STAAR - Writing

Revising and Editing
Grade 4
STAAR – Writing – Revising and Editing – Grade 4

Introduction

STAAR – Writing – Revising and Editing – Grade 4 is a series of short passages designed to look like student writing coupled with multiple choice questions that assess student knowledge and performance on the STAAR revision and editing writing standards. Students read a passage and answer questions based on the passage. Each passage includes multiple-choice questions about the passages that ask students to show how a particular sentence could be corrected, improved, or how the organization or development of the passage could be improved. This includes written conventions such as parts of speech, subject-predicate agreement, simple and compound sentences, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Both fiction and nonfiction passages are included.

STAAR – Writing – Revising and Editing – Grade 4 includes 36 passages with multiple choice questions. An answer key is provided along with a standards matrix displaying which questions in which passages cover which specific STAAR writing standards.

These practice passages can be used in a variety of ways. You may have your students read the passage and answer the questions in class. The answers can be checked in class and discussed immediately. The passages can be assigned as homework and checked in class the next day. Several passages can be put together as a mini-test. There are 288 questions assessing the multitude of STAAR writing standards.

Acknowledgement: images provided by www.clipart.com, except as where noted
Billy is in the fourth grade. His teacher asked each student to write about a job. Billy wrote about the job that his father does. This is a draft of his paper. Billy wants help to revise and edit the paper. Read Bill’s paper and think about changes you would make to help him improve it. Then answer the questions that follow.

Plumbers

(1) “Glub, glub!” (2) What does that sound mean? (3) No, it’s not the sound of your pet telling you it’s hungry. (4) It means it is time to call a plumber. (5) The pipe is stop up, and water is unable to pass through.

(6) What will a plumber do to help? (7) With the right tools, a plumber will clean out the pipe and get the water to run through free and clear. (8) A plumber can do that and so much more in a new or current house.

(9) A plumber puts plumbing in it. (10) This includes putting in pipes to bring in and take out water. (11) A plumber also puts in bathtubs, sinks, faucets, water heaters, air conditioners, and room heaters. (12) There are many parts of a house that a plumber handles as part of the job.

(13) A plumber’s day was full of many different tasks. (14) A plumber needs to be able to solve problems. (15) A plumber gets to explain what is needed to take care of any problem. (16) Plumbers also have to be able to lift and move heavy objects. (17) Pianos are especially heavy and hard to move. (18) Plumbers use a lot of different kinds of tools. (19) They need to know about these to do their job well. (20) They also have to know what kinds of plumbing work need to be done in buildings.

(21) The work of a plumber takes a long time to learn. (22) Someone who wants to be a new plumber starts out working with an experienced plumber. (23) This person is called a master plumber.
(24) A learning plumber usually works about five years with a master plumber. (25) The new plumber learns right on the job. (26) The new plumber learns the skills to be a good plumber. (27) Money can be earned as learning takes place. (28) Many people take classes to learn about plumbing.

(29) The new plumber must take a test. (30) Then the new plumber is able to start a business. (31) The new plumber may go to work for a plumbing company.

(32) Plumbers have tools that they use as they work. (33) One of their busiest tools is the adjustable wrench. (34) Its jaws can be made bigger or smaller to fit different sizes of pipes. (35) Plumbers need to cut pipes, so they use a pipe cutter. (36) Pipes are joined together with a propane torch. (37) Drains are cleared with a coiled wire called a snake. (38) Some plumbers use a small video camera that can be lowered or pushed into drains or pipes to see what is causing a problem inside. (39) Then the plumber can decide the best way to take care of the problem.

(40) Plumbers work on homes, stores, apartment buildings, factories, tall skyscrapers, and construction sites. (41) They help keep the water supply safe and healthy. (42) Plumbers have many tools.
1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
   A Change stop to stopped
   B Change pass to passed
   C Change pipe to Pipe
   D Make no change

2. The meaning of sentence 9 can be improved by changing it to
   F new tools.
   G a pipe.
   H plumbers.
   J a new house.

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
   A Change jobs to jobes
   B Change was to is
   C Change plumber’s to plumbers
   D Make no change

4. Which sentence does NOT belong in this paper?
   F Sentence 7
   G Sentence 17
   H Sentence 21
   J Sentence 31

5. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 22 and 23?
   A Someone who wants to be a new plumber starts out working with an experienced plumber, this person is called a master plumber.
   B Someone who wants to be a new plumber starts out working with an experienced plumber, but this person is called a master plumber.
   C Someone wanting to be a new plumber starts out working with an experienced plumber and this person is calling a master plumber.
   D Someone who wants to be a new plumber starts out working with an experienced plumber called a master plumber.

6. Which sentence could BEST be added after sentence 29?
   F Plumbers get paid money for their work.
   G Passing this test shows that the person is ready to work.
   H Plumbers need lots of equipment.
   J Tests help people do better in a job.

7. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 33?
   A Change tools to tool’s
   B Change wrench to rench
   C Change busyest to busiest
   D Make no change
8. Billy would like to improve his passage by adding a strong concluding sentence after sentence 41 and instead of sentence 42. Which of these would be the **BEST** sentence to add?

- **F** Plumbers are important workers in every community.
- **G** The tools are important for each job.
- **H** Plumbers have to drive around to get to their jobs.
- **J** The water supply should be healthy.
Jomana wrote this report about field day at her school. Read Jomana’s report and think about the corrections and improvements she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Field Day

(1) Field day was cool. (2) All of the classes got to spend the entire day outside. (3) The weather was cool but sunny. (4) There was almost no wind and just a few wispy clouds. (5) The news says there may be rain tomorrow. (6) It was a great day for field day.

(7) Each class started their first event at nine o’clock. (8) The coaches had done a good job of organizing the whole day. (9) Parents and older students from the high school helped at the many events.

(10) All of the kids has been practicing the different events in gym class for several weeks. (11) I am anxious to do the rope climb. (12) Three months of push-ups and pull-ups have gotten me in good shape. (13) The last time I attempted the rope climb in gym class, I made it to the top in forty-five seconds. (14) That was my best time. (15) I wanted to beat it on field day. (16) My hands slipped on the first couple of feet up the rope. (17) As I tried to bear down and clear my mind of everything else, I was able to make it quickly to the top in just thirty-nine seconds. (18) I beat my old record!

(19) Jacqueline, my best friend. (20) Liked the sack race. (21) I was her partner. (22) We did well in all of the practices conducted in gym. (23) We seemed to get better and better each time the teachers led one of the practices. (24) When the whistle blew to start the race on field day, we both tripped and fell. (25) After managing to pull ourselves up, Jacqueline and I finished in second place. (26) This was not bad because we were sprawled out all over our lane at the start.
(27) Classes moved smoothly from event to event. (28) Breaks, snack time, and lunch were all included in the schedule. (29) No one got hurt or lost. (30) Many of the parents commented on how tired they were at the end of the day. (31) Not one of the childs I talked to said anything about being tired. (32) The students all loved it. (33) The students were ready to do it again.
1. Jomana would like to improve her beginning sentence. Which of these would be the BEST sentence to use in place of sentence 1.

A  Field day was fun and exciting for the students at Hawthorne Elementary School.
B  Everyone had a fun time at the field day.
C  Hawthorne Elementary School wanted to have a field day.
D  Field day was outside at the school.

2. Which sentence does not belong in this paper?

F  Sentence 2
G  Sentence 5
H  Sentence 9
J  Sentence 11

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 8?

A  Change organizing to organising
B  Add a comma after job
C  Change coachs to coaches
D  Make no change

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?

F  Change has to had
G  Change kids to kid’s
H  Change different to different
J  Make no change

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?

A  Change the second I to me
B  Change attempted to attempted
C  Change the period after seconds to a question mark
D  Make no change

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

F  Jacqueline, my best friend and we liked the sack race.
G  Jacqueline, my best friend, liked the sack race.
H  Jacqueline is my best friend and liked the sack race.
J  Jacqueline, my best friend, but she liked the sack race.

7. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 31?

A  Change childs to children
B  Change talked to talks
C  Add a comma after to
D  Make no change
8. What is the BEST way to combine sentences 32 and 33?

F The students all loved it to do it again tomorrow.
G The students all loved it and ready to do it again tomorrow.
H The students all loving it and they were ready to do it again tomorrow.
J The students all loved it and were ready to do it again.
Mason wrote a report about flags. This is a draft of the paper. Mason wants help to revise and edit the paper. Read Mason’s paper and think about changes you would make to help him improve it. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Flag of the United States

What Is the Meaning of the Flag?

(1) Our country has a flag. (2) This means that the flag stands for something else. (3) The red, white, and blue flag is a symbol for the people and the government of the United States. (4) The flag flies above many buildings all across the country. (5) People put it out in front of their homes. (6) Others wear small flags on their clothes. (7) Some wave it back and forth at parades or sporting events. (8) The flag is everywhere.

Early Flags

(9) Flags have been used by many countries. (10) One of the first countries to have its own flag was Denmark. (11) It was made of cloth. (12) There was a white cross on a red background. (13) The flag was in the shape of a rectangle. (14) It is still in use today.

(15) The country of Great Britain has a red, white, and blue flag. (16) In the early 1600s, the two countries of England and Scotland combined into one country. (17) The new flag used parts from the two countries’ earlier flags. (18) The flag had a red cross and a white cross on a field of blue. (19) The white cross was in the shape of an X. (20) This flag was also rectangle. (21) The flag of Great Britain is still used today.

The First Flag of the United States

(22) Great Britain sent people to live in America in the early 1600s. (23) The flag that flew over these lands belonged to Great Britain. (24) In the 1700s, the people in
America wanted either to be ruled less by Great Britain nor start their own country. (25) They battled Great Britain in the American revolutionary war and won. (26) The United States was a new country in 1776. (27) It needed a flag.

(28) The first flag of the new country looked a little like the flag of Great Britain. (29) It used the same colors. (30) A red and a white cross was used in the top left corner. (31) There were six white and seven red stripes across the rest of the flag. (32) These thirteen stripes were a symbol for the colonies that had gone to war against Great Britain.

(33) In 1777, the United States past a law about its flag. (34) It said that the flag should have thirteen stars and thirteen stripes. (35) But the law did not say how to arrange the stars or stripes. (36) Some flags were made with the stars in a circle. (37) Other flags had the stars in rows.

**Changes to the Flag**

(38) The flag needed to be changed as new states joined the United States. (39) When the fourteenth and fifteenth states joined, a stripe and a star for each were added to the flag. (40) More states joined. (41) A new stripe could not be added for every new state. (42) The flag would be the bigger one yet.

(43) In 1818, the United States made a new law about its flag. (44) The stripes would always be seven red and six white. (45) This would be in honor of the first thirteen states. (46) A white star would be added to the flag for each new state. (47) There still was no rule about how the stars should be placed on the flag. (48) They would be white and put on a blue background. (49) Some flags had the stars in rows while others had them in a circle.
The Last Changes to the Flag

(50) In 1912, President William Howard Taft decided how the stars should go on the flag. (51) At the time, there were forty-eight states. (52) President Taft said the stars should go in six rows with eight stars in each row.

(53) The last two stars were added when Alaska and Hawaii joined the United States in 1959. (54) Now, the flag has five rows with six stars each and four rows with five stars each. (55) If other states join the United States someday, the flag will have to be changed yet again.

Looking After the Flag

(56) There are special rules about flying the American flag. (57) It is supposed to be flown near schools. (58) It should not be put up outside in bad weather. (59) The flag is to be flown between the times the sun rises until the sun sets in the evening. (60) The flag should never touch the ground. (61) The flag of the United States of America should be treated careful and with respect.
1. Mason would like to improve his report by adding a strong beginning sentence. Which of these would be the best sentence to add?

A  The United States is a very big country.
B  The flag of the United States stands for the country of the United States of America.
C  A lot of countries have their own flag.
D  Many countries fly flags outside their buildings.

2. Which sentence could best be added after sentence 1?

F  The United States is a big country.
G  Many people live in countries.
H  The flag is a symbol.
J  Flags are small pieces of cloth.

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?

A  Change denmark to Denmark
B  Change flag to flagg
C  Change countries to country
D  Make no change

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 24?

F  Change America to america
G  Change ruled to rules
H  Change nor to or
J  Make no change

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 25?

A  Change was to wase
B  Change revolutionary to revolution
C  Change revolutionary war to Revolutionary War
D  Make no change

6. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 33?

F  Change law to Law
G  Change past to passed
H  Change its to it’s
J  Make no change

7. Which is the best way to rewrite the idea in sentence 42?

A  The flag would be the biggest one yet.
B  The flag would be the bigger one, yet.
C  The flag would being the bigger one yet.
D  The flag is the big one yet.
8. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 61?

   F  Change *treat* to *treating*
   G  Change *respect* to *respectfully*
   H  Change *careful* to *carefully*
   J  Make no change
Natalie writes an advertisement. She wants help with making sure that it is well done. Read Natalie’s advertisement and think about changes you would make to help him improve it. Then answer the questions that follow.

Organize Your Computer Now!

(1) Are you tired of all of the clutter on your computer? (2) Is your computer running slow? (3) Does it take a long time for your computer’s screen too change from file to file? (4) Does your computer close down before you want it to? (5) If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should get our new computer program. (6) It will solve all of your problems.

(7) Our program, **Computer Speed Up**, cleans up the files and programs found on your computer. (8) It removes programs. (9) **Computer Speed Up** checks your computer to see if it is running smoothly. (10) An easy to read screen shows you which programs and files on your computer are no longer used. (11) This helps you decide. (12) If you want to get rid of any programs or files.

(13) **Computer Speed Up** also has a section that tells you if any of your programs or files are damaged in any way. (14) Our program goes through each area of your computer to see if outside programs or files have been added without your
knowledge or permission. (15) If so, Computer Speed Up offers you the opportunity to remove them from your computer.

(16) Our program works so well you may be able to put off buying a newer model of your existing computer. (17) Don’t take our word about how good we are. (18) Read the following comments from happy customers and read the comments from satisfied customers.

(19) “My computer has never run fastest. (20) You must get this program to speed up your computer.” Stacey from Illinois

(21) “I put Computer Speed Up on my computer, and it runs even better than the day I bought it new.” Frank of Houston, Texas

(22) “I recommend this computer program to all of my friends. (23) I suggest that they bought Computer Speed Up if they want to get their computer to run smoothly.” Tamika of New York

(24) “There is no other product out there that does what Computer Speed Up can do so well.” Jack from Idaho

(25) Either Computer Speed Up 1 or Computer Speed Up 2 is the latest program in a long line of computer products from the Computer Help Company. (26) In its twentieth year this business strives to make operating a computer easy and carefree.
3. What is the BEST way to rewrite the ideas in sentence 18?

A Read the following comments from happy customers read the comments from satisfied customers.
B Read the following comments from happy and satisfied customers.
C Read the following comments from happy customers. And read the comments from satisfied customers.
D Reading the following comments from happy customers and reading the comments from satisfied customers.

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 19?

F Change run to ran
G Change computer to computers
H Change fastest to faster
J Make no change

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 21?

A Change new to knew
B Change put to puts
C Change the period to a comma
D Make no change

6. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 23?

F Change bought to buy
G Change Computer Speed Up to computer speed up
H Change their to there
J Make no change

7. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 25?

A Change latest to later
B Change program to programs
C Change is to are
D Make no change

8. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 26?

F Change business to businesses
G Add quotation marks in front of In and after carefree
H Add a comma after year
J Make no change
### Answer Key

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