

English II

Administered April 2021

RELEASED

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E



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

Reese wrote this essay for his biology class. Read Reese's essay and look for any revisions he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

A New Discovery about the Brain

□

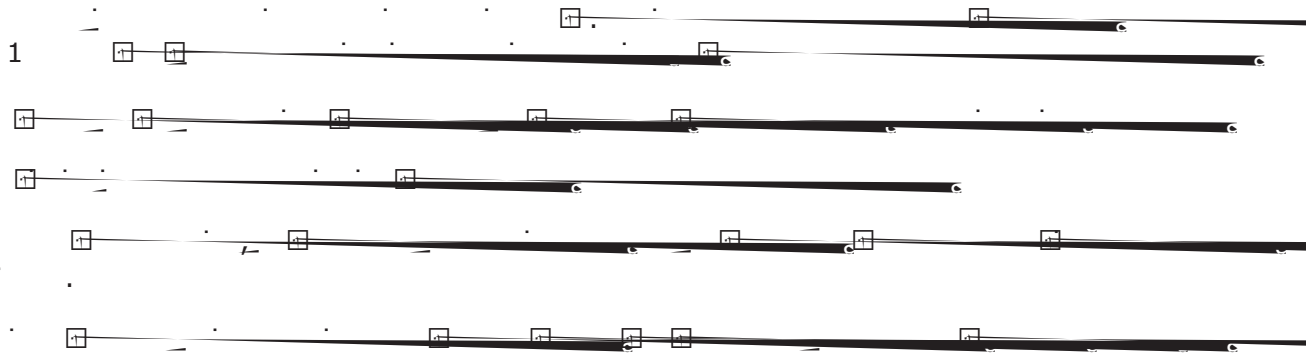
1 E

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6 R



The circulatory system moves blood rich with nutrients and oxygen to all the different parts of the body.



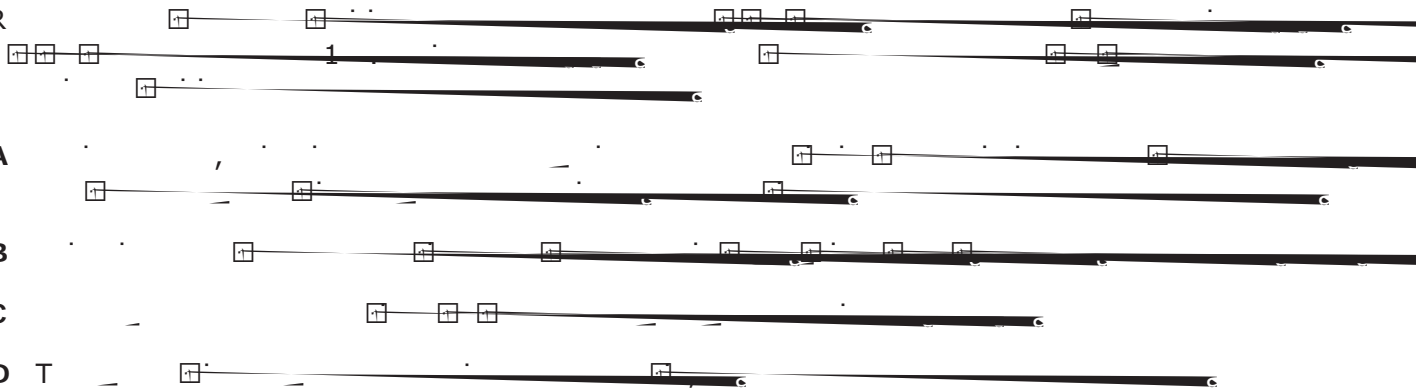
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E T .

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

Yesenia wrote this essay about an important figure she admires. Read Yesenia's essay and look for any corrections she needs to make. When you finish oab1lsd(finish)jT101TfjT11ng,

1 R A A, 20 A, R, 21

22

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2 A A A, R

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10 ~~1~~

F ~~NASA~~

G C ~~idea ideas~~

H C ~~becoming to become~~

J C ~~incomprehensible incomprehensible~~

11 ~~12~~

A C ~~campaigns campaign's~~

B C ~~advertisements advertizements~~

C C ~~realized realizing~~

D ~~qualifications~~

12 ~~1~~ ~~1~~

F R: was

13 _____ 1 _____

A C ~~broke free~~ ~~breaks free~~ _____

B _____ ~~atmosphere~~ _____

C C ~~country's~~ ~~countries~~ _____

D _____ ~~ceiling~~ _____

14 _____ _____ 2 _____

F C ~~becomes~~ ~~became~~ _____

G C ~~fierce~~ ~~feirce~~ _____

H C ~~advocate~~ ~~advocates~~ _____

J _____ 2 _____

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

Saul wrote this essay to persuade readers of the importance of switching to the metric system. Read Saul's essay and look for the corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

The United States Needs the Metric System

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WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Persuasive

R

Carlos Wallace

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USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

READING

Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

Thad is considering buying an old Stingl baby grand piano from Luc, the piano shop owner. Thad is playing this piano for the first time.

from
The Piano Shop on the Left Bank

by Thad Carhart

1 I sat on the bench and smiled at Luc. I was nervous, almost spellbound;
suddenly this great

century think of this notion of personal fulfillment that sought a pedigree in the past? My expression must have reflected the deep sense of irony I was feeling because Luc asked me why I was looking puzzled.

7 •It's just occurred to me how much of ourselves we project onto a piano when we consider what we're going to buy.

8 •Ah, but of course,

7
1 T,
when

8 project
when

project a course,

asked a pedigree

pedigree just but

project
when pedigree



tones at once clear and robust, and a sharp sense of pride welled up at the prospect of owning this distinctive piano, of seeing and playing it daily, of living with it. Good God, I thought, this is a kind of love; and, as in love, my senses amplified and enhanced the love object, all with an insouciance and willing enthusiasm.

18 I finished playing and turned to Luc with what must have been a delighted look on my face.

19 •I would say that you have found your piano.Ž His eyes sparkled, the successful matchmaker rejoicing in his skill.

20 •And I would say that you were right.Ž

Excerpt(s) from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank: Discovering a Forgotten Passion in a Paris Atelier* by T. E. Carhart, copyright © 2000 by T. E. Carhart. Used by permission of Random House, an imprint and division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.

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from
Those Old

- 21 In paragraph 1 of the excerpt from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*, which idea is introduced?
- A The power of intuition
 - B An unachieved goal
 - C Impractical choices
 - D The wisdom of experience
-

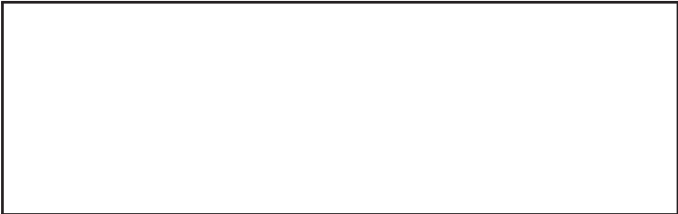
- 22 Read this quotation from paragraph 16 of the excerpt from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*.

“Think of it as an investment in personal expression.”

What can the reader infer about the narrator’s wife based on her words?

- F The wife believes it is more important to invest in the arts than in other things.
 - G The wife does not believe people should deny themselves things that they want.
 - H The wife views the piano as an attractive addition to their living room.
 - J The wife sees music as a necessary outlet for her husband’s creativity.
-
- 23 In paragraph 17 of the excerpt from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*, how does the narrator feel about playing the Stingl piano in the piano shop?
- A He needs Luc to help him build confidence in his musical ability.
 - B He hopes Luc will believe that he is worthy of the Stingl.
 - C He feels oddly comfortable playing in front of Luc.
 - D He enjoys showing Luc that he can play different types of music.

24 In paragraph 1 of the



Use "From Those Old Piano Blues" (pp. 29–30) to answer questions 26–33
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

- 26 In the excerpt from the article "Those Old Piano Blues," how does the author mainly organize his ideas?
- F He lists the benefits of owning a piano by referencing a magazine article about musical instruments.
 - G He supports people learning to play the piano with stories from students who enjoy the instrument.
 - H He argues against getting rid of old pianos by explaining how important they once were.
 - J He discusses trends in piano ownership by describing his experience trying to get rid of an old piano.

-
- 27 Read this quotation from paragraph 2 of the excerpt from the article "Those Old Piano Blues."

Then a slow, downward sales arpeggio started.

What does the author's use of musical terminology convey in the quotation?

- A How the popularity of the piano has shifted like notes in a song
- B How piano dealers use musical language when they speak
- C How piano tones affect the price of the instruments
- D How piano music will persist despite its decrease in popularity

31 In the excerpt from the article "Those Old Piano Blues," what is the primary purpose of paragraph 7?

A To explain why letting go of pianos is acceptable at times

B To state the reasons why pianos are still To detail the life cycle of pianos

D To describe pianos in a historical context

32 Which

word from the excerpt from the article "Those Old Piano Blues" means "an approximate amount"?

F peak (paragraph 1)



Use

36 What is one notable **difference** between the two excerpts?

- F The selection from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* explains why someone wants to play piano, while the selection from the article "Those Old Piano Blues" explains why piano lessons are less popular.
 - G The selection from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* describes evaluating and buying an old piano, while the selection from the article "Those Old Piano Blues" describes an abundance of unwanted old pianos.
 - H The selection from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* emphasizes the craftsmanship of a new acoustic piano, while the selection from the article "Those Old Piano Blues" emphasizes today's preference for digital pianos.
 - J The selection from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* shows how rare it is for someone to appreciate an old piano, while the selection from the article "Those Old Piano Blues" shows how people overvalue all musical instruments.
-

37 What feeling is conveyed by **both** the excerpt from *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* and the excerpt from the article "Those Old Piano Blues"?

- A Amusement
- B Ambition
- C Attachment
- D Awe

Read

12 Start now by refusing to see yourself through the lens of others. Others do not define you. Their opinions will not last, and their words hold no power. You define you. And you don't need to fear your strength. It is as captivating as the Grand Canyon itself.

Used with permission.

38 Which sentence from the selection best expresses the author's opinion about the culture of high school?

F *Something happened to my exuberance as I approached high school.* (paragraph 1)

G *It takes time to excavate a past, but it is worth it.*

41 What evidence does the author primarily use to support her evidence



44 According to the selection, the author urges high-school students to be „

F concerned about their effects on others

G opinionated and outspoken

H

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

Beartown is a fictional small town in Sweden.

from **Beartown**

by Fredrik Backman

1 For more than ten years now the neighbors have grown accustomed to the noises from the Erdahl family's garden: *bang-bang-bang-bang-bang*. Then a brief pause while Kevin collects the pucks. Then *bang-bang-bang-bang-bang*. He was two and a half years old the first time he put a pair of skates on, three when he got his first stick. When he was four he was better than the five-year-olds, and when he was five he was better than the seven-year-olds. During the winter following his seventh birthday he got such a bad case of frostbite that if you stand close enough to him you can still see the tiny white marks on his cheekbones. He had played his first proper game that afternoon, and in the final seconds missed a shot on an open goal. The Beartown youngsters won 12...0, and Kevin scored all the goals, but he was inconsolable. Late that evening his parents discovered that he wasn't in his bed, and by midnight half the town was out searching for him in the forest. It wasn't until dawn that someone realized the boy wasn't among town on openHj/T1_9d1637ed

5 Kevin knows what it takes; everyone's been telling him ever since he first stood on a pair of skates. It's going to demand nothing less than his all. So every morning, while his classmates are still fast asleep under their warm comforters, he goes running in the forest, and then he stands here, *bang-bang-bang-bang-bang*. Collects the pucks. *Bang-bang-bang-bang-bang*. Collects the pucks. Practices with the junior team every afternoon, and with the A-team every evening, then the gym, then another run in the forest, and one final hour out here under the glare of the floodlights specially erected on the roof of the house.

6 This sport demands only one thing from you. Your all.

7 Kevin has had every sort of offer to move to the big teams, to attend hockey school in a bigger town, but he keeps turning them down. He's a Beartown man, his dad's a Beartown man, and that may not mean a thing anywhere else, but it means something here.

8 So how important can the semifinal of a junior tournament be? Being the best junior team around would remind the rest of the country of this place's existence again. And then the politicians might decide to spend the money to establish a hockey school here instead of over in Hed, so that the most talented kids in this part of the country would want to move to Beartown instead of the big cities. So that an A-team full of homegrown players could make it to the highest division again, attract the biggest sponsors once more, get the council to build a new rink and bigger roads leading to it, maybe even the conference center and shopping mall they've been talking about for years. So that new businesses could appear and create more jobs so that the townspeople might start thinking about renovating their homes instead of selling them. It would only be important to the town's economy. To its pride. To its survival.

9 It's only so important that a seventeen-year-old in a private garden has been standing here since he got frostbite on his cheeks one night ten years ago, firing puck after puck after puck with the weight of an entire community on his shoulders.

10 It means everything. That's all.

46 What do the repeated italicized words •*bang-bang-bang-bang-bang*Ž in both paragraphs 1 and 5 emphasize?

- F Kevin’s constant desire to improve
 - G Kevin’s irritation regarding his perceived weakness
 - H Kevin’s need to draw the attention of his neighbors
 - J Kevin’s growing frustration with his teammates
-

47 In paragraph 2, what does *exhume* mean?

- A Dig up
 - B Blend in
 - C Establish
 - D Conceal
-

48 Which quotation best suggests that Kevin probably feels increasing pressure from external expectations?

- F *When he was four he was better than the five-year-olds, and when he was five he was better than the seven-year-olds.* (paragraph 1)
- G *Year after year they have heard the boy’s body grow—the banging becoming harder and harder, faster and faster.* (paragraph 3)
- H *“Kevin? He’s the real deal,” Peter Andersson, general manager of the club, always says, and he ought to know. . . .* (paragraph 4)

49 How are paragraphs 8 through 10 important to the development of the plot?

A They show Kevin overcoming an emotional experience of his youth.

B They show Kevin's youth.



52 Read this quotation from paragraph 7.

He's a Beartown man, his dad's a Beartown man, and that may not mean a thing anywhere else, but it means something here.

Based on the quotation, the reader can infer that Kevin feels „

- F appreciated
- G trapped
- H loyal
- J embarrassed



**STAAR
English II
April 2021**

