

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING PRACTICE TEST For Parents, Teachers, and Tutors

How Reading is Assessed by the State of Texas

The STAAR Reading test assesses reading skills by having students read passages and answer reading comprehension questions about the passages. On the STAAR Reading test, students read 6 to 7 passages and answer a total of 46 multiple-choice questions. Students are given 4 hours to complete the test.

About the STAAR Reading Practice Test

This section of the book contains a practice test just like the real STAAR Reading test. It has 6 passages and a total of 46 multiple-choice questions. The questions cover all the skills tested on the STAAR Reading test, and have the same formats. In short, taking this practice test is just like taking the real STAAR test.

Students are given 4 hours to complete the real STAAR Reading test. You can use the same time limit, or you can choose not to time the test. If using a 4-hour time limit, it is recommended that the student be given a 5 to 10 minute break each hour.

Students complete the STAAR Reading test by marking their answers on an answer sheet. An optional answer sheet is included in the back of the book.

Reading Skills

The STAAR Reading test given by the state of Texas tests a specific set of skills. The full answer key at the end of the book identifies what skill each question is testing.

There are also key reading skills that students will need to understand to master the STAAR Reading test. The answer key includes additional information on these key skills so you can help the student gain understanding.

STAAR Reading
Practice Test

Instructions

Read the passages. Each passage is followed by questions.

Read each question carefully. Then select the best answer. Fill in the circle for the correct answer.

Playing a Musical Instrument

Playing a musical instrument is a popular pastime for all age ranges. Young or old, it is lots of fun to play a musical instrument. There are many different types to choose from including guitar, piano, trumpet, and saxophone.



Making a Choice

First, you need to choose a musical instrument that you would like to learn how to play. Here are some things you should think about:

- the cost of the instrument
- how easy or difficult the instrument is to learn
- whether there is a teacher available to help you learn it
- what opportunities there will be to play it

You might also think about the kind of music you'd like to play. This will probably be the kind of music that you also enjoy listening to.

Getting Your Gear

Now you have chosen your instrument, you need to buy it. If it is expensive, you might like to borrow it instead. That way, you can make sure it is the right choice before spending a lot of money.

Some schools will lend students instruments. Or perhaps you can look in your local paper or online for a secondhand instrument, which are usually much cheaper.

Getting Ready to Learn

After you have your instrument, you should then create a learning plan. This might involve private lessons with a music teacher or going to music classes. Some people choose to learn on their own. You can use books, movies, web sites, or you can even watch videos online.

To learn quickly, your plan may include a variety of learning methods. Make sure that you attend every lesson or study your books regularly. Also, be sure to practice what you have learned as this is the best way to develop your new skill.

Making Music

Once you have learned enough to play a song, you should start playing for people. It is a good idea to start with your family or friends. Or you might play for your music class. Once you become confident, you can then play for larger groups of people.

Keep Going

To become a good musician, you have to keep playing. Keep learning as much as you can and practice often. Challenge yourself to learn more difficult songs as well. As you learn more, you will become better and better. Some people even become good enough to play music as a career.



- 1 Read this sentence from the passage.

Playing a musical instrument is a popular pastime for all age ranges.

What does the word pastime mean?

- Ⓐ Choice
 - Ⓑ Career
 - Ⓒ Sport
 - Ⓓ Hobby
- 2 According to the passage, what should you do first?
- Ⓐ Check to see if your school will lend you an instrument
 - Ⓑ Decide what instrument you would like to play
 - Ⓒ Create a plan for learning to play an instrument
 - Ⓓ Look in your local newspaper for an instrument

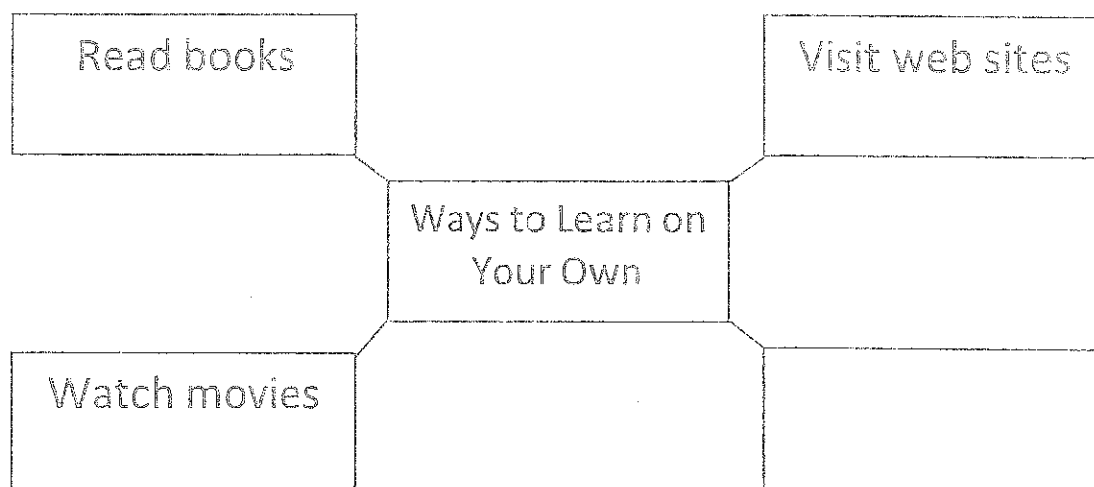
- 3 Under which heading is information provided about deciding what type of instrument to learn to play?
- Ⓐ Making a Choice
 - Ⓑ Getting Your Gear
 - Ⓒ Getting Ready to Learn
 - Ⓓ Making Music
- 4 Read this sentence from the passage.

Keep learning as much as you can and practice often.

Which word means the opposite of often?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Rarely
- Ⓒ More
- Ⓓ Regularly

- 5 The web below lists ways that people can learn to play a musical instrument on their own.



Which of these best completes the web?

- (A) Watch videos online
 - (B) Attend a class
 - (C) Find a tutor
 - (D) Go to concerts
- 6 What is the main purpose of the passage?
- (A) To tell readers how to do something
 - (B) To entertain readers with a story
 - (C) To teach people how to play a musical instrument
 - (D) To compare different musical instruments

7 Read these sentences from the passage.

Once you have learned enough to play a song, you should start playing for people. It is a good idea to start with your family or friends.

Why does the author most likely suggest starting with your family or friends?

- Ⓐ So your friends will want to learn to play as well
 - Ⓑ So your family will see that you are trying hard
 - Ⓒ So you do not feel too nervous
 - Ⓓ So you can have people join in
- 8 Why does the author use bullet points in the passage?
- Ⓐ To highlight the main points
 - Ⓑ To list a set of ideas
 - Ⓒ To show steps to follow in order
 - Ⓓ To describe items that are needed

My Shadow

By Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward, you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant¹ sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

¹ arrant – complete or utter

9 Read this line from the poem.

He stays so close beside me, he's a coward, you can see;

The word coward is used to show that the shadow is –

- Ⓐ strange
 - Ⓑ annoying
 - Ⓒ scared
 - Ⓓ nearby
-
- 10 Which word does the poet use to describe the shadow?
- Ⓐ Shy
 - Ⓑ Lazy
 - Ⓒ Friendly
 - Ⓓ Slim

- 11 What is the rhyme pattern of each stanza of the poem?
- Ⓐ The second and fourth lines rhyme.
 - Ⓑ There are two pairs of rhyming lines.
 - Ⓒ The first and last lines rhyme.
 - Ⓓ None of the lines rhyme.
- 12 Which line from the poem contains a simile?
- Ⓐ *I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,*
 - Ⓑ *And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.*
 - Ⓒ *For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,*
 - Ⓓ *I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;*
- 13 What is the purpose of the footnote?
- Ⓐ To give the meaning of a term
 - Ⓑ To give details of a source
 - Ⓒ To state the speaker's opinion
 - Ⓓ To give background information about the poem

14 Which word best describes the tone of the poem?

- Ⓐ Lighthearted
- Ⓑ Serious
- Ⓒ Sweet
- Ⓓ Tense

15 Read this line from the poem.

He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;

Which literary device does the poet use in this line?

- Ⓐ Simile
- Ⓑ Metaphor
- Ⓒ Alliteration
- Ⓓ Hyperbole

16 What type of poem is “My Shadow”?

- Ⓐ Rhyming
- Ⓑ Free verse
- Ⓒ Limerick
- Ⓓ Sonnet

17 Read this line from the poem.

For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,

What does the phrase “shoots up” suggest?

- Ⓐ That the shadow grows suddenly
- Ⓑ That the shadow acts strangely
- Ⓒ That the shadow scares the speaker
- Ⓓ That the shadow changes slowly

Manchester United Soccer Club



Manchester United is a famous soccer team. They are based in the United Kingdom. They play in the English Premier League and the European Champions League. They are known as one of the most successful soccer clubs in the world.

They were first formed in 1888. At this time, they were named the Newton Heath Football Club. In 1901, they were sold and were given the new name of Manchester United.

They are the most successful club in the English League. They have won the English Premier League nineteen times. This is one more than their nearest rivals, Liverpool.

Since 1958, Manchester United have also won the European Champions League three times. This competition features teams from across Europe. It is this success that has helped them become such a well-known team.

English Premier League Grand Final Wins

Year	Team Defeated
1908	Aston Villa
1911	Aston Villa
1952	Tottenham
1956	Blackpool
1957	Tottenham
1965	Leeds United
1967	Nottingham Forest
1993	Aston Villa
1994	Blackburn Rovers
1996	Newcastle United
1997	Newcastle United
1999	Arsenal
2000	Arsenal
2001	Arsenal
2003	Arsenal
2007	Chelsea
2008	Chelsea
2009	Chelsea
2011	Chelsea

- 18 Which two words have about the same meaning?
- Ⓐ Famous, well-known
 - Ⓑ Formed, named
 - Ⓒ Rivals, teams
 - Ⓓ Success, competition
- 19 Which sentence is best supported by the information in the table?
- Ⓐ *They have won the English Premier League nineteen times.*
 - Ⓑ *This is one more than their nearest rivals, Liverpool.*
 - Ⓒ *Since 1958, Manchester United have also won the European Champions League three times.*
 - Ⓓ *This competition features teams from across Europe.*

- 20 Which sentence from the passage is an opinion?
- Ⓐ *They are based in the United Kingdom.*
 - Ⓑ *In 1901, they were sold and were given the new name of Manchester United.*
 - Ⓒ *Since 1958, Manchester United have also won the European Champions League three times.*
 - Ⓓ *It is this success that has helped them become such a well-known team.*
- 21 According to the passage, which team's number of English Premier League wins is closest to that of Manchester United?
- Ⓐ Chelsea
 - Ⓑ Liverpool
 - Ⓒ Arsenal
 - Ⓓ Aston Villa

- 22 How is the second paragraph mainly organized?
- Ⓐ A problem is described and then a solution is given.
 - Ⓑ Events are described in the order they occurred.
 - Ⓒ Two teams are compared and contrasted.
 - Ⓓ Facts are given to support an argument.
-
- 23 What is the main purpose of the third and fourth paragraphs?
- Ⓐ To describe how the team formed
 - Ⓑ To describe the team's achievements
 - Ⓒ To explain why the team is successful
 - Ⓓ To show that the team has improved over time

- 24 Which team has been defeated by Manchester United in the English Premier League final exactly three times?
- Ⓐ Aston Villa
 - Ⓑ Tottenham
 - Ⓒ Newcastle United
 - Ⓓ Chelsea

A New Start

Dear Diary,

What a day! I started at my new school this morning and had the best time. I made lots of new friends and really liked my teachers. I was so nervous the night before, but I had no reason to be. Everyone was so friendly and polite. They made me feel at ease. It was like I'd been at the school for a hundred years!

The day started very early at 7:00 am. I had my breakfast downstairs with my mom. She could tell that I was very anxious. Mom kept asking me what was wrong. I think she knew that I was nervous about starting at a new school. She told me I had nothing to worry about and that everyone was going to love me. If they didn't love me, Mom said to send them her way for a good talking to. I couldn't stop laughing.

My mom dropped me off at the school gates about ten minutes before the bell. A little blonde girl got dropped off at the same time and started waving at me. She ran over and told me her name was Abigail. She was very nice and we became close straight away. We spent all morning together and began to chat to another girl called Stacey. The three of us sat together in class all day and we even made our way home together! It went so quickly. Our teacher told us that tomorrow we would really start learning and developing new skills.

It is late now so I am going to sleep, but I cannot wait until tomorrow! I feel as though I am really going to enjoy my time at my new school. I only hope that my new friends feel the same way too.

Casey

25 Read this sentence from the letter.

What a day!

Casey uses this statement to show her --

- Ⓐ nervousness
- Ⓑ excitement
- Ⓒ concern
- Ⓓ surprise

26 Read this sentence from the letter.

She was very nice and we became close straight away.

What does Casey mean when she says that they “became close”?

- Ⓐ They began to be friends.
- Ⓑ They walked near each other.
- Ⓒ They stayed on their own.
- Ⓓ They were in the same class.

- 27 What will Casey most likely do when she arrives at school the next day?
- Ⓐ Sit by herself in the playground
 - Ⓑ See if there are any other new people
 - Ⓒ Look for Abigail and Stacey
 - Ⓓ Go to class early to see her teacher
- 28 Which word means the opposite of polite?
- Ⓐ Rude
 - Ⓑ Nice
 - Ⓒ Easygoing
 - Ⓓ Calm
- 29 The reader can tell that Casey's mother --
- Ⓐ is used to meeting new people
 - Ⓑ is very worried about her daughter
 - Ⓒ cares about Casey's feelings
 - Ⓓ wishes Casey did not have to start a new school

30 Which word best describes Abigail?

- Ⓐ Funny
- Ⓑ Friendly
- Ⓒ Bossy
- Ⓓ Shy

31 Read this sentence from the passage.

It was like I'd been at the school for a hundred years!

Which literary device is used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ Imagery, using details to create an image or picture
- Ⓑ Hyperbole, using exaggeration to make a point
- Ⓒ Flashback, describing events that occurred far in the past
- Ⓓ Symbolism, using an object to stand for something else

Gemma's Secret

Nobody knew that Gemma had a secret. Not even her older sister or her parents had the slightest idea. She had never told anyone, as she didn't think that they would understand. Everyone knew that Gemma was creative and imaginative. They also knew that she was a very shy and quiet young girl. What they didn't know is that Gemma's best friend was imaginary. They had been friends for more than two years. Her name was Taylor and she was the very best friend that a young girl could hope for.

Gemma and Taylor would often play together. Taylor followed Gemma like a shadow. They would chase each other in the park. They also liked to play with Gemma's collection of dolls in the back garden.

At night they whispered to each other and shared stories until Gemma drifted off to sleep. Even when Gemma was in the company of other friends, she would always think about Taylor. They were always together and sharing jokes between themselves.



One day Taylor just disappeared. Gemma was very upset that her friend was not around anymore. She looked everywhere for her, but she was nowhere to be found. She couldn't even tell her family why she was so sad because they had no idea Taylor existed.

For a while, Gemma was very quiet and didn't speak very much to anyone. It was only over time that she came to terms with her loss. She made new friends and grew even closer to her sisters.

Losing Taylor made Gemma appreciate her family and loved ones even more. She always remembered Taylor though and all the fun that she brought into her life.

32 Read this sentence from the passage.

Not even her older sister or her parents had the slightest idea.

As it is used in the sentence, which word means about the same as slightest?

- (A) Smallest
- (B) Strangest
- (C) Thinnest
- (D) Smartest

33 Read this sentence from the passage.

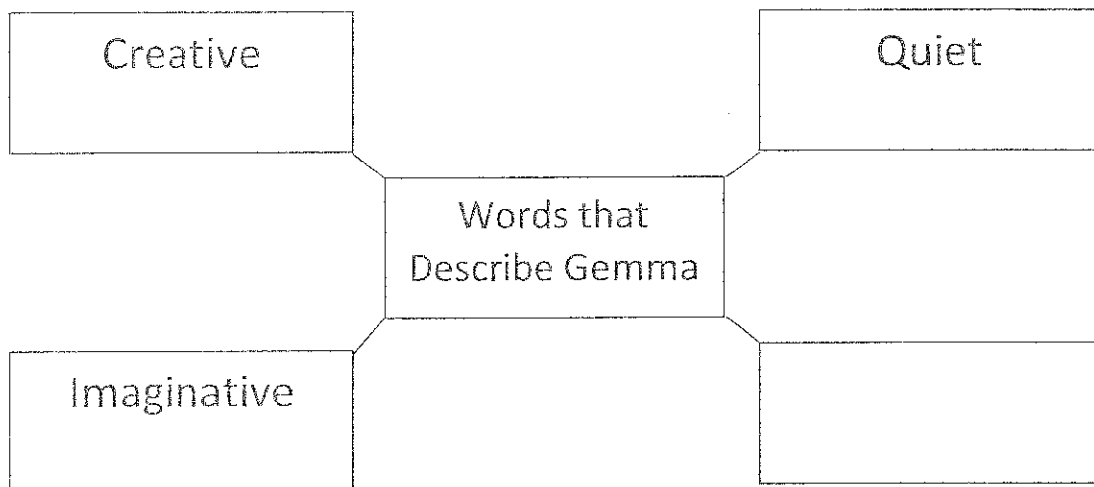
Taylor followed Gemma like a shadow.

Why does the author compare Taylor to a shadow?

- (A) To suggest that nobody could see Taylor
- (B) To show that Taylor and Gemma looked similar
- (C) To suggest that Gemma was scared of Taylor
- (D) To show that Taylor was always right next to Gemma

- 34 According to the passage, who is Taylor?
- Ⓐ Gemma's younger sister
 - Ⓑ Gemma's neighbor
 - Ⓒ Gemma's imaginary friend
 - Ⓓ Gemma's toy doll
- 35 Who is telling the story?
- Ⓐ Gemma
 - Ⓑ Taylor
 - Ⓒ Gemma's mother
 - Ⓓ Someone not in the story
- 36 According to the passage, which of these is NOT an activity that Gemma and Taylor do together?
- Ⓐ Chase each other in the park
 - Ⓑ Play with dolls
 - Ⓒ Bake treats
 - Ⓓ Share stories

- 37 The web below lists words that the author uses to describe Gemma.



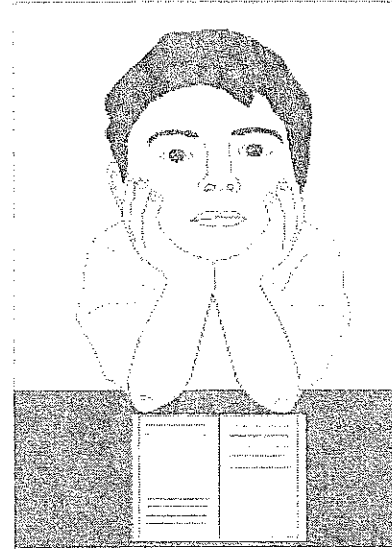
Which of these best completes the web?

- Ⓐ Foolish
- Ⓑ Lazy
- Ⓒ Shy
- Ⓓ Dishonest

- 38 If the passage was given another title, which title would best fit?
- Ⓐ A Special Family
 - Ⓑ How to Make Friends
 - Ⓒ Growing Up
 - Ⓓ Playing with Toys
-
- 39 Gemma most likely invents Taylor because she feels --
- Ⓐ angry
 - Ⓑ lonely
 - Ⓒ scared
 - Ⓓ nervous

Trying Too Hard

Robert was determined to do well in his exams. He devoted all of his spare time to study. He had always wanted to be a lawyer when he grew up. He wanted to go to a good college and enjoy a successful career. Unfortunately, this meant that he was almost always serious. Even though he was young, he was unable to relax and enjoy himself most of the time. His friends often got frustrated that he didn't want to spend much time with them.



Robert had an important exam due the following day. He had spent almost an entire week preparing for it. He had managed to get little sleep and was very tired. He even spent the night before the exam revising and had barely managed any sleep at all. However, he thought that he was ready for the exam. He was confident that he had worked harder than anyone else and was sure to get a perfect grade.

After Robert ate his breakfast, he started to feel a little ill. He was tired and unable to focus. He also had a small headache and found it very difficult to concentrate. He still refused to believe that he could ever fail the exam. Robert arrived at the school hall and took his seat beside his friends. He noticed how relaxed and happy they looked compared to him.

“They are just underprepared,” he thought to himself as he began his paper.

Despite his best efforts, Robert wasn't able to finish his exam. After twenty minutes, he felt very hot and uncomfortable. He then slumped in his chair, and one of his friends called for help. The school doctor suggested that he was exhausted and would be unable to complete the exam.

He spent the lunch break in the nurse's office. He looked out the window and watched his friends. They smiled and joked and seemed to have not a care in the world. Robert decided that from then on, he wouldn't take it all so seriously.

"I guess I will know better next time," he mumbled.

40 Read this sentence from the passage.

His friends often got frustrated that he didn't want to spend much time with them.

What does the word frustrated mean?

- Ⓐ Worried
- Ⓑ Annoyed
- Ⓒ Confused
- Ⓓ Amused

41 Read this sentence from the passage.

"They are just underprepared," he thought to himself as he began his paper.

What does the word underprepared mean?

- Ⓐ Less prepared
- Ⓑ More prepared
- Ⓒ Not prepared enough
- Ⓓ Too prepared

42. What type of passage is "Trying Too Hard"?
- (A) Biography
 - (B) Science fiction
 - (C) Realistic fiction
 - (D) Fable
43. Which sentence best explains why Robert feels ill during the exam?
- (A) *Robert had an important exam due the following day.*
 - (B) *He had spent almost an entire week preparing for it.*
 - (C) *He even spent the night before the exam revising and had barely managed any sleep at all.*
 - (D) *He was confident that he had worked harder than anyone else and was sure to get a perfect grade.*
44. What happens right after Robert slumps in his chair?
- (A) He keeps working on the exam.
 - (B) The nurse comes to see him.
 - (C) He starts to feel sick.
 - (D) His friend calls for help.

- 45 Which of these describes the main lesson that Robert learns in the passage?
- Ⓐ It is important to have a balanced life.
 - Ⓑ It is better to have fun than to do well.
 - Ⓒ Good things come to those who wait.
 - Ⓓ Friends will be there when you need them.
- 46 What is the point of view in the passage?
- Ⓐ First person
 - Ⓑ Second person
 - Ⓒ Third person limited
 - Ⓓ Third person omniscient

END OF TEST

MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWER SHEET

STAAR Reading Practice Test

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| 1 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 17 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 33 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
| 2 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 18 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 34 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
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| 5 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 21 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 37 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
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| 11 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 27 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 43 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
| 12 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 28 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 44 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
| 13 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 29 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 45 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
| 14 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 30 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 46 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D |
| 15 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 31 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | | |
| 16 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | 32 | <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D | | |