

# STAAR CONNECTION™

## Diagnostic Series™

Writing  
**7**  
teacher  
v4



**KAMICO®**  
Instructional Media, Inc.

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Writing  
**7**  
teacher

## Diagnostic Series™

XIV/ix/MMXX  
Version 4



**KAMICO®**  
Instructional Media, Inc.

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**KAMICO® Instructional Media, Inc.**  
**STAAR CONNECTION™**  
**Introduction**

KAMICO® Instructional Media's program is validated by scientifically based research. **STAAR CONNECTION™ Diagnostic Series™** and **Developmental Series™** can be used in tandem to ensure mastery of Texas reporting categories and TEKS. The *Diagnostic Series™* consists of a bank of assessments. Each assessment covers a mixture of reporting categories and TEKS. This research-based format provides continual reinforcement for and ensures retention of mastered concepts. To take full advantage of this series, administer an assessment to students. After they have completed the assessment, use it as an instructional tool. Go over each item with the class, discussing all correct and incorrect answers. Then, use the assessment as a diagnostic tool to determine a standard for which students need remediation. Find that standard in the *Developmental Series™*.

Each book in the *Developmental Series™* consists of isolated activities and assessments to allow for the development of specific TEKS. For every TEKS, there is at least one individual or group activity. The activities provide a fun, challenging, yet nonthreatening, way to develop mastery of the TEKS. In addition to these activities, each *Developmental Series™* book has assessments on isolated standards to be used to identify mastery or the need for further skill development or reinforcement. Continue to alternate between the *STAAR CONNECTION™ Diagnostic Series™* and the *Developmental Series™*.

KAMICO's **DATA CONNECTION®** software prints student answer sheets on plain paper using a standard laser printer, scans answer sheets using a TWAIN-compliant scanner, scores assessments, and disaggregates student academic data, showing which goals and objectives are mastered and which goals and objectives are in need of reinforcement. The software is preprogrammed to work with all KAMICO® assessments. It is easily customized to work with other instructional materials and assessments as well as teacher-, school-, district-, or state-created assessments. **DATA CONNECTION®** analyzes academic data from individual students, classes, grade levels, and demographic groups. Reports are presented in tabular and graphic form. Item analysis is provided to help determine the most effective method of instruction.

KAMICO® Instructional Media, Inc., supports efforts to ensure adequate yearly progress and eliminate surprises in high-stakes test results.

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**KAMICO® Instructional Media, Inc.**  
**STAAR CONNECTION™**  
**Diagnostic Series™**  
**Grade 7 Writing**  
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**State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness  
Grade 7 Writing Assessment  
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills**

**Strand 6**

- (10) **Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—writing process.** The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to
- (A) plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for a particular topic, purpose, and audience using a range of strategies such as discussion, background reading, and personal interests;
  - (B) develop drafts into a focused, structured, and coherent piece of writing by
    - (i) organizing with purposeful structure, including an introduction, transitions, coherence within and across paragraphs, and a conclusion; and
    - (ii) developing an engaging idea reflecting depth of thought with specific facts, details, and examples;
  - (C) revise drafts for clarity, development, organization, style, word choice, and sentence variety;
  - (D) edit drafts using standard English conventions, including
    - (i) complete complex sentences with subject-verb agreement and avoidance of splices, run-ons, and fragments;
    - (ii) consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses;
    - (iii) conjunctive adverbs;
    - (iv) prepositions and prepositional phrases and their influence on subject-verb agreement;
    - (v) pronoun-antecedent agreement;
    - (vi) subordinating conjunctions to form complex sentences and correlative conjunctions such as *either/or* and *neither/nor*;

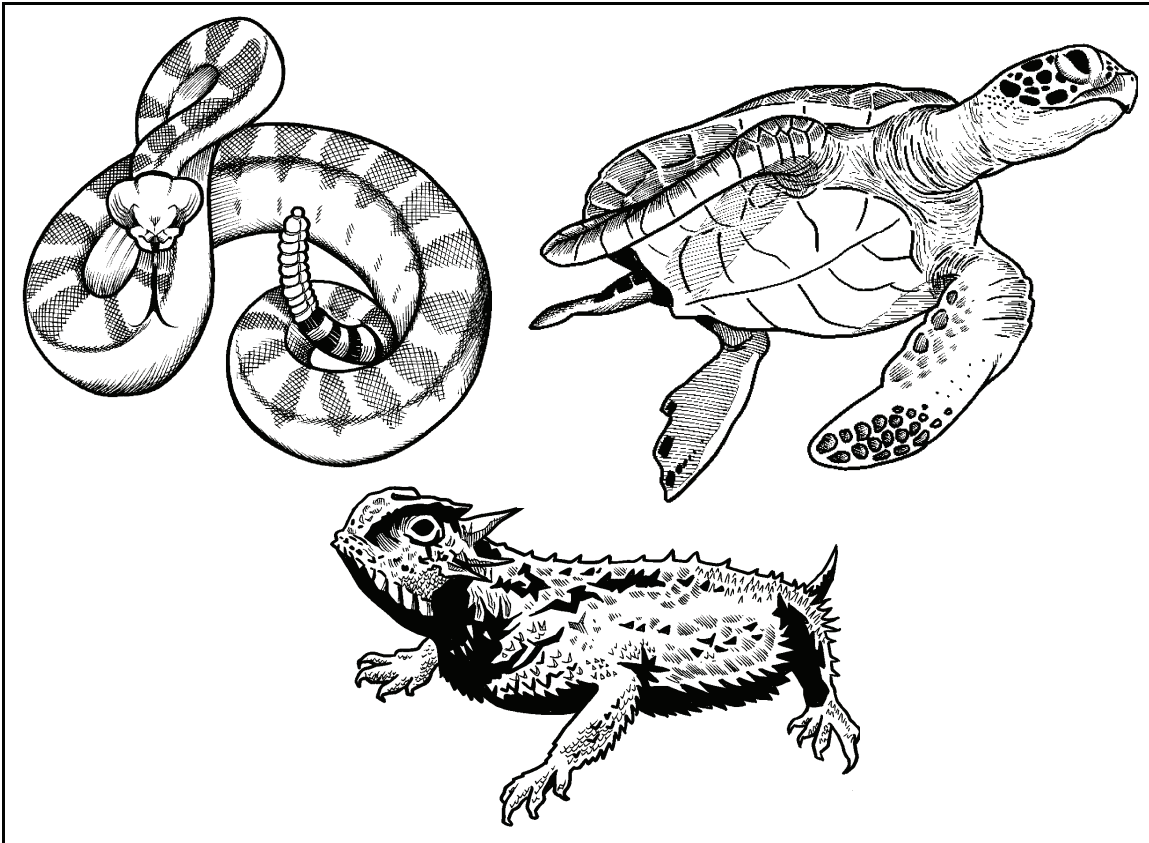
- (vii) correct capitalization;
  - (viii) punctuation, including commas to set off words, phrases, and clauses, and semicolons; and
  - (ix) correct spelling, including commonly confused terms such as *its/it's*, *affect/effect*, *there/their/they're*, and *to/two/too*.
- (11) **Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—genres.** The student uses genre characteristics and craft to compose multiple texts that are meaningful. The student is expected to
- (B) compose informational texts, including multi-paragraph essays that convey information about a topic, using a clear controlling idea or thesis statement and genre characteristics and craft.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the selection, and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

*Carson read about important Texas reptiles. He wrote this paper to tell about what he learned. Read Carson's paper, and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.*



### **Crawlers, Swimmers, and Sliders: Three Reptiles That Call Texas Home**

(1) As a result of its location and sheer size, the state of Texas is home to many species of birds, mammals, and reptiles. (2) Some of these birds, like mockingbirds, or mammals, like longhorns and armadillos, have become part of the identity of the state. (3) However, some of the most iconic and interesting animals in Texas belong to the reptile family. (4) Reptiles include scaly, cold-blooded

animals such as lizards, turtles, and snakes. (5) Reptiles love that famous Texas hot climate, so there are a whole bunch of reptiles in Texas because of that reason. (6) Three of the most interesting reptiles found in Texas are the Texas horned lizard, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, and the western diamondback rattlesnake.

(7) Few animals are more symbolic of Texas than the Texas horned lizard; in fact, it is the official state reptile. (8) This tough little lizard is sometimes incorrectly called a horny toad or horned frog. (9) It has a flat, roundish body, and if you look closely at its head, you will notice ferocious-looking spikes, or "horns." (10) The horned lizard eats mostly red harvester ants, but it will also eat other small insects like beetles and spiders. (11) Historically found throughout most of Texas, the horned lizard's range is shrinking, and this reptile's status is considered threatened. (12) Some people think that is due to encroachment of people into its habitat. (13) Others blame the introduction of fire ants, which drive away the ants the lizard normally feeds on. (14) Whatever the cause, people should help protect the horned lizard, as it is a great symbol of Texas.

(15) Found along the Texas and Mexico coasts and in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle can grow to almost three feet and weigh seventy-five to one hundred pounds. (16) This turtle is special to Texans because the beaches on and around Padre Island are the only places in the United States the turtles are known to lay their eggs. (17) The young turtles hatch. (18) They leave the beach. (19) Some young turtles float on large mats of algae



called sargassum. (20) Sargassum is usually brown or green and can grow to be several feet long. (21) Today, these turtles are threatened, primarily due to people's gathering their eggs and killing the turtles for their meat. (22) Wildlife officials in Corpus Christi have released thousands of Kemp's ridleys into the wild to try to improve their chances for survival. (23) The Kemp's ridley is one turtle that people are protecting so that their number can grow.

(24) Another famous Texas reptile, more notorious than the others, is the western diamondback rattlesnake. (25) This poisonous snake is found throughout large parts of Texas and the southwest United States. (26) The snake is the largest rattlesnake in the United States and can grow to upwards of seven feet in length. (27) It mostly eats small mammals and birds including rabbits, mice, gophers, rats, and sparrows. (28) It is nocturnal, meaning that it tends to hunt for food at night. (29) During warm days, it also likes to lie in the sunshine. (30) When threatened, this reptile coils up its body and vigorously rattle its tail, making a very distinctive rattling sound. (31) It is extremely poisonous, and venom from its bite can be deadly. (32) It helps people by keeping rodent populations in check.

(33) Texas has many different species that live within its borders. (34) The state's habitat provides ideal living conditions for various animals, including many reptiles. (35) As classic symbols of Texas, these reptiles deserve our respect.

- 1 Carson does not think that sentence 5 is appropriate for this assignment. He does not think the tone is appropriate for his audience. How should he change the sentence?
- A If you want to know how come there are so many reptiles in Texas, it's because they like the warm, dry climate.
  - B Reptiles go crazy for Texas's warm and dry climate, and that's why there are so many of the things living in the state.
  - C Reptiles think Texas is awesome because they think its hot climate is awesome, and so there are a lot of them in Texas.
  - D Reptiles do well in Texas's warm, dry climate, and as a result, Texas has many reptiles that live within the state.
- 2 Carson wants to add the following detail to the second paragraph (sentences 7-14).

*Besides its intimidating horns, a horned lizard's unique defenses also include the ability to squirt a stream of blood from its eyes at potential predators.*

What is the **BEST** place to insert this sentence?

- F after sentence 9
- G after sentence 11
- H after sentence 12
- J after sentence 14

- 3 Which of these should be added before sentence 15?
- A In addition to the Texas horned lizard, another celebrated Texas reptile is Kemp's ridley sea turtle.
  - B There are many different types of turtles and tortoises in the United States.
  - C While fewer people kill Kemp's ridley sea turtles for food, these turtles still face threats from being caught in fishing nets.
  - D Kemp's ridley sea turtles lay their eggs on a single stretch of beach in Mexico.
- 4 Which sentence in the third paragraph (sentences 15-23) should be deleted?
- F sentence 16
  - G sentence 20
  - H sentence 21
  - J sentence 22
- 5 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 17 and 18?
- A The young turtles hatch because they leave the beach.
  - B After the young turtles hatch, they leave the beach.
  - C Hatching, the beach is left by the young turtles.
  - D Either the young turtles hatch, or they leave the beach.

- 6** Which of these could be added after sentence 34 to strengthen the conclusion of this paper?
- F** Three of the most interesting reptiles include Texas horned lizard, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, and the western diamondback rattlesnake.
  - G** Western diamondback rattlesnakes are not the only poisonous snakes in Texas; there are cottonmouths, coral snakes, and copperheads, too.
  - H** Since they are cold-blooded, reptiles cannot regulate their own body temperature like mammals can.
  - J** In prehistoric times, a different kind of reptile was common in Texas: dinosaurs.

**Read the selection, and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Dario learned that his uncle once ran in marathons. He read about marathons online and then wrote this paper to share what he learned. Proofread Dario's paper, and look for any mistakes he has made. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

### **Running a Marathon Requires More than Running**

(1) One sport that thoroughly tests athletes is marathon running. (2) Running a distance of 26.2 miles requires athletes to push their bodies to extreme limits. (3) Their legs must withstand grueling pounding. (4) Their bodies must be ready for the prolonged strain of running for hours on end. (5) Athletes must be in excellent shape and must prepare themselves for mental strain as well. (6) In order to do well, marathon runners need intense dedication, a strong competitive spirit, and the ability to endure.

(7) The first thing a marathon runner needs to be successful is intense dedication to their sport. (8) Long-distance runners must run many miles for practice, which means making big changes in their daily lives. (9) They might have to get up very early in the morning or run late at night to ensure that they meet their training goal. (10) They must spend hours exercising, and they have to take care of their bodies by eating the right foods. (11) Runners cannot simply wake up one morning and run 26.2 miles. (12) They must work up to that distance, and that takes a lot of hard work and dedication.

(13) Marathon runners also need a strong competitive spirit. (14) To compete in a marathon, runners must race against two different opponents: the first is the other runners in the race; the second is the clock. (15) Marathon runners must, of

course, to try to beat their competitors. (16) However, the clock represents another opponent, another factor to think about during the race. (17) Runners must pace themselves for each of the 26 miles and they must know how long it takes them to run each mile. (18) When they compete against the clock, marathon runners can learn how to shave seconds off each mile and have better finish times. (19) A strong competitive spirit helps marathon runners compete against both of these opponents.

(20) Lastly, marathon runners need to be able to endure. (21) They need endurance during their long days of training and during the actual race. (22) While training, runners must spend long hours on the road, enduring all types of weather. (23) They must also endure pain. (24) They cannot simply quit just because they are in pain; they must stick to their running schedule. (25) These athletes also need mental endurance to train their minds to deal with the exhaustion, self-doubt, and other things they encounter. (26) Endurance is a key to success for marathon runners.

(27) Running marathons demands that athletes subject themselves to extreme conditions. (28) They must be in good shape. (29) To get in shape, runners must dedicate themselves to many hours of training runs. (30) Marathon runners must also compete against the other runners in the race as well as the clock. (31) Finally, endurance is key to marathon runners' being successful. (32) They must endure hard and sometimes painful runs in order to win. (33) Running marathons requires competitors to be mentally tough as well as physically fit.



- 7 What change needs to be made in sentence 7?
- A change ***a marathon runner needs*** to **marathon runners need**
  - B change ***successful*** to **successfully**
  - C add a colon after ***is***
  - D change ***intense*** to **intence**
- 8 Dario needs to add a transition word or phrase to help his readers move from sentence 8 to sentence 9. Which is the **BEST** transition to add to the beginning of sentence 9?
- F Otherwise
  - G Next
  - H Besides
  - J For instance
- 9 Which word or phrase could **BEST** be added to the beginning of sentence 13 to improve the transition between paragraphs?
- A On the other hand,
  - B Besides dedication,
  - C Later,
  - D Running a marathon,

- 10 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?
- F change *for* to *fore*
  - G add a comma after *miles*
  - H delete *and*
  - J no change is needed
- 11 What is the correct way to write sentence 22?
- A While training, runners must spend long hours on the road. Enduring all types of weather.
  - B While training, runners spending long hours on the road and enduring all types of weather.
  - C While training. Runners must spend long hours on the road, enduring all types of weather.
  - D Sentence 22 is correct in the paper.
- 12 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 24?
- F change *cannot* to *can't not*
  - G change *are* to *is*
  - H change *scedule* to *schedule*
  - J no change should be made

**READ** the following quotation.

Disregard for the past will never do us any good.  
Without it we cannot know truly who we are.  
—Syd Moore

**THINK** carefully about the following statement.

Our history still influences the things we do today.

**WRITE** an essay explaining whether it is important to understand history.

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

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS  
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



**STAAR CONNECTION™**  
**Diagnostic Series™ Grade 7 Writing**  
**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, each assessment in this writing book reinforces at least one Grade 7 social studies or science TEKS. The following tables show which TEKS are reinforced within this book.

<b>Assessment 2</b>			
<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Strand</b>	<b>TEKS</b>
1	D	6	10C
2	F	6	10C
3	A	6	10C
4	G	6	10Bii
5	B	6	10C
6	F	6	10Bi
7	A	6	10Dv
8	J	6	10Diii
9	B	6	10Bi
10	G	6	10Dviii
11	D	6	10D
12	H	6	10Dix
<b>Cross-Curricular Alignments</b>			
		<b>Science TEKS</b>	
Revising Section		5B, 11B, 13A	