EXERCISE 5–2 Revising for focus

Some of the sentences in the following paragraph stray from the focus established in the topic sentence. Improve the paragraph’s focus by crossing out any sentences that do not belong.

Sigmund Freud is best known for his theories about the role sex plays in the unconscious mind. He did have theories about other subjects too, however. The whole subject of sex had been taboo for so long that scientific discussion of it had been almost impossible until Freud dared to publish his theories. Then, too, the theories themselves seemed outrageous to most people. His belief that sexual functioning begins at birth was too strange to accept. He also theorized that from childhood to adulthood, children go through specific stages of sexual development. This had certainly not been taught at the University of Vienna, where Freud received his doctor’s degree. He almost did not get to go to the university. His family was poor, and they had to make great sacrifices to send him. After he graduated, he started working on these theories. Later Freud developed another theory: that if the normal pattern of sexual development was interrupted in some way, the person would become “fixated” emotionally at that stage. The person would grow physically and mentally, but emotionally that person would stop growing. The result would be emotional problems as an adult. Freud’s pioneering work on sex has made him famous throughout the world.