

Name _____

Skateboard Anatomy: Exploring the Building Blocks of a Thrilling Ride

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. For long-distance cruising, I would choose larger wheels (around 55-60mm) for a smoother ride over rough surfaces. I would also go for softer wheels (around 78A-87A) to provide better grip, making it easier to navigate and maintain control over the skateboard during longer rides.
2. To enhance my skateboarding experience at the skatepark, I would slightly tighten the trucks to provide more stability for landing tricks and maintaining balance on ramps and obstacles. I would also choose medium-hard bushings to strike a balance between responsiveness for tricks and stability for landing and riding transitions. These adjustments matter because they allow for greater control and precision during tricks, making the skateboarding experience at the skatepark more enjoyable and safe.
3. Skateboarders should regularly check the tightness of their trucks and make sure all components are securely fastened with appropriate hardware. They should also inspect the condition of the grip tape, ensuring it provides sufficient traction. Additionally, skateboarders should wear protective gear such as helmets, knee pads, elbow pads, and wrist guards to prevent injuries. These precautions are essential because they help maintain the skateboard's integrity, prevent accidents caused by loose components, and protect the skateboarder from potential injuries while riding.
4. The grip tape on a skateboard deck provides essential traction for the rider's shoes. This interaction is crucial because it allows the rider to maintain control over the skateboard. Without grip tape, the rider's shoes would slip on the deck, making it challenging to steer, balance, and perform tricks. The rough surface of grip tape ensures that the rider's shoes firmly grip the deck, enabling precise movements and control during skateboarding maneuvers, contributing significantly to the overall control and safety of the skateboard.

