**File Name: I7R Question 1**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 7**

**Range of Writing**

**Introduces the topic clearly, previewing what is to follow:** The writer gives provides general context, background information about the theories of evolution of Lamarck and Darwin, states the main point, and signals that similarities and differences in the theories will be the essay’s focus.

**Question 1**

Jean Baptiste de Lamarck and Charles Darwin were both naturalists that had theories about organisms getting helpful variations. Lamarck’s theory was called the theory of acquired characteristics and Darwin’s was called the theory of evolution by natural selection. Lamarck and Darwin’s theories are the same and different in some ways.

Darwin and Lamarck’s theories were very different. Darwin theory said that organisms get helpful variation before changes in the environment. He thought they got the variation by chance at birth. He explained that the reason giraffes had long necks was because some giraffes had a variation which was a longer neck. The giraffes with short necks could only get food on the ground so they had to compete for it so they died. The giraffes with the long necks did not have to compete because they could get the food up high and they survived and passed the long necks onto their young. Lamarck theory said that organisms got helpful variation after a change in the environment. He said that giraffes got long necks when the food on the ground ran out. The giraffes needed to eat food and there was food up high so they stretched out their necks. They then passed it on to their young. Their theories are different because Lamarck thought that organisms changed out of need and after a change in the environment and Darwin thought organisms changed by chance when they were born and before there was a change in the environment.

**Develops topic with appropriate,** accurate **facts and concrete details** about theories of evolution; **provides analysis of content**

**Organizes ideas, concepts, and information using comparison/contrast.** This paragraph discusses differences between the two theories, first describing Darwin’s theory and then Lamarck’s.

**Uses precise and domain-specific vocabulary and a formal style.**

Darwin and Lamarck’s theories were very different but they were also very similar. They both thought that organisms changed. They thought these changes could be very useful and could help them survive. The changes could then get passed down to the young. That is how Lamarck and Darwin’s theories are similar.

**Uses appropriate transitions to clarify relationships among ideas and concepts**

Lamarck and Darwin’s theories are both the same and different in some ways.

**Provides a concluding statement, which follows from the information provided**

For this summative assessment from a seventh-grade science unit, students were asked to explain the differences and similarities in Lamarck’s and Darwin’s theories of evolution, respectively. This writer provides some background information about Lamarck’s and Darwin’s theories in the introduction and then establishes his focus on similarities and differences in Darwin’s and Lamarck’s theories, which serves also to preview his compare/contrast organizational structure.

The writer organizes his essay by first discussing differences between the two theories and then the similarities. He uses appropriate transitions to clarify relationships among ideas and concepts. Within each chunk, the writer uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to characterize the theories and analyze them. This makes the writer’s thinking and understanding easy to follow.

The tone of the essay is objective and the style formal—both appropriate for science writing. The conclusion follows from the information given. Though it is a simple restatement, this is appropriate for a content assessment.

**File Name: I7R Question 1**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 7**

**Range of Writing**

**Question 1**

Jean Baptiste de Lamarck and Charles Darwin were both naturalists that had theories about organisms getting helpful variations. Lamarck’s theory was called the theory of acquired characteristics and Darwin’s was called the theory of evolution by natural selection. Lamarck and Darwin’s theories are the same and different in some ways.

Darwin and Lamarck’s theories were very different. Darwin theory said that organisms get helpful variation before changes in the environment. He thought they got the variation by chance at birth. He explained that the reason giraffes had long necks was because some giraffes had a variation which was a longer neck. The giraffes with short necks could only get food on the ground so they had to compete for it so they died. The giraffes with the long necks did not have to compete because they could get the food up high and they survived and passed the long necks onto their young. Lamarck theory said that organisms got helpful variation after a change in the environment. He said that giraffes got long necks when the food on the ground ran out. The giraffes needed to eat food and there was food up high so they stretched out their necks. They then passed it on to their young. Their theories are different because Lamarck thought that organisms changed out of need and after a change in the environment and Darwin thought organisms changed by chance when they were born and before there was a change in the environment.

Darwin and Lamarck’s theories were very different but they were also very similar. They both thought that organisms changed. They thought these changes could be very useful and could help them survive. The changes could then get passed down to the young. That is how Lamarck and Darwin’s theories are similar.

Lamarck and Darwin’s theories are both the same and different in some ways.