our history, we can connect better to our present and future.

Write an essay in which you take a position on whether studying history actually helps us better connect to our present and future.

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



**STAAR CONNECTION™**  
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**TEKS Writing Alignment Chart and Cross-Curricular Alignments**

KAMICO® supports cross-curricular teaching strategies and encourages efforts to apply, transfer, and integrate knowledge across multiple content areas. Therefore, many assessments in this writing book reinforce at least one social studies and/or science TEKS.

For each grade or course, TEA has identified some of the TEKS eligible to be assessed on STAAR as readiness standards. These readiness standards will be emphasized on the STAAR assessments. The remaining TEKS eligible to be assessed on STAAR are considered supporting standards. Although supporting standards will be assessed, they will not be emphasized on STAAR. KAMICO® has shown whether each question assessed in this book is aligned to a readiness standard or a supporting standard.

**Readiness standards**

- are essential for success in the current grade or course,
- are important for preparedness for the next grade or course,
- support college and career readiness,
- necessitate in-depth instruction, and
- address broad and deep ideas.

Supporting standards, although introduced in the current grade or course,

- may be emphasized in a subsequent year,
- may be emphasized in a previous year,
- play a role in preparing students for the next grade or course but not a central role, and
- address more narrowly defined ideas.

**Assessment 1**

Question Number	Answer	Reporting Category	TEKS	Readiness or Supporting Standard
1	C	5	15Av	Supporting
2	F	5	15Aii	Supporting
3	D	5	13C	Readiness
4	F	5	13C	Readiness
5	D	5	13C	Readiness
6	J	5	13C	Readiness
7	C	6	18A	Readiness
8	F	6	18B	Readiness
9	A	6	17Ai	Supporting
10	J	6	17A	Readiness
11	C	6	19A	Readiness
12	H	6	17C	Readiness

**Cross-Curricular Alignments**

Marching to a Different Beat: Interesting Instruments from around the World	World History – 26B, 26C
My Path to Owning a Business at Seventeen	U.S. History – 18A