Read the following passage about the history of a very important American bell. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Liberty Bell

by Teresa Bateman

In 1751 the Pennsylvania Assembly decided to purchase a bell for the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia to celebrate the colony's fiftieth anniversary. They ordered the bell from London, England.

Nine months later, when the large bell was unloaded in the State House yard, there was great excitement. It was hung on a temporary frame and everyone held their breath to hear its majestic ring. When the clapper struck, people gasped. Instead of a golden tone, there was a horrible clanking. A wide crack had opened on the curved bell.

Two local men, John Pass and John Stow, said they could fix the bell. It was broken into small pieces with sledgehammers, melted down, then recast with the addition of some copper for strength. In March of 1753 the new bell was ready. The rope was pulled, the clapper swung, and people hushed so that they could hear the bell's beautiful tones. Unfortunately, the sound that emerged was harsh and dull. Pass and Stow took the bell down, melted it again, and added tin to improve the tone. When the bell was rung on June 7, 1753, everyone agreed that it was improved with the tin, but it still didn't give out the desired mellow, rich sound. Still, it was rung as the State House bell and petitions from irritated neighbors were ignored.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Pennsylvania hosted the Second Continental Congress. The Declaration of Independence was debated, then ratified, at the State House. On July 8, 1776, when the new Declaration was first read aloud to the people, the State House bell rang out for liberty. Suddenly the inscription on the bell— "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land unto All the Inhabitants Thereof. Leviticus XXV:X"— gained new meaning.

During the Revolutionary War the bell was concealed under the floor of a church in a nearby town to prevent the British from melting it down. When the British left Philadelphia in June 1778, the bell was returned. Thereafter the State House bell was rung every July Fourth and on state occasions. In 1781 it rang to announce Great Britain's surrender at Yorktown. It rang again when the peace treaty was signed in 1783. When the new Constitution was approved in 1788, the bell rang out to announce the news.

When the nation's capital moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., the bell stayed behind. It was still used for special occasions. On July 8, 1835, the bell was rung to note the passing of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall. To everyone's horror, the bell cracked. The Philadelphia City Council ordered a new bell

and offered to throw in the old one as scrap metal. However, it would have been expensive to haul the old bell away, so the bell maker refused to take it.

In 1846 a newspaper writer remembered the old bell and suggested it be rung to celebrate George Washington's birthday. Suddenly the bell was famous again. People called it the Liberty Bell. Its crack was drilled and widened to keep the edges from vibrating against each other. On February 22, 1846, George Washington's birthday, it began ringing. At midday, however, the crack widened even farther. Impossible to repair, the Liberty Bell became useless as a bell and the clapper was removed.

The United States soon neared its hundredth anniversary. People began remembering places that had played a role in the nation's birth. The Pennsylvania State House became known as Independence Hall. The Liberty Bell was placed on display there. In January 1976, as part of the celebration of the nation's bicentennial, the bell was moved to its own glass pavilion across the street from Independence Hall.

The bell still rings, very gently, for freedom. It is tapped with a mallet for special events and annually on the Fourth of July.

A.2.2.2

7. As used in the passage, what does the word <u>majestic</u> mean?

   A loud

   B humble

   * C grand

   D weak

A.2.3.1

8. The last sentence of the third paragraph says, "...petitions from irritated neighbors were ignored." For which reason were the neighbors probably irritated?

   A The bell was rung much too often.

   * B The tone of the bell was not pleasant to hear.

   C The bell had been much too costly to fix.

   D The crack in the bell was not attractive to see.

A.2.3.1

9. Which occasion marked the last time the Liberty Bell was rung with its clapper?

   A the passing of John Marshall

   B the approval of the Constitution

   * C the birthday of George Washington

   D the surrender of Great Britain at Yorktown

B.3.3.1

10. Which **best** describes the organizational pattern of this passage?

   A cause and effect

   * B in order of sequence

   C compare and contrast

   D in order of importance

A.2.6.1

11. The main purpose of this passage is to

   A entertain readers with a story about the Liberty Bell.

   B describe to readers how the Liberty Bell was melted down and recast.

   C persuade readers that the Liberty Bell should be preserved.

   * D provide readers with information about the history of the Liberty Bell.

A.2.3.1

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

Item # 12

This item will be reported under Category A, Comprehension and Reading Skills.

Assessment Anchor:

A.2 Demonstrate the ability to understand nonfiction text appropriate to grade level.

Specific Eligible Content addressed by this item:

A.2.3.1 Make inferences and draw conclusions based on information from text(s).

Scoring Guide:

Score	In this item, the student—
3	Demonstrates complete knowledge in understanding and drawing a conclusion as to the Liberty Bell's greatest problem and explains two attempts made to solve the problem.
2	Demonstrates partial knowledge in understanding and drawing a conclusion as to the Liberty Bell's greatest problem. (Example—Student explains only 1 attempt to solve the problem.)
1	Demonstrates incomplete knowledge in understanding and drawing a conclusion as to the Liberty Bell's greatest problem. (Example—Student describes the problem without giving any examples of attempts to solve it.)
0	Response provides insufficient material for scoring or is inaccurate in all respects. Categories within zero: blank, off task/topic, response in a language other than English, illegible

Example of the requirements for a Top Scoring Response—3 Points:

Conclusion	Explanation
Tthe greatest problem was that the bell cracked from time to time. OR The greatest problem was that the bell did not have a mellow, rich sound. OR Other reasonable explanation.	After a wide crack opened on the bell, it was broken into small pieces, melted down and then recast with the addition of some copper for strength. At another time the bell was widened to keep the edges from vibrating against each other, but when it was rung it widened even farther. It became impossible to repair. Nine months after the bell arrived it was rung and gave off a horrible clanking, because of a crack. A new bell was made and the sound was improved. At another time the bell sound had extra vibration caused by the edges of the crack vibrating against each other, so the crack was widened to stop the vibration. It eventually became a silent bell.

A.2.3.1 Response Score: 3

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

The greatest problem that the Liberty Bell has faced is that it keeps breaking. Throughout its history, the Liberty Bell has broken twice, not counting the time that an already existing crack widened. The first attempt to fix this problem took place in 1752, when John Pass and John Stow melted down the broken bell and added copper in an attempt to strengthen the metal and prevent future cracks. Another attempt at fixing the bell (once again broken) took place in 1846, with a different approach to the problem. Rather than attempting to recast the bell entirely, someone drilled the existing crack wider until the sides no longer vibrated against each other. Like the first attempt, this didn't work — the crack just got bigger. It seems that the Liberty Bell is forever doomed to be broken.

The student states the greatest problem faced by the Liberty Bell.

The student cites two examples from the passage that explain the attempts to solve the problem.

A.2.3.1 Response Score: 2

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

The greatest problem the Liberty Bell has was the problem of it cracking. It cracked many times and the first time it cracked they took it down and recasted it.

The student states the greatest problem faced by the Liberty Bell.

The student cites one example from the passage that explains an attempt to solve the problem.

A.2.3.1 Response Score: 2

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

when Pennsylvania first got the bell
they rung it and it CRACKED.
They solve his problom by recasting
it with copper.
Then they didn't like the tone so they
added some tin to improve the tone
That didn't work so they decided
to keep the Bell crack and ring
it on George Washinston birthday.

The student describes two problems instead of the "greatest" problem.

The student cites two examples from the passage, one attempt at solving each problem.

A.2.3.1 Response Score: 1

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

The greatest problem the liberty bell has faced is when it cracked and it widned so they could not repair it. the can solve the problem by not hitting the bell so hard to crack it. They can also find something else to hit it with instead of the sledgehammer.

The student does not cite an example of an attempt to solve the problem from the passage.

The student states the greatest problem faced by the Liberty Bell.

A.2.3.1 Response Score: 1

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

How it got melted down and then it recated and
that whould hurt to be getting hit by slughammers
a others types of weapons. also befor it got recasted
it fell from the bell holder and the Clapper hits
it all the time on special occuation and Crackes it.

The student states several problems rather than the greatest problem.

The student does not clearly link the examples from the passage to attempts to solve the problem.

A.2.3.1 Response Score: 0

12. What is the greatest problem the Liberty Bell has faced? Explain two attempts to solve this problem. Use information from the passage to support your response.

The greatest PROBlem the liberty bell faced is when the liberty bell was unloaded in the state house YARD there were great excicMENT and there WAS EXICMENT because of FREEDOM because they Were loud and annoying to the neighbors AN then there was happiness,

Student implies incorrectly that the greatest problem was the unloading of the bell and excitement of the people.

Student does not cite any example from the passage that is an attempt to solve the Libery Bell's problem.