

Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Practice #4

22.

A student is writing an argumentative research report to answer the research question, "Should fluoride be added to public drinking supplies to promote dental health?" Read four credible sources that the student found about fluoride. Then, answer the question that follows.

SOURCE #1:

Optimal fluoride levels recommended by the US Public Health Service and CDC for drinking water range from 0.7 parts per million (ppm) for warmer climates to 1.2 ppm for cooler climates to adjust for the tendency for people to drink more water in warmer climates.

SOURCE #2:

Salts containing Group I elements from the periodic table can dissolve (Li^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , Cs^+ , Rb^+). Exceptions to this rule are rare. Salts containing the ammonium ion (NH_4^+) can also dissolve. . . . Fluorides frequently do not dissolve; for example, BaF_2 , MgF_2 , and PbF_2 .

SOURCE #3:

Exposure to excessive consumption of fluoride over a lifetime may lead to increased likelihood of bone fractures in adults and may result in bone pain and tenderness. Children aged eight years and younger exposed to excessive amounts of fluoride have an increased chance of developing pits in tooth enamel, along with a range of cosmetic effects to teeth.

SOURCE #4:

Widespread use of fluoride has been a major factor in the decline in the prevalence and severity of dental caries (i.e., tooth decay) in the United States and other economically developed countries. When used appropriately, fluoride is both safe and effective in preventing and controlling dental caries. . . . To ensure additional gains in oral health, water fluoridation should be extended to more communities, and fluoride toothpaste should be used widely. Adoption of these and other recommendations in this report could lead to considerable savings in public and private resources without compromising fluoride's substantial benefit of improved dental health.

Which **two** sources contain the **most** useful evidence and should be cited when writing a report arguing a claim and counterclaim concerning fluoride use?

- (A) Sources 1 and 2
- (B) Sources 1 and 4
- (C) Sources 2 and 3
- (D) Sources 3 and 4

23. The following excerpt is from a writer's informational paragraph about the Ferris wheel. Read the paragraph and choose the sentence the writer should revise to maintain a consistent focus.

The first Ferris wheel was built for the World's Fair of 1893. It was a colossus that weighed about 2,100 tons. The diameter of the wheel was 250 feet. Its 36 cars were each as big as a trolley car that could hold 60 people. Although the first Ferris wheel was a hit, it did not achieve the lasting fame of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. In one day, the Ferris wheel carried up to 38,000 riders. In all, about 1.5 million fair-goers enjoyed the first Ferris wheel.

The sentence that should be revised is:

- A. Sentence #1
- B. Sentence #2
- C. Sentence #3
- D. Sentence #4
- E. Sentence #5
- F. Sentence #6
- G. Sentence #7

24.

A student is writing an informational report about the volcanic island, Surtsey, for a class assignment. Read a paragraph from the report and the question that follows.

Surtsey is a volcanic island that is located off the coast of Iceland. This island is unique because it was formed by volcanic activity and only rose above the ocean's surface in the 1960s. When the island appeared, it was a barren rock with no animal or plant life. Scientists studied Surtsey because they wanted to see if and how life would develop on Surtsey. The first signs of life on the island were the results of seeds that were carried by the wind and waves. Eventually, birds nested on Surtsey. Today Surtsey has a number of plants and other organisms living on it.

Which sentence **best** concludes the paragraph?

- Ⓐ The number and types of island plants and animals have been increasing.
- Ⓑ Someday this island could disappear again if the ocean levels rise over its top.
- Ⓒ The island has nesting grounds for many species of sea birds, including puffins and gulls.
- Ⓓ This island is important because it has been a valuable tool for scientists studying plant and animal life.

25.

A student is writing a report about arachnids for a class assignment. Read this paragraph from the report and answer the question that follows.

Arachnids are a type of animal that have jointed legs and hard exteriors. All arachnids have eight legs. Although spiders are generally the arachnids most people think of, a number of well-known animals belong to this class. Scorpions, ticks, and mites are all arachnids. More than 100,000 species of arachnids exist. Although some people fear spiders and other arachnids, only a small percentage of these creatures are harmful to humans. In fact, many of these different types of animals can actually be really good for humans to have around because they eat bugs that can make people sick.

Which revision to the underlined sentence uses the **most** precise language?

- Ⓐ In fact, humans should have more of these animals because they eat bad insects.
- Ⓑ In fact, many species of arachnids help humans by eating disease-carrying pests such as insects.
- Ⓒ In fact, these animals help humans all the time in many ways because they eat bugs that can be harmful.
- Ⓓ In fact, many different spiders can help humans because of the different foods that they eat, like bugs that make people ill.

A team of students is writing an explanatory report about a laboratory experiment. Read the paragraph from the report and the directions that follow.

This experiment was designed to determine how temperature affects the rate of water movement through xylem from root to leaf. Our team prepared six celery stalks with leaves. We placed each stalk into a jar with 8 ounces of water, which we stained blue with food coloring. Two were warm, two were cold, and two were hot. We observed the stalks at two-hour intervals. We predicted that the passing of water through a plant, or transpiration, would move faster at higher temperatures. Our observations showed that our prediction was right.

The students want to revise the underlined sentences to elaborate on the process used in their experiment in a way that is consistent with the overall tone and style.

26.

Which is the **best** revision for the following sentence?

Two were warm, two were cold, and two were hot.

- A) Two celery jars were left warm, two were placed in a bath filled with ice and water, and two were put under an 85-degree heat lamp.
- B) Two celery jars were kept at room temperature, two were submerged in an ice bath, and two were placed under a heat lamp at a temperature of 85 degrees F.
- C) Two celery jars were placed on a counter in the room, two were placed on ice, and two were left to sunbathe under a heat lamp at a temperature of 85 degrees F.

27.

Which is the **best** revision for the following sentence?

Our observations showed that our prediction was right.

- A) Our observations indicated that the hottest celery stalk was the most blue, so our prediction was awesome.
- B) Our observations indicated that the blue water moved the fastest through the celery stalk that was kept under the highest temperature: thus our prediction was correct.
- C) Our observations indicated that the celery stalk that was placed under the hot lamp became blue faster than the celery that was cold and was blue faster than the celery that was kept in a warm temperature, therefore our prediction was proven.