Directions:

- **Part 1 Directions (Reading Activity)**
  - Read the passage.
  - Answer each question.
  - Complete the Question Justification Sheet for each question.
  - Make sure you use textual evidence to help justify your answer and to support your rationale for why the other answer choices are incorrect.

- **Part 2 Directions (Writing Activity)**
  1. Read the passage.
  2. Answer each question.
  3. Complete the Question Justification Sheet for each question.
  4. Make sure you use textual evidence to help justify your answer and to support your rationale for why the other answer choices are incorrect.
PART 1: Reading Activity
Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

from
The Winter Hibiscus
by Minfong Ho

1. On an impulse, Saeng swung open the door and entered.

2. An elderly woman behind the counter looked up and smiled at her. “Yes? Can I help you?” she asked.

3. Saeng hesitated. Then she thrust out the heart-shaped green leaf in her hand and stammered, “Do—do you have this plant? I—I don’t know its name.”

4. The woman took the leaf and studied it with interest. “Why, yes,” she said. “That looks like a rose of Sharon. We have several in the nursery out back.”

5. She kept up a steady stream of conversation as she escorted Saeng through a side door into an open courtyard, where various saplings and shrubs stood. “Hardy plants, these roses of Sharon. Pretty blossoms, too, in the fall. In fact—look, there’s still a flower or two left on this shrub. Nice shade of pink, isn’t it?”

6. The leaves on the shrub were of the same distinct serrated heart shape, but its flower looked—wrong, somehow.

7. “Is there—I mean, can it have another kind of flower?” Saeng asked. “Another color, maybe? I think—I think it was a deep color,” she offered, then shook her head. “I don’t remember. It doesn’t matter.” Discouraged and feeling more than a little foolish, she started to back away.

8. “Wait,” the florist said. “I think I know what you’re looking for.” A slow smile deepened the wrinkles in her face. “Come this way. It’s in our greenhouse.”

9. At the far side of the courtyard stood a shed, the like of which Saeng had never seen before. It was made entirely of glass and seemed to be bathed in a soft white light.

10. As she led the way there, the florist started talking again. “Lucky we just got through moving in some of our tropical plants,” she said, “or the frost last weekend would have killed them off. Anything in there now you’d have to leave indoors until next summer, of course. Even so, some of the plants won’t survive the long cold winters here. Hothouse flowers, that’s what they are. Not hardy, like those roses of Sharon I just showed you.”

11. Only half listening, Saeng wished that there were a polite way she could excuse herself and leave. Still, she dutifully followed the other woman through the greenhouse door and walked in.
She gasped.

It was like walking into another world. A hot, moist world exploding with greenery. Huge flat leaves, delicate wisps of tendrils, ferns and fronds and vines of all shades and shapes grew in seemingly random profusion.

“Over there, in the corner, the hibiscus. Is that what you mean?” The florist pointed at a leafy potted plant by the corner.

There, in a shaft of the wan afternoon sunlight, was a single bloodred blossom.

“Saebba,” Saeng whispered.

A saebba hedge, tall and lush, had surrounded their garden, its lush green leaves dotted with vermilion flowers. And sometimes after a monsoon rain, a blossom or two would have blown into the well, so that when she drew up the well water, she would find a red blossom floating in the bucket.

Slowly, Saeng walked down the narrow aisle toward the hibiscus. Orchids, oleanders, elephant ear begonias, and bougainvillea vines surrounded her. Plants that she had not even realized she had known but had forgotten drew her back into her childhood world.

When she got to the hibiscus, she reached out and touched a petal gently. It felt smooth and cool, with a hint of velvet toward the center—just as she had known it would feel.

And beside it was yet another old friend, a small shrub with waxy leaves and dainty flowers with purplish petals and white centers. “Madagascar periwinkle,” its tag announced. How strange to see it in a pot, Saeng thought. Back home it just grew wild, jutting out from the cracks in brick walls or between tiled roofs.

And that rich, sweet scent—that was familiar, too. Saeng scanned the greenery around her and found a tall, gangly plant with exquisite little white blossoms on it. “Dok Malik,” she said, savoring the feel of the word on her tongue, even as she silently noted the English name on its tag, “jasmine.”

One of the blossoms had fallen off, and carefully Saeng picked it up and smelled it. She closed her eyes and breathed in, deeply. The familiar fragrance filled her lungs, and Saeng could almost feel the light strands of her grandmother’s long gray hair, freshly washed, as she combed it out with the fine-toothed buffalo-horn comb. And when the sun had dried it, Saeng would help the gnarled old fingers knot the hair into a bun, then slip a dok Malik bud into it.

Saeng looked at the white bud in her hand now, small and fragile. Gently, she closed her palm around it and held it tight. That, at least, she could hold on to.
1 What does the figurative language in paragraph 15 help the reader understand about the flower?

   A  It stands out in its surroundings.
   B  It prefers to grow in the shade.
   C  It is a color that is difficult to describe.
   D  It is growing poorly in the greenhouse.

2 What does the point of view of this excerpt help the reader understand?

   F  The relationship between Saeng and the florist
   G  Saeng’s feelings during her experience
   H  The opinion of the florist
   J  The florist’s desire to help Saeng

3 What is the meaning of profusion as it is used in paragraph 13?

   A  Height
   B  Color
   C  Abundance
   D  Purpose
4 Which sentence suggests that Saeng’s main conflict in the excerpt will be resolved?

F The leaves on the shrub were of the same distinct serrated heart shape, but its flower looked—wrong, somehow. (paragraph 6)

G A slow smile deepened the wrinkles in her face. (paragraph 8)

H As she led the way there, the florist started talking again. (paragraph 10)

J Only half listening, Saeng wished that there were a polite way she could excuse herself and leave. (paragraph 11)

5 Why is the leaf Saeng carries important in the excerpt?

A It helps Saeng find a plant that causes her to have vivid memories of her childhood.

B It was given to Saeng by someone important to Saeng during her childhood.

C It leads Saeng to discover a new and beautiful plant.

D It is essential in teaching Saeng about her past.
6 How does the change in settings from the nursery to the greenhouse advance the plot?

F By forcing Saeng to develop a relationship with the elderly woman
G By causing Saeng to identify a problem and find a solution to it
H By teaching Saeng to compromise in difficult situations
J By allowing Saeng to make the discovery despite her doubts

7 What is the best summary of the excerpt?

A Saeng enters a flower shop carrying a leaf. The florist says that the leaf comes from a rose of Sharon and leads Saeng to it. But Saeng is looking for a plant with a darker flower, which helps the florist identify the plant at last.

B At a flower shop, Saeng holds a mysterious, jagged leaf. She wants to know what plant it comes from, so she asks the florist to help her. They look first in the nursery and then in the greenhouse before they find that the plant is a hibiscus.

C Saeng brings a leaf to a flower shop and asks the florist to identify its plant. After showing her a similar but incorrect plant, the florist leads her to a greenhouse. There Saeng finds the plant she seeks along with others that remind her of home.

D While at a flower shop, Saeng asks a florist to find a certain plant. After studying the clue of a heart-shaped leaf, the florist realizes that it may be a tropical plant, so she leads Saeng to the greenhouse. There Saeng recognizes the hibiscus plant.
“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 1

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A  B  C  D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 2

Part 1: Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F  G  H  J

Part 2: Provide justification for your answer.

Part 3: Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 3

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A  B  C  D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

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**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 4

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F   G   H   J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

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**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.
“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 5

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A  B  C  D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

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**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 6

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F   G   H   J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Winter Hibiscus” | QUESTION 7

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A   B   C   D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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PART 2: Writing Activity
In the following paper, Thomas wrote about a place that is very important to him. Read Thomas’s paper and look for revisions he should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

My Own Special Place

(1) A tiny stream trickles around my toes, and old live oak trees lean over the rock I am sitting on. (2) No one knows I am here except for the blue jay that caws at me from his perch on a branch. (3) I am in my favorite place on Earth, the mountain basin and basalt cliffs behind my house. (4) I am only a couple of miles from a shopping mall, but it feels like I am surrounded by a forest far from civilization.

(5) This basin wasn’t always such a natural paradise. (6) A few years ago, when my family moved to this neighborhood, the canyon was like a garbage dump. (7) Stinky, stagnant pools had formed in the stream. (8) It was clogged with trash left behind by visitors exploring the area. (9) Somehow, as ugly as it was, my family saw its potential.

(10) Our family walked door-to-door in our neighborhood and met people who had never been in the basin or climbed the cliffs. (11) Some of them had lived right next to it for decades but had never hiked down the trails. (12) We met families like
ours that wanted to claim their own place in nature. (13) Like us, they didn’t need to climb Mount Everest or go to a national park. (14) They just wanted a place to call their own. (15) Best of all, they were willing to work as hard as they could to make things better.

(16) We worked with all of them to organize basin cleanups in order to get rid of the trash. (17) We climbed down the cliffs into the basin with shovels, trash bags, and spades to remove the trash left by irresponsible explorers. (18) We also used rocks to raise the banks of the stream so that water could flow through the basin once again. (19) Once we were finished, we waited for nature to get to work.

(20) The first year after we cleaned out the bed of the stream, the basin was bare and ugly. (21) But something strange happened. (22) By the end of the year, grass and plants that were hidden by trash began to grow. (23) I’ve always loved the smell of freshly cut grass. (24) The stream began to flow after winter rains, and more animals began to wander into the area to nibble in the clean, grassy basin.

(25) My brother and I went to the stream. (26) My brother was walking at a steady pace, but suddenly he stopped and held up his hand. (27) “Shh,” he whispered. (28) Up ahead about 10 yards, I could see a doe drinking from the creek, her head bent down. (29) I must have stepped on a dry leaf, because suddenly her ears popped up, and she looked right at us. (30) Then she sprang off into the woods.

(31) A multitude of animals are now making their home in the basin. (32) In late spring, the sides of the cliffs echo with the music that is the music of tiny tree frogs. (33) I like to think they are celebrating, saying, “Hooray for our home” with every croak.

(34) Now, whenever I can, I hike on my own down the cliffs and into the basin. (35) Even though the land doesn’t belong to me—it belongs to the whole city—it feels like my basin. (36) I saved it, look after it, and to love it.
1 Thomas needs to add a sentence to the end of the second paragraph (sentences 5–9) to bring the paragraph to a more effective closing. Which of the following should be added after sentence 9 to help close this paragraph?

A The basin is very different from anything I had seen before.
B We knew it was wrong to leave trash in the basin.
C The basin was a place that deserved to be saved.
D I wanted to explore the basin the first time I saw it.

2 The meaning of sentence 16 is unclear. What change should Thomas make to improve the clarity of this sentence?

F Change all of them to our neighbors
G Change organize to plan
H Change get rid of to cancel
J Change the trash to it

3 Thomas has included an extraneous sentence in the fifth paragraph (sentences 20–24). Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?

A Sentence 20
B Sentence 21
C Sentence 22
D Sentence 23
Thomas would like to provide a better transition between the fifth paragraph (sentences 20–24) and the sixth paragraph (sentences 25–30). Which of the following should replace sentence 25 to achieve this goal?

F  One day my brother and I hiked down the cliffs into the basin to explore the stream.
G  Then my brother and I hurried to visit the stream to see the flowing water.
H  After a while my brother and I decided to go hiking, and we traveled to the stream.
J  In the meantime my brother and I thought it would be fun to explore the stream.

What is the most effective way to revise sentence 32?

A  In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo with the music of tiny tree frogs.
B  In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo with the music of tiny tree frogs, and it is music.
C  In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo with the musical echoes of tiny tree frogs.
D  In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo music, and it is the music of tiny tree frogs.

What is the best way to revise sentence 36?

F  I saved it, looking after it, and I love it.
G  I saved it, to look after it, and love it.
H  I saved it, looking after it, and to love it.
J  I saved it, I look after it, and I love it.
“My Own Special Place” | QUESTION 1

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A   B   C   D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“My Own Special Place” | QUESTION 2

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F   G   H   J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“My Own Special Place” | QUESTION 3

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A  B  C  D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

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**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“My Own Special Place” | QUESTION 4

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F G H J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“My Own Special Place” | QUESTION 5

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A  B  C  D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

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**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.
Part 1: Circle the correct answer for Question 1.
F   G   H   J

Part 2: Provide justification for your answer.

Part 3: Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your document.

Akina wrote a paper about how sounds in movies are made. Read Akina’s paper and look for the revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Art of Making Noise

(1) A gust of wind whooshes through the trees, and footsteps crunch across leaves on the ground. (2) These are just a few of the sounds filmgoers hear when watching a movie. (3) Most people assume all of the sounds they hear during movies were recorded during filming, but that isn’t always the case. (4) They are usually made after filming by special artists.

(5) The microphones used during the filming of a movie focus primarily on the actor’s voices. (6) Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded during filming. (7) These include such things as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks. (8) A Foley artist must recreate those sounds and then add them to the film at the appropriate moments. (9) Without these talented professionals, movie action would be noticeably quiet and bland.

(10) The pioneer in adding realistic sounds to film was a man named Jack Foley. (11) Foley was working in California when filmmakers introduced sound into movies in the late 1920s. (12) At that time sounds in movies consisted primarily of the music and the voices of the actors. (13) Foley believed that if viewers could hear
other sounds, the on-screen story would feel more genuine. (14) He met with some film producers and proposed his ideas to them. (15) Soon Foley was working to make films more realistic and by improving the background sounds with moviemakers. (16) Today Foley artists use simple materials and methods to produce realistic sounds. (17) Most Foley artists work in large movie studios filled with all sorts of props, including glass and metal objects, a variety of shoes, and piles of sand, gravel, or dirt. (18) A Foley artist might have a person walk over cornstarch covered in cornflakes to create the sound of a person walking on crunchy snow. (19) Foley artists might smack empty coconut shells against a dirt pile to create the sound of a galloping horse. (20) Foley artists continually have to find creative ways to make sounds that match actions in a film. (21) Although Foley artists have been around for decades, few people have ever heard of them. (22) But many of these artists say that is just fine with them. (23) If Foley artists can create sounds that nobody can tell are fake, then they know they are successful. (24) Only a few hundred people have ever become Foley artists. (25) Foley artists must always be thinking of new ways to make noises that sound real on film. (26) They must carefully listen to the sounds around them and try to think about the materials that can best repeat those sounds. (27) They have to ask themselves questions like, “What will sound most like the rustle of that breeze? (28) What could I do to recreate the screech of a braking train? (29) How can I make a sound that is like the pitter patter of rain?” (30) The work is hard, but most Foley artists say it is quite enjoyable. (31) When watching movies, think about the sounds, and remember that a Foley artist most likely created them.

*Third party trademark Universal Studios® was used in these testing materials.*
7 Which of the following should replace sentence 4 to effectively state the controlling idea of this paper?

A  There are professionals known as Foley artists, and they got their name from Jack Foley, who was the first Foley artist.

B  Many of the sound effects that movie audiences hear are made by Foley artists, film industry professionals whose work is done after the filming of a movie is complete.

C  The sounds that you and I hear when we go to see a movie were not always made when the movie was being recorded.

D  Professionals create the things that are in the background in movies, including galloping horses, pelting rain, and chirping crickets.

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8 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 6 and 7?

F  Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded during filming these, including such things as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks.

G  Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded during filming when they include such things as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks.

H  Background noises and sound effects, such as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks, cannot be adequately recorded during filming.

J  Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded because such things as these roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks are included during filming.
Akina wants to add support for the idea she has presented in sentence 13. Which sentence should replace sentence 13 to help accomplish this goal?

A  Foley believed that if viewers, people who were watching the movie, could hear other sounds, the on-screen story, or the movie itself, the movie would feel more genuine and real.

B  Foley believed that if viewers could hear other sounds, the on-screen story of the movie would feel more genuine and more real to them.

C  Foley believed something and that is if viewers could hear other sounds, the story being told by the movie would feel more genuine.

D  Foley believed that if viewers could hear other sounds, such as heels clicking, dresses rustling, or water sloshing, the story of the movie would feel more genuine.

What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 15?

F  Soon Foley was working to make films more realistic as he was improving the background sound with moviemakers.

G  Soon Foley was working with moviemakers to make more realistic films by improving the background sounds.

H  Soon Foley was working to improve the background sound with moviemakers and to make films more realistic.

J  Soon Foley was working to make more realistic films by improving the moviemakers and background sounds.

What is the most effective transition to add to the beginning of sentence 19?

A  Fortunately

B  Finally

C  As a result

D  In addition
12 Akina has not used the most effective word in sentence 26. Which change should she make to improve this sentence?

F Change carefully to slowly
G Change listen to to understand
H Change think about to study
J Change repeat to imitate

13 Akina would like to add the following sentence to the last paragraph (sentences 24–31).

"Perhaps that is because of the creativity and attention to detail that the job requires."

Where should this sentence be inserted?

A After sentence 24
B After sentence 25
C After sentence 28
D After sentence 29
“The Art of Making Noise” | QUESTION 7

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A   B   C   D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Art of Making Noise” | QUESTION 8

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

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**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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<th>Incorrect Answer</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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“The Art of Making Noise” | QUESTION 9

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A   B   C   D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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**“The Art of Making Noise” | QUESTION 10**

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F  G  H  J

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.


**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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"The Art of Making Noise" | QUESTION 11

**Part 1:** Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A  B  C  D

**Part 2:** Provide justification for your answer.

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**Part 3:** Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Art of Making Noise” | QUESTION 12

Part 1: Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

F   G   H   J

Part 2: Provide justification for your answer.


Part 3: Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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“The Art of Making Noise” | QUESTION 13

Part 1: Circle the correct answer for Question 1.

A   B   C   D

Part 2: Provide justification for your answer.

Part 3: Provide justification for why the other answer choices that you did not select were incorrect.

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