Item #	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	This information in paragraph 5 illustrates the unique step-by-step building method. The author uses visual description and compares the process to the modern technique of using pile drivers to help today's reader understand how it worked.
	Option A is incorrect	The author never refers to any assumption that early inhabitants of Venice were unskilled. In fact, this information demonstrates how skilled they were, given the resources of the time.
	Option C is incorrect	This information explains how stakes were "pounded into place" but does not specifically emphasize their importance in building the foundations of Venice.
	Option D is incorrect	Although this information describes a process that led to the building of grand palaces, it does not support the idea that Venice was wealthy or had many palaces.

Item #	Rationale	
2	Option C is correct	This quotation clearly supports the thesis of the article by stating that humans successfully modified a natural marsh into Venice, “a masterpiece of urban development.”
	Option A is incorrect	In this quotation, the author provides reasons for Venice’s wealth. The article’s thesis focuses on the unique construction and preservation of the city, not on the city’s affluence.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the article focuses on how Venice was built, it is not specifically about the significance of the Grand Canal, as this quotation explains.
	Option D is incorrect	The detail in this quotation demonstrates the effectiveness of Venice’s ancient piling system, but this detail alone is too specific to be the best support for the thesis of the article.

Item #	Rationale	
3	Option A is correct	The comparisons between Venice's eras in these sections are clearly used to emphasize how extraordinary the building and preservation of Venice has been.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the information about how Venice was built is entertaining, the author does not use comparisons between the eras of Venice to create an entertaining story.
	Option C is incorrect	The comparisons in these sections explain some historical developments in engineering and urban planning, but that was not the author's reason for making them.
	Option D is incorrect	In these sections, the author compares Venice over time in order to demonstrate the success of its construction but rarely compares the city or its history to anything else.

Item #	Rationale	
4	Option C is correct	The words “marvel” and “magnet” in the phrases clearly convey a sense of “amazement and enthusiasm” for how well Venice had developed by the fourteenth century.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author describes aspects of cultural life in Venice with these phrases, the author does not convey any skepticism.
	Option B is incorrect	The author’s academic background is never established, and the idea that Venice was a “marvel of architecture” is somewhat subjective rather than strictly factual or objective.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the phrase “magnet for Renaissance artists” is figurative, the author does not use a poetic standpoint throughout the article.

Item #	Rationale	
5	Option D is correct	The author explains in paragraph 11 that the inhabitants of Venice in the 1920s needed drinking water and drilled under Venice to get it, providing an example of how they adapted to their environment.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no indication in paragraph 11 that the people of Venice in the 1920s lacked knowledge of the newest technology, only that they may have lacked easy access to drinking water.
	Option B is incorrect	The author never suggests in paragraph 11 that the people of Venice relied on other cities, just that they needed drinking water, which they obtained in their own way.
	Option C is incorrect	The author states in paragraph 11 that the city began to flood from the drilling but does not say that the people of Venice did not understand why. They may have understood why as soon as the flooding began.

Item #	Rationale	
6	Option B is correct	The fact that the islands that became Venice were once "inhospitable" suggests that Venice was a good place to hide and take refuge from invaders.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that people can avoid cars in Venice is supported by this quotation. The idea that people can take refuge from invaders is not.
	Option C is incorrect	The author includes this sentence to explain that some people who took refuge in Venice decided to stay but does not explain why they -relocated to the island in the first place.
	Option D is incorrect	Although this quotation refers to "challenges," the focus of paragraph 11 is on Venice's land, not on invaders who came to the area.

Item #	Rationale	
7	Option C is correct	Throughout the article, the author discusses how Venice's location in a marsh was a challenge that forced Venetians to build in unique, innovative, and successful ways.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader would infer the opposite based on the information in paragraphs 12 through 14: tidal effects on Venice have changed because of rising sea levels, though humans have innovated ways to combat those effects.
	Option B is incorrect	The fact that the MOSE system is activated when high tides are predicted does not necessarily mean that the MOSE system does the predicting itself.
	Option D is incorrect	The author includes information that suggests that the shrinking of Venice's boundaries has come to a halt for now, thanks to the MOSE system.

Item #	Rationale	
8	Option D is correct	These sentences provide the reader with the most accurate and complete summary of the article by including a description of Venice's canals, details about how Venice's buildings are constructed, and information about how Venice is being preserved.
	Option A is incorrect	The sentences in this summary overly focus on the artwork in Venice and neglect to include any information about how the city was built.
	Option B is incorrect	This summary claims that "the city still floods regularly," which is not accurate according to paragraph 13 of the article.
	Option C is incorrect	Because this summary does not mention the how flooding challenges in Venice are being combatted today, it is not complete or effective as a summary.

Item #	Rationale	
9	Option C is correct	In paragraph 2, the author states that “Austin had not called out Joey specifically” but had implied that Joey might be replaced for poor performance, so the word insinuated means “hinted” in this context.
	Option A is incorrect	“Believed” would indicate that Austin is certain that some players will be replaced on game day; instead, the word insinuated expresses Austin’s suggestion about what could happen.
	Option B is incorrect	The word insinuated does not mean “confided” in this context, since Austin makes his remarks to the entire team.
	Option D is incorrect	The word insinuated indicates a suggestion or an implication, not an assurance.

Item #	Rationale	
10	**Part A**	
	Option D is correct	The author consistently characterizes the man as kind and friendly, qualities that help Joey feel more positive and upbeat despite his bad experience that day, conveying the story's theme.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the man needs Joey's help, the author does not emphasize the importance of helping others as a theme.
	Option B is incorrect	The man seems to struggle to lift a bag of cat food, which does not indicate that he is strong, nor does he appear strong.
	Option C is incorrect	The man is not overly determined to finish his shopping, and the theme of the story focuses on staying positive when faced with challenges, not accepting failure.
	Part B	
	Option C is correct	The author's use of the word "genial" in this quotation refers to the man's cheerfulness, clearly supporting the answer to Part A.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea in this quotation that the man's appearance makes the strength of his voice surprising does not support the story's theme.
	Option B is incorrect	This quotation demonstrates that the man is needy, not that he is cheerful and friendly, which is how the author overwhelmingly characterizes him.
	Option D is incorrect	The author includes this quotation to show that Joey and the man are friendly, not that the man's cheerfulness helps Joey feel more positive.

Item #	Rationale	
11	Option A is correct	At the end of the story, the author shows that the man highly regards Joey. This helps resolve the plot because Joey feels better about himself and more positive.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no indication in the story that Joey feels disconnected from the other players.
	Option C is incorrect	Joey does not necessarily feel that he was treated unfairly. He is initially insecure about his performance in basketball.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author indicates that Joey is frustrated with himself, there is no indication that Joey is frustrated with his team captain.

Item #	Rationale	
12	Option C is correct	By including words such as “fiasco” and phrases such as “critical misstep” in paragraph 1, the author shows Joey’s anxiety about enabling opposing players to score against his team.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no mention of another scrimmage in paragraph 1 of the story.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Joey is replaying the scrimmage in his mind and not actively in it, the author makes it clear that he had made key mistakes.
	Option D is incorrect	The author indicates that Joey is frustrated that the other team scored, but this frustration is directed at himself and his own “critical misstep,” not his teammates’ actions.

Item #	Rationale	
13	Option B is correct	The poet's use of the term "fault lines" in line 18 refers to the speaker's flaws. By "looking above" them, the speaker is trying not to focus on them.
	Option A is incorrect	By "looking above fault lines," the speaker avoids any negative opinions she may have about herself; she is not necessarily ignoring the opinions that others have of her.
	Option C is incorrect	In the poem, the speaker never refers to any way she has been wronged in the past.
	Option D is incorrect	The poem is focused on the speaker's judgment and acceptance of herself and does not suggest a tendency to judge others.

Item #	Rationale	
14	Option D is correct	In lines 15 through 19 of the poem, the speaker uses phrases such as “self-love” and “No more earthquakes of criticism & critique” to express her belief that she should accept herself as she is and not self-criticize.
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker says she will not compare herself to others in line 20, but she does not mention any unfair treatment from others.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the speaker wants to change the way she thinks about herself, she does not seem concerned about whether others will notice her new self-acceptance.
	Option C is incorrect	In lines 18 and 19, the speaker suggests that she used to criticize herself. This might be interpreted incorrectly as a “past mistake.”

Item #	Rationale	
15	Option A is correct	In line 11, the speaker refers to a figurative "blend of fabric" as being "amazing," suggesting that it was made "carefully." Therefore, the meaning of meticulously in this context is "carefully."
	Option B is incorrect	Although the word "rigidly" might indicate that the fabric was made using a strict set of rules, it does not necessarily suggest that the fabric was well-made, which is the intended meaning of meticulously in this context.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker wants to indicate that the fabric is well-made and "amazing." Therefore, the word meticulously cannot mean "hurriedly"; that might suggest that the fabric was made poorly.
	Option D is incorrect	It is possible (though unlikely) that the fabric was made "easily," but the word meticulously in line 12 is meant to express how well the fabric was made and how nice it is. Therefore, "easily" is incorrect.

Item #	Rationale
16	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

Item #	Rationale	
17	Option A is correct	In “Good Enough,” Joey stops dwelling on his poor basketball performance and gains a positive attitude about his day after spending time with a kind elderly man. In “Simply Me,” the speaker discusses how good she feels when she can “see the good” in herself in lines 13 and 14. Therefore, both develop the idea that people tend to be happier when they are kinder to themselves and avoid thinking about their flaws.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Joey from the story has experienced failure and the speaker from the poem refers to her past tendency to criticize herself, neither the story nor the poem suggests that Joey or the speaker should not work hard to succeed in the first place.
	Option C is incorrect	Both Joey and the poem’s speaker forgive themselves for failures or mistakes. There is no evidence that they need to forgive others.
	Option D is incorrect	Joey from the story receives some encouragement from the man and from his friend, but the speaker of the poem never refers to any encouragement from others—only from herself.

Item #	Rationale	
18	Option A is correct	Joey in “Good Enough” gains a positive attitude about himself after spending time with a cheerful man, while the speaker of “Simply Me” learns to ignore self-doubt and listen to her “affirmations.” For example, in line 6, she says that she possesses “Grace, wisdom & certainty.”
	Option B is incorrect	Joey’s friend reassures him that he will not be benched for poor performance, but the speaker never mentions any criticism from others.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of the story does not show Joey’s mother being supportive, and the speaker of the poem seems to learn from herself and her own affirmations, not her surroundings.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Joey may acknowledge his imperfections, he does not use them to get better at basketball. The speaker of the poem does not ever seem to compare herself to others. In fact, she vows to herself that she “Won’t weigh myself against others” in line 20.

Item #	Rationale	
19	Option D is correct	Both Joey from the story and the speaker of the poem develop a new, positive outlook on who they are as individuals. The way that they both shift their focus is similar.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no indication that either Joey or the speaker is wrongfully accused in the story or the poem.
	Option B is incorrect	Joey is never specifically compared with other people in the story, making it impossible for this to be a similarity between him and the speaker.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker of the poem seems to develop an appreciation of herself but never mentions befriending someone else.

Item #	Rationale	
20	Option A is correct	In paragraph 1 of the story, when Joey thinks about the moment when the basketball bounced off the rim, he is engaging in the same type of self-judgement the speaker refers to as “earthquakes of criticism & critique” in the poem.
	Option B is incorrect	Although in paragraph 4 Joey’s mother asks Joey to complete a task and not forget, she does not apply “criticism” or “critique” him or his ability to remember to go to the store. She simply reminds him to go.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker states that her self-criticism can feel like “earthquakes” in line 19, and earthquakes can be surprising, but it would not be correct to compare this feeling to the way the old man startles Joey. “Earthquakes” is used by the poet to emphasize a sense of magnitude, not shock.
	Option D is incorrect	The text that Joey gets from his teammate is reassuring, not critical in any way. Therefore, it would be incorrect to compare this to sentiment in line 19 of the poem.

Item #	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	The labeled cities on the map help the reader see which ones were connected to the National Road. Information about the "settlement pattern" along the road is important to the ideas in paragraph 3.
	Option A is incorrect	Although this is a map of the historic road, there is no timeline associated with the map. The road may have been built east to west, but there is no evidence that the cities along the road were built in that order.
	Option B is incorrect	According to the map key, the road is 600 miles long, but it is still unclear to the reader how long it would take to travel the length of the road, especially since in paragraph 2, the author describes travel before cars existed.
	Option D is incorrect	The author includes the map to demonstrate its location in the United States, which helps the reader better understand the information in the article. The author mentions in paragraph 7 that it is nice to travel the National Road but does not necessarily assume the reader will do so.

Item #	Rationale	
22	Option D is correct	The author uses the phrase “barely touched by the passing of time” as a metaphor to suggest that some towns have remained unchanged, or as they have always been.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the quotation says that some towns remain as they were originally built, the author does not suggest the road prevented progress. In fact, the road supported progress in the United States, according to the article.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase “barely touched” is included in the quotation to suggest that the towns have not changed much throughout history. There is no suggestion that the towns have any kind of protected status.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not refer to the “passing of time” to suggest anything about the towns’ inhabitants.

Item #	Rationale	
23	Option B is correct	The author uses chronological order in paragraphs 1 and 2 to explain the process, in order, of how and why the road came to be. For example, the author states in paragraph 1 that "in 1806 Congress authorized construction of the road," the first step toward getting it built.
	Option A is incorrect	The author explains in paragraph 2 that each state took responsibility for its section of the road, but that is not why the author used chronological order in paragraphs 1 and 2.
	Option C is incorrect	Dates are included in paragraphs 1 and 2, but the author never indicates which year the road opened in each state.
	Option D is incorrect	The chronological order of paragraphs 1 and 2 helps the author explain how the road was developed, not how the government develops and funds projects in general.

Item #	Rationale	
24	Option C is correct	In this quotation, the author implies that people take photos of the "old buildings, bridges, and old stone mile markers" along the road, indicating that the area is scenic.
	Option A is incorrect	This quotation provides a completion date and the way that the road began to be used, but no reference to any scenic details about the road.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the stagecoaches mentioned in this quotation may have been beautiful, the area along the road is not shown to be scenic.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the new steel bridge may have been beautiful, it is only one feature along the road and is not included to suggest that the whole area is scenic.

Item #	Rationale	
25	Option A is correct	Paragraph 5 features descriptions of several historic stone bridges along the road. Paragraph 6 describes what mile markers are and where they might stand along the road. Therefore, both paragraphs illustrate, through description, unique features of the road.
	Option B is incorrect	An explanation of why the road was initially built is in paragraph 1. There is no information about why the road was built in paragraphs 5 or 6.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the history of the Casselman River Bridge is told in chronological order in paragraph 5, construction of this bridge is only one part of the road's story. These paragraphs do not look at "each event in the development of the National Road."
	Option D is incorrect	Bridges and mile markers may have served as solutions to some of the road's problems, but details about the problems they addressed are not included in these paragraphs.

Item #	Rationale	
26	Option B is correct	Although the author does not necessarily assume readers will travel the National Road, he details its little-known history, which would be of interest to people who like to take road trips to unique places.
	Option A is incorrect	Thomas Jefferson is mentioned only in paragraph 1, so people researching his accomplishments would not be a good audience for this article.
	Option C is incorrect	The author mentions the history of government involvement in the road but not to inform today's legislators, who would need more detailed information to use the road as a model for crafting transportation laws.
	Option D is incorrect	People who work in transportation may find the article interesting, but the author's focus on one road would not be relevant to all who work in the transportation field in the United States.

Item #	Rationale	
27	Option C is correct	The author explains that multiple people took the time to write poetry and songs about the road, which indicates that it was popular.
	Option E is correct	The idea that thousands traveled along the road shows that it was a frequently used, popular route.
	Option A is incorrect	Having multiple names is not an indication of popularity.
	Option B is incorrect	The idea that the road existed before the railroad may show that the road was the only means of travel at the time but does not necessarily indicate that it was popular.
	Option D is incorrect	Details about how the road was used do not demonstrate that it was popular.

Item #	Rationale	
28	Option C is correct	In this context, the author uses the word icon to show that the mile markers were both a symbol indicating distance and a well-known feature of the historic National Road.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no reference to computer technology in this article, making this an incorrect definition of icon.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not mention religion in any part of this article, so this definition of icon is incorrect.
	Option D is incorrect	A person who is highly regarded might be an icon, but here, the author is describing mile markers, not people.

Item #	Rationale	
29	Option A is correct	In paragraph 2, the author explains that the federal government was responsible for road repairs but that the states operated the tollgates and tollhouses. Therefore, it is likely that the states built the tolls to pay the federal government for repairs.
	Option B is incorrect	The author explains throughout the article that the road was popular but never implies that it was overly crowded.
	Option C is incorrect	The roads needed maintenance, so the most likely reason the states built the tollhouses and tollgates was to collect money, not to employ maintenance workers, who were likely busy repairing the roads.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the states paid the federal government to maintain the road, they did not technically pay the federal government for the use of the road.

Item #	Rationale
30	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

Item #	Rationale	
31	Option C is correct	"Contemplate" can mean "think about" or "consider," making this word an effective, more sophisticated replacement for "think of" in sentence 2.
	Option A is incorrect	"Scrutinize" means "to examine," and Julian is not examining ideas for his English essay, because there is no indication that he has thought of any yet.
	Option B is incorrect	The word "divulge" is not an effective replacement for "think of" because "divulge" means "to share" or "to make something known," and at this point in the story, there is no indication that Julian is with anyone else.
	Option D is incorrect	Because "observe" means "to look at" or "to see," and it is unclear whether Julian is looking at any topic for his English essay, this word is an ineffective replacement for "think of."

Item #	Rationale
32	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

Item #	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	The use of “staring” and then “struggling” corrects the lack of parallel structure in sentence 16.
	Option B is incorrect	A box cannot struggle to decipher something, making this sentence illogical.
	Option C is incorrect	Because the prepositional phrase “on the side of the box” is placed at the end of this sentence, the sentence makes it seem as though Julian is making macaroni on the side of a box.
	Option D is incorrect	For sentence 16 to be correct and effective, the verbs “staring” and “had a struggle” must be parallel.

Item #	Rationale	
34	Option C is correct	This sentence correctly places the subject, “Julian,” directly after the modifying phrase “Though not fluent in toddler speak,” making it an effective revision to sentence 20.
	Option A is incorrect	“Pedro” is incorrectly placed directly after the modifying phrase “Though not fluent in toddler speak,” making it seem as though Pedro does not understand his own words.
	Option B is incorrect	The syntax of this sentence expresses that Pedro is “not fluent in toddler speak,” which is incorrect.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence is awkward and unclear.

Item #	Rationale	
35	Option D is correct	This revision effectively eliminates unnecessary words from sentence 37, such as the repetition of “wiping” and “off,” while remaining clear and concise.
	Option A is incorrect	This revision would create a confusing sentence. The direct objects, the noodles and cheese sauce, are far away from the subject and verb, making the meaning unclear.
	Option B is incorrect	The items in the series within this sentence are connected using an “and,” “and,” “and also” structure, when they would be more concise if connected with commas and only one “and.”
	Option C is incorrect	The passive voice of this sentence changes the meaning of the original sentence 37. For example, this revision indicates that the wall is wiping noodles and cheese sauce, which is incorrect.

Item #	Rationale	
36	Option B is correct	In this replacement sentence, the writer refers to the challenge that is featured in her story with the detail “as he wiped an errant noodle from the ceiling,” making it a more effective and creative closing.
	Option A is incorrect	Julian’s aunt is not a featured part of the “challenge” he is telling his mom that he will write about, so this description is confusing and not effective.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Julian’s mother calls him, there is no indication presented in the story that she can see him.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentences 39 and 40, the writer implies that Julian’s experience with Pedro will be the “challenge” he will write about for his English essay. He does not seem to have multiple ideas at this stage.

Item #	Rationale	
37	Option A is correct	The information in sentence 2 is overly similar to the information in sentence 1, so it should be deleted.
	Option B is incorrect	Because sentence 4 is an answer to the question posed by sentence 3, sentence 3 must remain in the paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	Without sentence 4, “that task” referred to in sentence 5 is unclear.
	Option D is incorrect	Deleting sentence 5 in the paragraph would make “the case” in sentence 6 unclear.

Item #	Rationale	
38	Option B is correct	The active voice is employed in this revision to effectively express the meaning of sentence 11. The writer demonstrates how both qualities, solving practical problems and having a positive social impact, are important.
	Option A is incorrect	In this revision, it is unclear what would "have a positive social impact," Nyakarundi or "something," which makes this revision confusing.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer uses passive voice to craft this sentence, making it awkward and inelegant.
	Option D is incorrect	The passive construction of this revision makes it awkward and ineffective.

Item #	Rationale	
39	Option A is correct	"After six years of being his own boss" directly refers to Nyakarundi's preference "to make my own decisions," as he says in the third paragraph. The "new challenge" sets up the discussion about ARED that follows in the fourth paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	The word "interestingly" might imply that it was a surprise that Nyakarundi started a business in technology, which is not the case.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no reason why Nyakarundi would necessarily be "bound to succeed" just because his trucking business did well.
	Option D is incorrect	The phrase "do more stuff" is imprecise and does not fit the style and tone of the essay.

Item #	Rationale	
40	Option B is correct	The information about “down payments” and “ongoing payments” is what “that initial investment” refers to in sentence 26, making this sentence good support.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the idea in this sentence logically flows from the idea in sentence 24, it does not provide an adequate transition to sentence 26.
	Option C is incorrect	The mention of bicycling is irrelevant and does not support any of the other information in the tenth paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence does not explain that people who operate the kiosks are also the franchise owners. That information is needed here to support sentence 25.

Item #	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	By helping women and people with disabilities, who may not be able to afford an initial investment in ARED, Nyakarundi provides aid to his community, making this a good idea for a topic sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the ideas in the paragraph focus on challenges others face, they are not necessarily the challenges Nyakarundi has running the business.
	Option C is incorrect	The is no indication in the seventh paragraph that Nyakarundi is trying to help others enjoy their work. He just wants to help them do work.
	Option D is incorrect	People are likely grateful for the opportunities Nyakarundi has provided them, but the ideas in the paragraph focus on their general challenges, not their gratefulness toward Nyakarundi for helping them overcome those challenges.

Item #	Rationale	
42	Option B is correct	“For this reason” demonstrates the cause-and-effect relationship between sentences 29 and 30 effectively.
	Option A is incorrect	The ideas in sentence 30 are not in contrast with the ideas in sentence 29, making “However” an incorrect transition.
	Option C is incorrect	In sentence 30, there is no alternative to or contrast with the ideas presented in sentence 29, so “On the other hand” would be a confusing transition.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “Nevertheless,” like the word “still,” would not indicate the cause-and-effect relationship between sentences 29 and 30. "Nevertheless” tends to present a contrast, or a continuation, rather than a result.

Item #	Rationale	
43 In-line choice	Option D is correct	“Efficient” corrects the spelling of “efficeint” in the sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	“Eficient” is not the correct way to spell the word “efficient.”
	Option B is incorrect	“Efficent” is an incorrect way of spelling “efficient.”
	Option C is incorrect	“Effishent” is not the correct way to spell the word “efficient.”

Item #	Rationale	
44	Option B is correct	“However” is a conjunctive adverb, not a conjunction. Therefore, it cannot be used to combine two independent clauses into a compound sentence with only a comma. It requires a semicolon instead.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing “were sold” to “was sold” would create a subject-verb agreement error.
	Option C is incorrect	The subway cars that were supposed to be preserved or reused did not get scrapped for metal “instead.” The word “however” better shows the contrast between “some” subways cars and “most.”
	Option D is incorrect	“Scraped” has a different meaning from the word “scrapped.”

Item #	Rationale	
45	Option C is correct	Inserting a comma after “ecosystem” would clarify that the coral reefs, and not the ecosystem, provide shelter and food.
	Option A is incorrect	“Gradual” would be an adjective form of “gradually” and would not be correct in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing “create” to “creates” would introduce a subject-verb agreement error.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no reason for “marine” to be capitalized. It is not a proper noun.

Item #	Rationale	
46	Option D is correct	Because “coral and barnacles” is a plural subject, it requires the plural verb “are spread” for agreement.
	Option A is incorrect	“Barnacles” is not a proper noun in the context of this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Replacing “could” with “couldn’t” would create a double negative that would make the sentence illogical.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma after “floor” would be unnecessary in this sentence.

Item #	Rationale	
47	Option C is correct	“Helps” is the present tense form of the verb “to help,” which is needed for tense consistency in the sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing “are benefiting” to “is benefiting” would create a subject-verb agreement error.
	Option B is incorrect	“Which in turn helped the overall economy” is a nonrestrictive clause, so it must be set off from the rest of the sentence with a comma for clarity.
	Option D is incorrect	“Economy” is not a proper noun in this context.

Item #	Rationale	
48	Option B is correct	A colon after “teenagers” would effectively introduce the quotation that follows.
	Option A is incorrect	If the writer changed “say” to “saying,” then she would also need to include the helping verb “are.”
	Option C is incorrect	“Are” not a misspelling of the word “our,” which would be illogical in the context of this sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	“Are you listening to me?” is a question, so it requires a question mark.

Item #	Rationale	
49	Option D is correct	The pronoun refers back to the plural subject “people,” so “their” should be used for agreement.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the word “group” refers to multiple people, it refers to a single group in sentence 8. To properly form the possessive, the apostrophe needs to come before the “s.”
	Option B is incorrect	A comma after “together” would be unnecessary in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The infinitive forms of “share” and “preserve” are parallel in this sentence and should not be changed.

Item #	Rationale	
50	Option A is correct	There are two separate ideas in sentence 16 without any punctuation between them, which creates a run-on sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The two independent clauses in this sentence would ideally be separated with a comma before “and,” so this sentence is incorrect.
	Option C is incorrect	The second sentence here is a fragment and therefore incorrect.
	Option D is incorrect	The conjunction “so” in this sentence does not correctly express the cause-and effect relationship between the two ideas.

Item #	Rationale	
51	Option D is correct	“Bakery” should not be capitalized because it is not a proper noun.
	Option A is incorrect	A semicolon is usually used to separate two independent clauses, so inserting one after “buns” would introduce an error into this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Because Ming-Ha learned how to bake buns in the past, the past perfect “had learned” is appropriate here.
	Option C is incorrect	A comma after “make” would be unnecessary in this sentence.

Item #	Rationale	
52	Option B is correct	The context of the sentence calls for the plural of “hour,” which is “hours.” The apostrophe indicates a possessive.
	Option A is incorrect	The dominant tense of this paragraph is the past tense, so “worked” should not be changed.
	Option C is incorrect	Inserting a semicolon before the conjunction “and” would introduce an error into this sentence, because a semicolon is used to separate two independent clauses only when a conjunction is not used.
	Option D is incorrect	“Eventuelly” is a misspelling of “eventually.”