Summer had just begun. Charlie was planting a garden in front of his house. He looked up as his friend Dave was running by. He stopped and waved.

“What are you doing for the summer?” Charlie asked.

“My soccer team is training for a big tournament. This year, I think we can win!” Dave replied.

“Wow…that sounds great.”

As Dave ran off, Charlie kept planting his seeds. I wish I was on a soccer team, he thought. I should start practicing...
1. Where was Charlie at the beginning of the story?
   - (A) in his garden
   - (B) at school
   - (C) in the street
   - (D) in his house

2. Who was practicing for a soccer tournament?
   - (B) at school

- Correct answer
The next week, Charlie went to the field. He knew a group of kids that played soccer there. Charlie joined their game, but things did not go well. He tripped over his own feet and scored a goal for the other team. By the end of the game, he knew that soccer was not for him.

Charlie shuffled home and began to work in his garden.

Just then, he saw Jan walking up the street. “Hi Jan!” he called. “What are your plans for the summer?”

Jan said, “I’m singing a lot. My choir is preparing for a big concert.”

Charlie sighed. He thought, that sounds fun. I wish I knew how to sing...Suddenly, digging in the dirt seemed like a silly way to spend his summer.
3. Write two things that Charlie did during his soccer game.

1. ____________________________

2. ____________________________

4. The story says “Charlie shuffled home”. What does this tell you about how Charlie felt?

A. He wanted to dance.
B. He was sad.
C. He was nervous.
D. He wanted to garden.

5. What were Jan’s plans for the summer?

________________________________________

6. How does Charlie feel about gardening after talking to Jan?

________________________________________

* Correct answer
A few weeks later, Charlie saw a flyer for a new singing group. He went to try out. As he sang, his voice cracked and squeaked. One of the judges made a face. Charlie knew that he would not be chosen.

Charlie went home and pulled some weeds. All of my friends have special talents, he thought. I wish that I had something that I was really good at.

For the rest of the summer, Charlie kept trying to find his talent. After each new activity, Charlie would walk home with his head down and spend time in his garden.
7. What did Charlie see a flyer for?

- a soccer game
- a gardening group
- a summer concert
- a singing group

8. Why did the judge make a face?

9. What did Charlie do after he tried a new activity?

Correct answer
Towards the end of the summer, Charlie saw his friends Dave and Jan again. “How was the big soccer tournament?” he asked.

“We won!” Dave replied.

“And how was the concert?” Charlie asked Jan.

“It’s tomorrow. But our choir has worked really hard, and I get to sing a solo!”

“Congratulations,” Charlie said to them. “I wish I had something like that to be proud of.”

“Are you kidding?” Jan asked. “The vegetables in your garden are huge! Every time I try to grow something, it turns brown and dies.”

“Really? I guess I never thought gardening was something special.” Charlie smiled. “Why don’t you both come over tomorrow to celebrate Dave’s soccer victory? My mom will make dinner from my garden, and then we can go see Jan’s concert!”
10. How can you tell that Dave’s team is good at soccer?

Correct answer:

11. Whose vegetables turned brown and died?
   A. Charlie
   B. Dave
   C. Jan
   D. Charlie’s mom

Correct answer:

12. What was Charlie very good at?

Correct answer:
13. What did Jan help Charlie to learn at the end of the story?

- (A) He was already good at something.
- (B) He was good at soccer.
- (C) Gardening is hard work.
- (D) His friends had more talent than him.

14. Why did Charlie invite his friends over at the end of the story?

- (A) to celebrate the end of the summer
- (B) to celebrate all their talents
- (C) to play a game of soccer
- (D) to teach them about gardening

Correct answer
15. What did Charlie keep looking for during the summer?

A. more time to work in his garden
B. different friends to play with
C. a new place to go and see
D. something he was really good at

* Correct answer
**Scoring Guides for Constructed-response Questions**

**Charlie’s Talent, Item 2**

Who was practicing for a soccer tournament?

*Process: Focus on and retrieve explicitly stated information*

1 – **Acceptable Response**

The response recognizes that Charlie’s friend Dave was practicing for a soccer tournament with his team.

*Examples:*

Dave  
Charlie’s friend  
Dave’s team

0 – **Unacceptable Response**

The response does not recognize that Charlie’s friend Dave was practicing for a soccer tournament with his team. The response may repeat words from the question.

**Charlie’s Talent, Item 3**

Write two things that Charlie did during his soccer game.

*Process: Focus on and retrieve explicitly stated information*

2 – **Complete Comprehension**

The response recognizes that Charlie tripped over his own feet AND scored a goal for the other team during his soccer game.

1—**Partial Comprehension**

The response recognizes that Charlie tripped over his own feet OR scored a goal for the other team during his soccer game.

0 – **Unacceptable Response**

The response does not provide either of the things that Charlie did during his soccer game.
Charlie’s Talent, Item 5
What were Jan’s plans for the summer?

Process: Focus on and retrieve explicitly stated information

1 – Acceptable Response
The response recognizes that Jan was preparing for a singing concert over the summer.

   Examples:
   Singing
   Preparing for a concert

0 – Unacceptable Response
The response does not recognize that Jan was preparing for a singing concert over the summer. The response may repeat words from the question.

Charlie’s Talent, Item 6
How does Charlie feel about gardening after talking to Jan?

Process: Make straightforward inferences

1 – Acceptable Response
The response recognizes that Charlie does not feel positively about gardening.

   Examples:
   He felt like it was silly.
   He didn’t like it.

0 – Unacceptable Response
The response does not recognize that Charlie felt bad about gardening after talking to Jan. The response may repeat words from the question.
Charlie’s Talent, Item 8

Why did the judge make a face?

*Process: Make straightforward inferences*

1 – Acceptable Response
The response recognizes that the judge did not think Charlie was a good singer.

*Examples:*
- Charlie was a bad singer.
- He didn't like Charlie's singing.

0 – Unacceptable Response
The response does not recognize that the judge made a face because he did not think Charlie was a good singer. The response may repeat words from the question.

Charlie’s Talent, Item 9

What did Charlie do after he tried a new activity?

*Process: Focus on and retrieve explicitly stated information*

1 – Acceptable Response
The response recognizes that Charlie gave up on the new activities and went back to gardening.

*Examples:*
- Walked home with his head down.
- Spent time in his garden.
- He gave up.

0 – Unacceptable Response
The response does not recognize that Charlie gave up on the new activities and went back to gardening. The response may repeat words from the question.

*Examples:*
- He played soccer.
- He cried.
Charlie’s Talent, Item 10
How can you tell that Dave’s team is good at soccer?

Process: Make straightforward inferences

1 – Acceptable Response
The response recognizes that one can tell Dave’s team is good at soccer because they won the tournament.

Examples:
- Because his team won the tournament.

0 – Unacceptable Response
The response does not provide an appropriate reason for thinking Dave’s team was good at soccer. The response may repeat words from the question.

Charlie’s Talent, Item 12
What was Charlie very good at?

Process: Focus on and retrieve explicitly stated information

1 – Acceptable Response
The response recognizes that Charlie was very good at gardening.

0 – Unacceptable Response
The response does not recognize that Charlie was very good at gardening. The response may repeat words from the question.