

TAKS MASTERTM

Student Practice Book

Writing, Grade 4

for the Texas Assessment
of Knowledge and Skills



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Blake is a fourth grader. His teacher asked each student to write about a famous Texan. This is a draft of Blake's paper. Read Blake's paper and think about corrections and improvements he should make. Then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

Alvin Ailey

(1) Alvin Ailey was a famous African American who was born in 1931 in Rogers Texas. (2) His father left his mother when Alvin was a tiny baby. (3) His mother moved to California. (4) She and Alvin picked cotton to earn money. (5) They cleaned houses to earn money.

(6) Alvin liked to draw pictures when he was growing up. (7) On a school field trip, he saw his first dance performance. (8) He also saw the Pacific Ocean. (9) During college, he joined the Lester Horton dance company.

(10) Ailey began creating his own new dances and moved to New York City. (11) He performed in many dance shows. (12) In 1958 he formed the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. (13) Members of his dance company gave performances on the continents of Europe, Africa, and Australia. (14) They were the first dance company to perform in Russia in fifty years.

(15) Ailey received many awards and prizes for his work with dances. (16) He created dances for the opening of the Metropolitan opera House in New York City. (17) He also created dances for the opening of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. (18) His new styles changed peoples ideas about dance around the world.

1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?
 - A Add a comma after *Ailey*
 - B Add a comma after *American*
 - C Add a comma after *Rogers*
 - D Make no change

2. What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 4 and 5?
 - A She and Alvin picked cotton and cleaned houses to earn money.
 - B Alvin and his mother picked cotton and they cleaned houses to earn money.
 - C She and Alvin were picking cotton and cleaning houses to earn money.
 - D Alvin and his mother earned money and picked cotton.

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 14?
 - A Change *They* to **Them**
 - B Change *we're* to **were**
 - C Change *Russia* to **russia**
 - D Make no change

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 16?
 - A Change *created* to **create**
 - B Change *opening* to **open**
 - C Change *opera* to **Opera**
 - D Make no change

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 18?
 - A Change *styles* to **Styles**
 - B Change *peoples* to **people's**
 - C Change *ideas* to **ideas'**
 - D Make no change

6. Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this paper?
 - A Sentence 6
 - B Sentence 9
 - C Sentence 12
 - D Sentence 15



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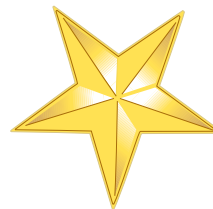
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ISBN 1-57022-372-6



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