

Page Number

Each test has 4 pages! There are 40 pages in all. A total of 40 unique compositions and 280 questions!

● Anatomy of a Writing Countdown ●

Countdown to the Writing TAKS™ closely matches a real TAKS test. Every teacher knows that a full-length test is the most authentic way for students to practice for the TAKS!

Test Number

There are 10 complete tests! T-1 through T-10!

Introduction

Students should read the introduction to identify the purpose and audience of the composition.

Hot Tip!

Check each page with the students, individually or as a class. Do this every time to insure that every student understands the skills. It only takes a few minutes, but is powerful!

Composition

We fit a full-length composition on the same page as the questions! No more flipping back and forth between pages. Our compositions conform to the TAKS specifications outlined by the TEA.

Questions

There are 7 questions per page. The questions mirror the questions found on an actual TAKS test.

Hot Tip!

Incentivize! Give out a small sticker (or similar reward) to each student that misses zero, one, or two problems per page. It works wonders!

TAKS Expectation

This is like a TEKS objective, but is more specific. It tells you how the objective is tested. See our *Quick Reference Guide* for more details.

03

Countdown to the Writing TAKS™: Grade 4

T-4

Demont's class is studying science. He wrote this report to tell his class about safety in the science lab. Demont wants you to revise and edit his report. Read Demont's report and then answer the questions that follow.

Science Lab Safety

(1) A science lab is an interesting place where students can have fun learning about science. (2) It is not a playroom, though. (3) Students must be serious in a science lab or they might get hurt. (4) Students must wear proper safety equipment they must follow directions carefully.

(5) Safety equipment is fun to wear but it has a serious purpose. (6) It protects you from harm. (7) Safety goggles should be worn at all times. (8) Goggles make you look like Dr. Frankenstein. (9) Sometimes chemicals splatter. (10) If chemicals get into your eyes, they can cause damage. (11) Lab aprons and rubber gloves should be worn, also. (12) Lab aprons help protect your skin and clothing? (13) Rubber gloves protect your hands.

(14) Many experiments use chemicals that should not be ingested. (15) This is why you should never eat or drink in a science lab. (16) If you are eating in a science lab, you might accidentally get a chemical on your food. (17) You don't want to drink in a science lab, either. (18) Yuck!

(19) Students should follow directions carefully. (20) You don't want to mix certain chemicals. (21) It can be very dangerous. (22) The wrong chemicals, when mixed, can produce poisonous gas. (23) If you aren't sure of what you should be doing during an experiment, ask your teacher!

(24) Have fun. (25) Learn about science. (26) Be safe!

1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?

- (A) Change *must* to *mustn't* (B) Insert a comma after *they*
(C) Change *gets* to *get* (D) Make no change

4.18c

2 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 4?

- (F) Students must wear proper safety equipment, and they must follow directions carefully. (G) Students must wear proper safety equipment, they must follow directions carefully.
(H) Students must follow proper directions carefully with equipment. (J) No revision is needed.

4.18b

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?

- (A) Change *is* to *be* (B) Insert a comma after *wear*
(C) Change *purpose* to *porpoise* (D) Make no change

4.16b

4 What change should be made in sentence 12?

- (F) Insert a comma after *aprons* (G) Change the question mark to a period
(H) Change *your* to *you're* (J) Change *clothing* to *close*

4.16b

5 Which sentence could **BEST** be added after sentence 17?

- (A) Many drinks are full of sugar and have lots of calories. (B) I once drank a whole gallon of water after a volleyball game.
(C) You might accidentally reach for a flask of vinegar or other chemical. (D) Your science teacher might see you.

4.19c

6 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 23?

- (C) Delete *should* (G) Change *teecher* to *teacher*
(E) Change *are'nt* to *aren't* (I) Make no change

4.18g

7 What sentence does **NOT** belong in this story?

- (A) Sentence 1 (B) Sentence 8
(C) Sentence 11 (D) Sentence 26

4.19c

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MathWarm-Ups.Com

We also produce *Countdown to the Math TAKS™*.
Countdown to the Science TAKS™ is coming next year!

Maria wrote a paper about a time she helped her grandfather. She has asked you to read the paper and suggest ways that she can improve it. Read Maria's paper. Then answer the questions.

So Many Leaves

(1) When I visit my grandfather on his farm I like to help him. (2) Sometimes I help him in the house. (3) Sometimes I help him in the yard. (4) Last weekend I helped him in the yard.

(5) The oak trees were losing their leaves. (6) The leaves are scattered all over my grandfather's yard. (7) The leaves were so thick I could not see the grass underneath them. (8) My grandfather wanted me to rake the leaves and move them to the compost pile behind the barn.

(9) I went to the garden shed to get a rake. (10) The shed was messy. (11) Gardening tools were scattered everywhere. (12) I saw an old rake and an old shovel sitting in a wheelbarrow.

(13) I began to rake the leaves into large piles. (14) It took me one hour to make seven piles of leaves. (15) That was hard work! (16) I wasn't finished, though. (17) I still had to move the leaves behind the barn. (18) How was I going to do this?

(19) First, I tried moving those with my hands. (20) That was going to take too long. (21) Second, I tried moving them with the shovel. (22) That wasn't much faster. (23) Finally, I decided to use the wheelbarrow. (24) I used the shovel to put the leaves in the wheelbarrow, besides I used the wheelbarrow to move the leaves to the compost pile.

1 What change should be made in sentence 1?

- (A) Change *visit* to *visits* (B) Insert a comma after *farm*
(C) Change *grandfather* to *grandfather's* (D) Change *him* to *he*

4.16b

2 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 2 and 3?

- (F) Sometimes I help him in the house, but mostly I have helped him in the yard. (G) Sometimes I helped him in the house because sometimes I will help him in the yard.
(H) Sometimes I help him in the house, or sometimes yard. (J) Sometimes I help him in the house, and sometimes I help him in the yard.

4.18b

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?

- (A) Change *are* to *were* (B) Change *grandfather's* to *grandfather*
(C) Change *scattered* to *scatters* (D) Make no change

4.18c

4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?

- (F) Change *I* to *Maria* (G) Change *a* to *an*
(H) Change *wint* to *went* (J) Make no change

4.17d

5 Which sentence could **BEST** be added after sentence 12?

- (A) My grandfather likes to keep his tools in the shed so they won't get wet. (B) I wondered why my grandfather kept an old tractor in the garden shed.
(C) I decided to take the rake. (D) Making a compost pile is the best way to create your own fertilizer.

4.19c

6 What change should be made in sentence 19?

- (F) Change *tried* to *tryed* (G) Change *those* to *them*
(H) Change *First* to *Finally* (J) Insert *myself* after *I*

4.19e

7 What change should be made in sentence 24?

- (A) Change *used* to *use* (B) Change *move* to *moving*
(C) Change *put* to *putting* (D) Change *besides* to *and*

4.18c



Isaac wrote this report about one of his pets. He wrote this report to tell his class about how to care for a sulcata tortoise. Read Isaac's report. Then answer the questions that follow.

Caring for a Sulcata Tortoise

(1) Sulcata tortoises are small at first, but they grow to be very larger. (2) If you buy a sulcata in a pet store, it will probably be no bigger than your fist. (3) It will weigh less than a pound. (4) Ten years, though, later it will be two feet long and weigh more than one hundred pounds! (5) This species of tortoise is fun to own, but you have to care for it properly in order to keep it healthy.

(6) A young sulcata can be kept in a box or aquarium when it is small.

(7) When it gets bigger it will have to move outside (8) Sulcatas live in burrows in the wild. (9) The burrows keep them warm at night. (10) The burrows keep them cool during the day. (11) If your tortoise lives in your backyard, it will dig a burrow.

(12) My sulcata dug a burrow under my dad's shed. (13) It comes out during the day to eat.

(14) You have to be careful about what you feed a sulcata. (15) Sulcatas will eat almost anything! (16) Sometimes they eat things that can make them sick. (17) Make sure that you don't leave small colorful shiny objects in the yard. (18) Sulcatas have been known to eat toys and pieces of metal. (19) They are attracted to bright colors and shiny things. (20) Crows are attracted to bright, shiny objects also.

(21) You have to feed your sulcata grass or hay. (22) You can feed them fruits and vegetables, but you don't want to feed them too much fruit. (23) Too much fruit is bad for their digestion.

1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?

- (A) Change *larger* to *large* (B) Change *are* to *is*
(C) Change *grow* to *are growing* (D) Make no change

4.18d

2 What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 4?

- (F) Though later, ten years, it will be two feet long and weigh more than one hundred pounds! (G) Ten years later, though, it will be two feet long and weigh more than one hundred pounds!
(H) Two feet long and one hundred pounds more in ten years. (J) Ten years, two feet long, and one hundred pounds later, though.

4.18b

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?

- (A) Change *gets* to *get* (B) Change *have* to *has*
(C) Insert a period after *outside* (D) Make no change

4.16b

4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?

- (F) Change *dig* to *digs* (G) Change *your* to *his*
(H) Change *lives* to *live* (J) Make no change

4.18c

5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 12?

- (A) Change *dads* to *dad's* (B) Change *dug* to *digging*
(C) Change *My* to *Isaac's* (D) Make no change

4.18g

6 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 17?

- (F) Make sure that you don't leave small objects, colorful, shiny objects in the yard. (G) Make sure that you don't leave small, colorful, and shiny objects in the yard.
(H) Make sure that you don't leave small, colorful, shiny, objects, in the yard. (J) No revision is needed.

4.19e

7 Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this report?

- (A) Sentence 6 (B) Sentence 14
(C) Sentence 20 (D) Sentence 22

4.19c

Takiyah wrote a paper about a special day. She wants you to read the paper and suggest any corrections that she should make. When you finish reading Takiyah's paper, answer the questions that follow.

A Very Special Day

(1) Last February I had a very special day. (2) I woke up on Monday morning to find that my town was covered with snow. (3) Snow two feet! (4) It had snowed all night. (5) The streets yards, and trees were under a white blanket. (6) I went outside.

(7) I did not see any cars driving on the roads. (8) I did not see any people walking on the sidewalk. (9) I wondered how the bus was going to get to my house to pick me up.

(10) When I came inside my house, I saw my mother coming down the stairs.

(11) She said, "It looks like you might has a *snow day* today."

(12) I did not know what a *snow day* was. (13) My mom said that it was a day when the schools close down because it is too dangerous for people to drive on the streets. (14) My mom turned on the television. (15) A message appeared at the bottom of the screen. (16) The message said that all schools would be closed!

(17) There was a lot of snow on the ground. (18) There was no school!

(19) What could be better.

(20) I called my best friend, Cherise. (21) Cherise she knew about the *snow day* as well. (22) I dressed warmly and rushed outside. (23) Cherise and some of our other friends were waiting in my front yard.

(24) *Swoosh!* (25) It was going to be a special day!

1 What revision, if any, is needed in sentences 2 and 3?

- (A) I woke up on Monday morning. Two feet of snow! Snow on the ground covered!
- (B) I woke up on Monday morning to find that my town was covered with two feet of snow!
- (C) Because two feet of snow was on the ground on Monday, I woke up!
- (D) No revision is needed.

4.18b

2 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?

- (F) Insert a comma after *streets*
- (G) Change *were* to *was*
- (H) Change *white* to *wite*
- (J) Make no change

4.16b

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?

- (A) Change *any* to *none*
- (B) Change *driving* to *drove*
- (C) Change *rodes* to *roads*
- (D) Make no change

4.17b

4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?

- (F) Change *looks* to *looked*
- (G) Change *has* to *have*
- (H) Change *said* to *saying*
- (J) Make no change

4.18c

5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 19?

- (A) Change *could* to *can't*
- (B) Change *better* to *best*
- (C) Change the period to a question mark
- (D) Make no change

4.16b

6 What change should be made in sentence 21?

- (F) Delete *she*
- (G) Insert a comma after *knew*
- (H) Change *knew* to *knows*
- (J) Change *as* to *also*

4.19e

7 Which sentence could **BEST** be added after sentence 24?

- (A) There is no school on *snow days* because it is too dangerous for people to drive on the streets.
- (B) *Snow days* are announced on television so that people will know about them.
- (C) A snowball flew past my head!
- (D) Hot soup is the best thing to eat on a *snow day*!

4.19c

Jeremy's teacher asked him to write about something he lost, but then found. Jeremy wrote about the time he lost his dog. Jeremy wants you to revise and edit his paper. Read Jeremy's paper. Then answer the questions.

Bogie, Lost and Found

(1) I have many pets, but Bogie is my favorit. (2) Bogie is a dog. (3) My family adopted him from an animal shelter. (4) We brought him home on a Saturday. (5) He was shy and scared. (6) I don't think he knew that our home was his home.

(7) On Sunday, my dad and I built a doghouse for him. (8) We placed it in the backyard. (9) My mom gave him Bogie one bowl for food and one bowl for water.

(10) My sister gave Bogie an old blanket to sleep on. (11) I gave Bogie a collar.

(12) When Monday came, I had to go to school. (13) Before I left for school, I went into the backyard. (14) I said goodbye to Bogie. (15) He was shaking and whimpering. (16) It was hard to leave him, but I had to go. (17) My aunt has a dog.

(18) I rushed home from school that afternoon. (19) When I went into the backyard, I saw that Bogie was gone! (20) He had dug a hole under the fence.

(21) My family and I went looking for him. (22) We all got into the car and drove through the neighborhood, we drove around the block. (23) My dad called his name from the car window. (24) We looked for Bogie for four hours, but we cannot find him. (25) My mom said she would look for him again the next day.

(26) As it turned out, she didn't have to look. (27) Late at night we heard a scratching sound at the door. (28) It was Bogie!

(29) I guess Bogie figured out that our home was his home after all!

1 What change, if any, is needed in sentence 1?

- (A) Change **but** to **or** (B) Change **favorit** to **favorite**
(C) Delete the comma after **pets** (D) Make no change

4.17d

2 What change, if any, is needed in sentence 6?

- (F) Change **don't** to **do'nt** (G) Change **knew** to **knowed**
(H) Change **his** to **him** (J) Make no change

4.18c

3 What change should be made in sentence 9?

- (A) Delete **him** (B) Change **gave** to **given**
(C) Change **and** to **but** (D) Insert a comma after **and**

4.19e

4 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 13 and 14?

- (F) I went into the backyard and before I left for school I said goodbye to Bogie.
(G) Before I left for school, I went into the backyard and said goodbye to Bogie.
(H) I went into the backyard and then I left for school.
(J) I said goodbye to Bogie before I left for school and went into the backyard.

4.18f

5 What revision is needed in sentence 22?

- (A) We all got into the car and drove through the neighborhood. We drove around the block.
(B) We all got into the car, around the block we drove through the neighborhood.
(C) We all got into the car and drove around the block. Through the neighborhood.
(D) We all drove through the neighborhood. Around the block.

4.18b

6 What change should be made in sentence 24?

- (F) Change **looked** to **lookt** (G) Change **four** to **for**
(H) Change **we** to **us** (J) Change **cannot** to **couldn't**

4.19e

7 Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this paper?

- (A) Sentence 6 (B) Sentence 12
(C) Sentence 17 (D) Sentence 25

4.19c

