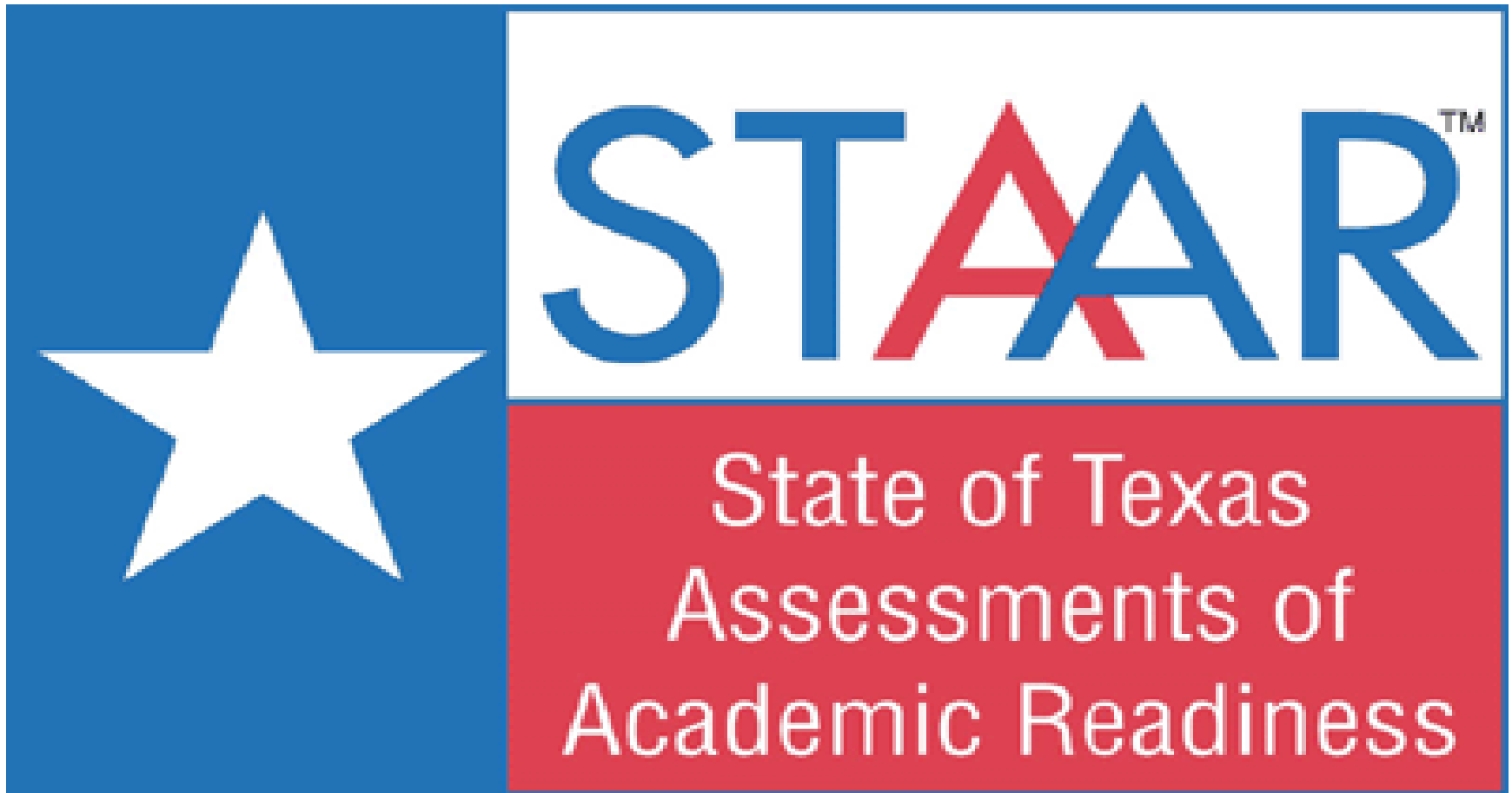


STAAR – Sample Questions



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Sample Test Questions

STAAR is a secure test, so it is not available for review before it is given. By law, the test will be publicly released every three years.

However, the Texas Education Agency has released sample questions, which give the public a sense of what to expect on the new tests. The following are a broad sampling of these test question examples.

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Grade 3 Mathematics

Luther waited 50 minutes in line to buy tickets to a play. While waiting, Luther played his video game for 12 minutes and read a book for 25 minutes. The rest of the time, Luther talked to his best friend Chuck. How much time did Luther spend talking to Chuck?

- A** 38 minutes
- B** 25 minutes
- C** 37 minutes
- D** 13 minutes

Grade 3 Reading

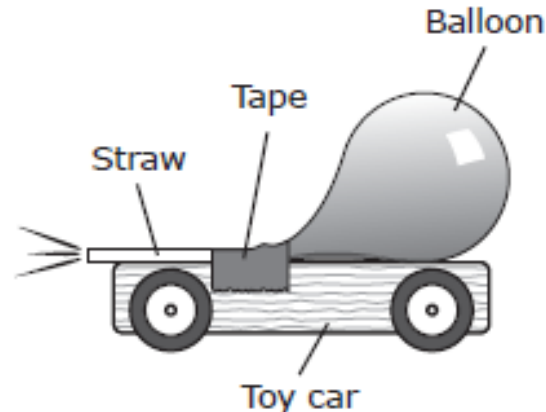
(After reading a poem passage)

The poet titled this poem “The Well-Worn Path” most likely because —

- A** the poem describes the way the path looks after many years
- B** the dog and the speaker have walked on the same path for many years
- C** the dog gets tired when it goes for walks
- D** the poem describes the place where the speaker found her dog

Grade 5 Science

Some students attach a balloon to a straw and then tape the straw to the top of a toy car. The students inflate the balloon and release the car. The car travels 40 centimeters across the floor.



What should the students do to determine whether the force of the air from a balloon is enough to push the car 40 centimeters across the same floor in repeated trials?

- A** Test the car several times using an identical balloon filled with different amounts of air
- B** Test the car several times using different-sized balloons filled with the same amount of air
- C** Test the car several times using an identical balloon filled with the same amount of air
- D** Test the car several times using different-sized balloons filled with different amounts of air

Grade 8 Social Studies

- Canal networks
- Swiftly flowing rivers
- Extensive railroad systems
- Banking and investment centers

In the nineteenth century, the availability of the resources in this list resulted in —

- A** an increase in the number of factories in the Northeast
- B** the development of industrial labor unions in the South
- C** an increase in the number of immigrants moving to the South
- D** the expansion of commercial agriculture in the Northeast

Grade 8 Science

A student observes some sugar as it is heated and burns. The student concludes that a chemical reaction has occurred. Which of the following observations about the burning sugar provides evidence of a chemical reaction?

- A Heat is added to the sugar crystals.
- B The sugar melts and becomes a liquid.
- C The temperature of the sugar increases.
- D Gas is produced as the sugar turns black.

English I

Read this line from paragraph 5.

Amid the ursine humor in all this, let's not forget that for bears, developing a taste for human food is often one of the worst things that can happen to them—"a fed bear is a dead bear," as the saying goes.

The author's tone in this line can best be described as –

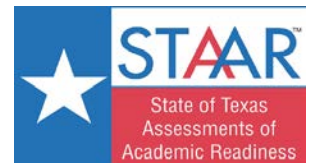
- A** cautionary
- B** angry
- C** threatening
- D** pessimistic

World Geography

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. . . . The Kyoto Protocol is generally seen as an important first step toward a truly global emission reduction regime that will stabilize GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions, and provides the essential architecture for any future international agreement on climate change. —*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change website, <http://unfccc.int> (accessed December 20, 2010)*

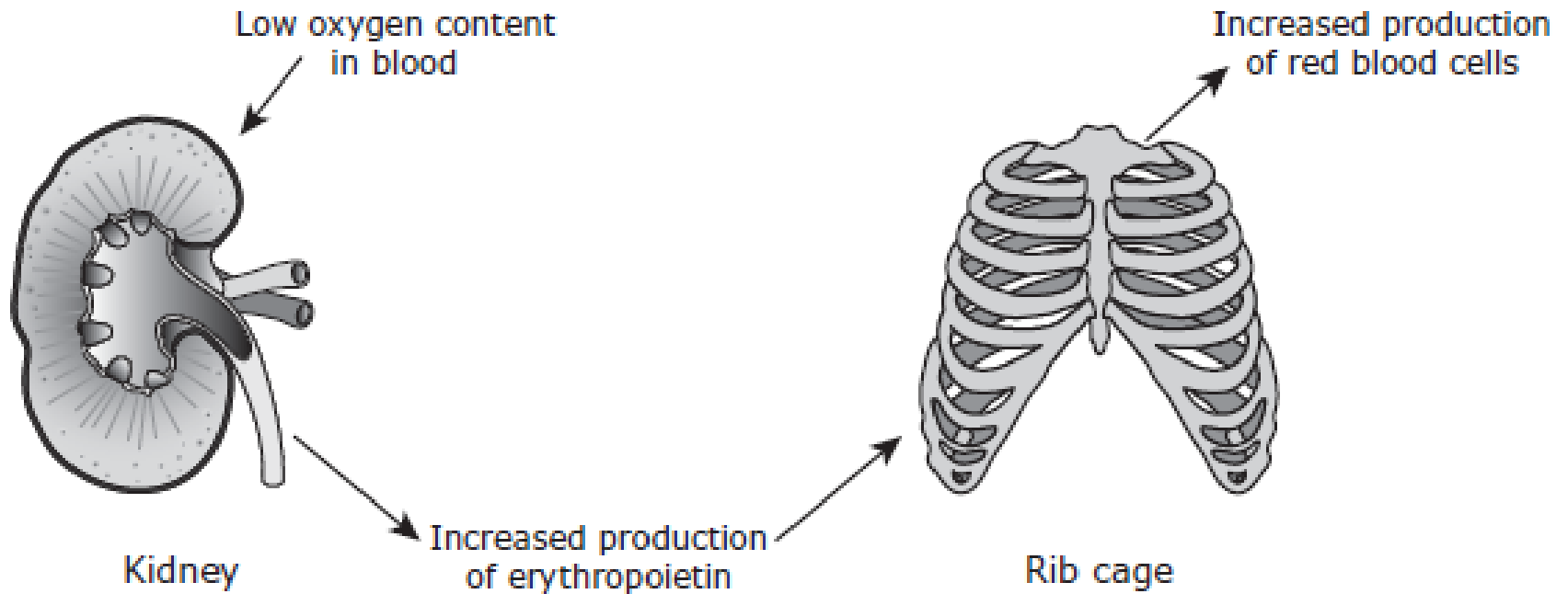
Representing the United States, President Bill Clinton signed the Kyoto Treaty in 1998. However, because of opposition in the U.S. Senate, the treaty has never been presented for ratification. Which argument was most likely used by senators who opposed signing the treaty?

- A** The United Nations lacks the ability to enforce international agreements.
- B** The president has no authority to negotiate treaties on behalf of the United States.
- C** Congress had previously enacted much stricter environmental regulations.
- D** The United States should not submit to externally imposed environmental regulations.



Biology

The diagram shows part of one of the many feedback loops required to maintain homeostasis in the human body.



This diagram suggests that which of the following could cause a low red-blood-cell count?

- A** The growth of new bone tissue
- B** Chronic kidney disease
- C** Decreased levels of metabolic waste
- D** An increased breathing rate

Algebra II

A chemical compound's concentration in milligrams per liter during a reaction can be modeled by the function below, where t represents the number of seconds that have elapsed during the reaction.

$$f(t) = \frac{100}{t^2 + 1}$$

In this situation, what are the domain and range for this function?

- A** Domain: $t \geq 0$; range: $0 < f(t) \leq 100$
- B** Domain: $t \geq 0$; range: $f(t) \geq 100$
- C** Domain: $t \leq 0$; range: $0 < f(t) \leq 100$
- D** Domain: $t \leq 0$; range: $f(t) \geq 100$

Chemistry

Based on his observations, the English chemist John Dalton formulated an atomic theory.

Dalton's Atomic Theory

1. All elements are made up of tiny indivisible particles called atoms.
2. Atoms of the same element are identical. The atoms of one element are different from the atoms of another element.
3. Atoms of different elements chemically combine to form chemical compounds.
4. During chemical reactions, atoms are rearranged. Atoms of one element cannot be changed into atoms of a different element as a result of a chemical change.

In 1897, J. J. Thomson showed that negative charges could be made to move from one end of a cathode ray tube to another, causing the tube to glow. Because of this, Thomson is credited with the discovery of the electron. Based on this information, which part of Dalton's atomic theory conflicted with Thomson's new data?

- A** 1
- B** 2
- C** 3
- D** 4

Answers to Selected Sample Items

- 3rd grade Math: D
- 3rd grade Reading: B
- 5th grade Science: C
- 8th grade Social Studies: A
- English I: A
- World Geography: D
- Biology: B
- Algebra II: A
- Chemistry: A