Sample Questions Focused on Essay Revision Content Area

The proficiencies addressed include coherence, organization and word choice in the essay and rhetorical effectiveness and use of evidence.*

Sample Essay Passage

Read the following early draft of an essay and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

(1) Seaweed-based fuel could one day power your car. (2) It is more than just an ingredient in a purifying face mask or a sushi roll. (3) According to new research, seaweed has the potential to become an advanced biofuel known as biobutanol.

(4) In the past, U.S. scientists have looked to the possibility of algae-based biofuels, but most of these explorations have shied away from kelp and seaweed. (5) One reason why seaweed may not have taken off as a potential fuel source is the fact that it’s not a major part of American culture. (6) In contrast, in Asian countries such as Japan, there has been a long history of seaweed in the cuisine. (7) Japanese researchers are much more familiar with it and have spent decades studying its potential uses.

(8) A second reason for the U.S. avoidance of seaweed-based biofuel is the country’s lack of experience with seaweed farming. (9) The U.S. is no stranger to seaweed harvesting. (10) However, for the biobutanol project to be environmentally sustainable, seaweed cannot be harvested; it must be farmed. (11) “One of the challenges of harvesting a natural seaweed bed is you can only [use] a certain percent of the bed if you don’t want to have a negative environmental impact,” Nikesh Parekh, CEO of BioArchitecture Lab, said.

(12) Farming enough seaweed to support mass production of a biofuel would be very expensive initially, but it could pay off handsomely. (13) They say that the seaweed-based fuel would work better in automobiles than ethanol and be easier to transport.

Sample Question 1

In context, which of the following is the best way to revise and combine sentences 1 and 2 (reproduced below)?

*Seaweed-based fuel could one day power your car. It is more than just an ingredient in a purifying face mask or a sushi roll.*

A. Seaweed-based fuel could one day power your car, it is more than just an ingredient in a purifying face mask or a sushi roll.
B. Seaweed-based fuel could one day power your car because it is more than just an ingredient in a purifying face mask or a sushi roll.
C. Seaweed is more than just an ingredient in a purifying face mask or a sushi roll; seaweed-based fuel could one day power your car.
D. Fuel from seaweed could one day power your car so it is more than just an ingredient in a purifying face mask or sushi roll.

Sample Question 2
In context, where would the following sentence best be placed?

*There are a number of possible reasons for this.*

A. After sentence 2
B. After sentence 4
C. After sentence 6
D. After sentence 9

Sample Question 3
In context, which of the following sentences would best be inserted between sentences 9 and 10?

A. New research shows that seaweed may also possess the power to repair tissue damage in heart attack patients.
B. Planting a large-scale seaweed farm will likely meet with stiff opposition.
C. Maine Seaweed Co., for instance, harvests the seaweed naturally available along the U.S. coast.
D. Some say that seaweed-based fuel may one day be competitive with petroleum.

Sample Question 4
In context, which is the best revision to sentence 13 (reproduced below)?

*They say that the seaweed-based fuel would work better in automobiles than ethanol and be easier to transport.*
A. Replace “They say” with “Advocates contend”.

B. Replace “would work” with “would be”.

C. Delete “and be easier to transport”.

D. Insert “their” before “automobiles”.

*Question and answer content taken from The College Board (2014). The Texas Success Initiative Sample Questions.