

## WOC 1.1 B

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Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### Wooden Instrument

**Kamau's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class was assigned to write a report on the history of an instrument. This is the first draft of his report. It may contain errors.**

(1) Did you know that small peices of wood could make a sound so sweet to the ear they could even be used as musical devices? This particular device is known as a xylophone. The xylophone is a percussion instrument that is struck with an object. They can come in many different shapes and sizes. Its unique tone and look made it appealing to people of all ages. The xylophone has been played in many different cultures, and in many different settings throughout time. Many of us may be familiar with this instrument, so many of us may not be familiar with its history.

(2) Long ago in the country of Africa, someone created this ancient instrument. Wooden pieces were placed on the shell of a fruit that was hollowed out and dried. Quite often it was made in the shape of a ladder. The mallets, or playing sticks, were made of wood with bowl-like balls at the end. The Africans carved arches underneath the wooden peices to create separate distinctive sounds. For centuries, these instruments were used and eventually changed, or evolved.

(3) During the 1500s, the Africans shared their instrument with the people of Central America. The Latinos loved the xylophone and eventually changed them into an instrument called the marimba. The marimba had a much wider range than the xylophone. Another difference is in the playing sticks. The xylophone's mallet is much harder than the marimba's mallet.

(4) The xylophone was also introduced to the people of Europe during the sixteenth century. This musical instrument became a popular piece in their folk music. The xylophone became even more popular during the 1800s when a Russian musician, by the name of Michael Gusikov, played it when he went on tours throughout Europe. After that, the xylophone became a common instrument that was played in many different orchestras.

(5) Eventually, the xylophone became popularized in America during the 1900s. The famous George Hamilton Green was a great xylophonist. He shared this instrument through his unique style of music. Green's xylophone had many wooden pieces, which gave off a wider range of sound.

(6) The xylophone is such a marvelous musical instrument that gives off a sound that is beautiful, pure, and cannot be compared. In time, this delightful device could be found in many different bands, orchestras, and even households. They are played by professionals in impressive orchestras. They can also be played by young toddlers who are first learning about music. This ancient instrument has come a long way.

(Question 1)

1

**In which sentence from the passage is Kamau's personal writing style most apparent?**

- A** Did you know that small pieces of wood could make a sound so sweet to the ear they could even be used as musical devices?
- B** They can come in many different shapes and sizes.
- C** During the 1500s, the Africans shared their instrument with the people of Central America.
- D**

He shared this instrument through his unique style of music.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

### Flying High in the Spring

This passage may contain errors.

1) Kites are flags of brilliant color, tatters of rainbows against an azure March sky. 2) They plunge, skip, and shudder in March winds that are sometimes strong. 3) Kites seem to represent the desire of many humans—to enjoy the empowering freedom of defying gravity. 4) Kite flying is a springtime tradition in almost any city in North America that enjoys mild springtime weather. 5) Legend has it that Benjamin Franklin once flew a kite to perform an experiment of monumental significance. 6) In 1752, after some French electricians had already confirmed Franklin's electrifying theory! 7) For many people, kite flying seems to represent the beginning of spring. 8) Benjamin Franklin's experiment with this very old symbol of spring included a key tied to the end of the kite string. 9) A time when people celebrate warm weather and sometimes fierce winds, perfect for the pastime. 10) As a Northern California resident, I like kite flying best in early April when the weather is really warm and fragrant with early flowers.

11) In some cities, kite flying contests are held. 12) In some places, children create their own kites and enter them in contests to win prizes for design, shape, color, and being able to fly. 13) In some American cities, kite flying festivals start the beginning of everyone's favorite season. 14) Then it happens. 15) It is the sudden strike of that mysterious annual illness—spring fever! 16) Do you feel it yet?

(Questions 2-3)

2

Which revision of sentence 6 is correct?

6) In 1752, after some French electricians had already confirmed Franklin's electrifying theory!

- A In 1752, some French electricians confirmed Franklin's electrifying theory.
- B After some French electricians confirmed Franklin's electrifying theory in 1752.
- C In 1752, French electricians confirmed Franklin's electrifying theory after.
- D After Franklin some French electricians confirmed Franklin's electrifying theory in 1752.

3

Which sentences need to be revised in order to vary sentence openings?

- A sentences 2–4
- B sentences 5–7
- C sentences 8 and 9
- D sentences 11–13

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### Popular Pair of Pants

This is the first draft of Joel's essay. It may contain errors.

(1) Denim jeans are one of the most common pieces of clothing around. They are universal, practical, and something of style. Without a doubt, blue jeans are as American as apple pie or a good old game of baseball. This article of clothing is used in the fashion world as well as the working world. Even though there are many different brands and types of denim today, for many years only one was widely known and used.

(2) During the late 1840s, miners flooded to the far west to look for gold in California. They faced many challenges during their treasure hunting, including a lack of sturdy clothing. The treacherous work usually led to torn pants which slowed down the miner's work. Local businesses tried very hard to find a quality pants to sell to the miners; likewise, the product was not good enough.

(3) One inventive man Levi Strauss heard about the problems the miner's were facing and thought of a new way to create pants that could endure almost anything. At first, he created the pants out of tent canvas because it was extremely durable. However, the miners complained that it chafed them while they worked. To fix the problem, Strauss came up with a way to make the pants more comfortable by adding twill cotton, which was a softer fabric. This fabric eventually became known as denim.

(4) At the same time, Jacob Davis, a tailor, developed a way to make regular pants more durable. Davis came up with the idea of using copper rivets to strengthen the pockets of the pants. Eventually, Levi paired up with Jacob Davis to create a better pair of pants, the denim jean. Together, Levi and Davis bought a U.S. patent so no one would steal their invention. This patent would not let any other company make riveted jeans for twenty years. The two men received the patent on May 20, 1873, which became the "birthday" of blue jeans.

(5) Levi Strauss And Company created a functional piece of clothing that was very good for miners and workers in the United States. It was not until the 1950s that the blue jean became fashionable. What was first used by miners during the gold rush is now worn as comfortable everyday pants by most Americans.

(Question 4)

4

Which sentence *best* shows Joel's personal writing style?

- A During the late 1840's, miners flooded to the far west to look for gold in California.
- B Even though there are many different brands and types of denim today, for many years only one was widely known and used.
- C Without a doubt, blue jeans are as American as apple pie or a good old game of baseball.
- D This patent would not let any other company make riveted jeans for twenty years.

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

### The Coffee Cart

**For extra credit, Jack's English teacher encouraged each student to write a letter to the school board about a new idea that could be implemented in the school. This is the first draft of Jack's letter. It may have some errors.**

Dear School Board of Cedarwood High School,

(1) I am writing this letter to request that the school board permit the Pro Start program to start and run a coffee cart on the school campus. (2) The Pro Start program is a course that combines culinary skills with business economics of the industry, and it is similar to the former class called *Home Economics*. (3) It has come to my attention that some schools in the area have already applied this great business plan, and it is running successfully. (4) I would like to share with you the reasons why running a coffee cart will benefit the entire student body.

(5) High school is supposed to be a preparatory school for life, whether it is for college or the work force. (6) Students take classes that are educational, enlightening, and are something of value. (7) For example, every senior has the privilege of taking a class called economics. (8) Most of what is taught to the students is through a big hard bound book. (9) I believe it is also essential for a school to teach they're students this subject in a practical way. (10) What better way to do this approach than through a student-run coffee cart?

(11) Isn't it the objective of teachers to train students to be responsible and for keeping them accountable? (12) According to Senator Jon Billings, "it absolutely is the job of educators to nurture responsibility, a teacher's work is to prepare them for their future." (13) The students will be liable for completely running the cart. (14) Whether it be through set up or clean up, purchasing supplies, running the register, or depositing the day's receipts, the students would be overseeing all aspects of the business. (15) All of these skills will better equip the student for their future, even if it isn't in the food service industry.

(16) Coffee is a beverage that is widely beloved and served at almost every street corner. (17) Not only is it quite tasty, it also has many beneficial perks. (18) No pun intended. (19) Coffee has been proven to help with memory and cognitive performance. (20) According to Dr. Jeffers, "Coffee helps to improve awareness, alertness, and aids in applicable learning." (21) This deliciously aromatic brew is also valuable because it has other health benefits like lowering cholesterol and lowering the risk of diabetes. (22) No, it isn't as healthy as tomato juice or green beans, but who wants to digest those things at 8:00 in the morning?

(23) If I can put my two cents in, I really believe that this coffee cart program would be the greatest teaching tool for the student body. (24) You have the opportunity to help the students learn by experience. (25) I know the board is quite busy and has a lot on their plate, but I would appreciate it if you could take the time to really consider this idea.

Sincerely,

Jack Green

(Question 5)

5

**Which sentence from the passage *best* shows Jack's personal style of writing?**

- A** The Pro Start program is a course that combines culinary skills with business economics of the industry, and it is similar to the former class called *Home Economics*.
- B** If I can put my two cents in, I really believe that this coffee cart program would be the greatest teaching tool for the student body.
- C** I believe it is also essential for a school to teach they're students this subject in a practical way.
- D** According to Dr. Jeffers, "Coffee helps to improve awareness, alertness, and aids in applicable learning."