

# PRACTICE SAT LITERATURE SUBJECT TEST 1

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| TEST 1 |
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| <p>Your responses to the SAT Literature Subject Test questions should be filled in on Test 1 of your answer sheet.</p> |
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**Directions:** This test consists of selections from literary works and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage or poem, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

**Note:** Pay particular attention to questions that contain the words **NOT**, **LEAST**, or **EXCEPT**.

**Questions 1-9.** Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Maman-Nainaine said that when the figs were ripe Babette might go to visit her cousins down on the Bayou-Lafourche where the sugar cane grows.

Line Not that the ripening of figs had the least thing to  
5 do with it, but that is the way Maman-Nainaine was.

It seemed to Babette a very long time to wait; for the leaves upon the trees were tender yet, and the figs were like little hard green marbles.

10 But warm rains came along and plenty of strong sunshine, and though Maman-Nainaine was as patient as the statue of la Madone, and Babette as restless as a hummingbird, the first thing they both knew it was hot summertime. Every day

15 Babette danced out to where the fig-trees were in a long line against the fence. She walked slowly beneath them, carefully peering between the gnarled, spreading branches. But each time she came disconsolate away again. What she saw

20 there finally was something that made her sing and dance the whole long day.

When Maman-Nainaine sat down in her stately way to breakfast the following morning, her muslin cap standing like an aureole about her

25 white, placid face, Babette approached. She bore a dainty porcelain platter, which she set down before her godmother. It contained a dozen purple figs, fringed around with their rich green leaves.

“Ah,” said Maman-Nainaine arching her

30 eyebrows, “how early the figs have ripened this year!”

“Oh,” said Babette. “I think they have ripened very late.”

“Babette,” continued Maman-Nainaine, as she

35 peeled the very plumpest figs with her pointed silver fruit-knife, “you will carry my love to them all down on Bayou-Lafourche. And tell your Tante Frosine I shall look for her at Toussaint—when the chrysanthemums are in bloom.”

(1893)

1. In the passage, the ripening figs are symbolic of
  - (A) the fruits of labor
  - (B) the maturation of Babette
  - (C) the difficulty of life
  - (D) the enigma of nature
  - (E) the battle between Maman-Nainaine and Babette
  
2. The phrase “but that is the way Maman-Nainaine was” suggests which of the following about Maman-Nainaine?
  - (A) She was not aware of the seriousness of the situation.
  - (B) She was an overly strict woman.
  - (C) Her actions had their own logic.
  - (D) She doled out punishment for no reason.
  - (E) Figs were her favorite fruit.
  
3. What is the effect of the disagreement (lines 1-9)?
  - (A) It illustrates Maman-Nainaine’s bad judgment.
  - (B) It serves to illustrate the patience of Maman-Nainaine and the impatience of Babette.
  - (C) It demonstrates a passage of time.
  - (D) It makes Babette appear spoiled and insolent.
  - (E) It shows how argumentative Babette can be.

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4. In the passage, Maman-Nainaine's attitude toward Babette can best be characterized as
  - (A) contemptuous
  - (B) flippant
  - (C) reluctantly accepting
  - (D) joyously optimistic
  - (E) wisely patient
5. All of the following pairs of words illustrate the difference between Maman-Nainaine and Babette EXCEPT
  - (A) "patient" (line 12) and "restless" (line 13)
  - (B) "early" (line 30) and "late" (line 33)
  - (C) "purple" (line 27) and "green" (line 28)
  - (D) "danced" (line 15) and "sat" (line 22)
  - (E) "ripe" (line 2) and "bloom" (line 39)
6. Which is the effect of the last sentence of the passage?
  - (A) It shows that Maman-Nainaine is clearly illogical.
  - (B) It serves as ironic counterpoint to the rest of the story.
  - (C) It advances the symbolism introduced with the ripened figs.
  - (D) It introduces a literary allusion.
  - (E) It advances the story beyond its scope.
7. Maman-Nainaine's peeling of "the very plumpest figs" (line 35) illustrates that Maman-Nainaine
  - (A) is testing their ripeness
  - (B) prefers to cook her own food
  - (C) is superstitious
  - (D) is a refined woman
  - (E) enjoys making fun of Babette
8. The word "though" (line 11) implies which of the following in the context of the sentence?
  - (A) The two women were in disagreement.
  - (B) Patience is a virtue when waiting for something.
  - (C) Figs were not really important.
  - (D) Their patience and impatience had no effect on nature.
  - (E) Maman-Nainaine's patience was annoying to Babette.
9. The narrative point of view of the passage as a whole is that of
  - (A) a disapproving observer
  - (B) a first-person impartial observer
  - (C) the protagonist
  - (D) an unreliable narrator
  - (E) a third-person objective observer

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Questions 10-18. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

“On His Deceased Wife”

Methought I saw my late espoused Saint  
 Brought to me like Alcestis from the grave,  
 Whom Jove’s great son to her glad husband gave,  
 Line Rescu’d from death by force though pale and faint.  
 5 Mine as whom wash’t from spot of childbed taint,  
 Purification in the old law did save,  
 And such, as yet once more I trust to have  
 Full sight of her in Heaven without restraint,  
 Came vested all in white, pure as her mind:  
 10 Her face was vail’d, yet to my fancied sight,  
 Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person shin’d  
 So clear, as in no face with more delight.  
 But O, as to embrace me she inclined  
 I wak’d, she fled, and day brought back my night.  
 (1658)

10. “Whom Jove’s great son” (line 3) acts as which of the following?  
 (A) a play on words  
 (B) a contradiction  
 (C) hyperbole  
 (D) mythological allusion  
 (E) allegory
11. Line 4 refers to which of the following?  
 I. “my late espoused Saint” (line 1)  
 II. “Alcestis” (line 2)  
 III. “her glad husband” (line 3)  
 (A) I only  
 (B) II only  
 (C) I and II only  
 (D) I and III only  
 (E) II and III only
12. In context, the word “save” (line 6) means which of the following?  
 (A) preserve  
 (B) keep in health  
 (C) deliver from sin and punishment  
 (D) rescue from harm  
 (E) maintain
13. The purpose of the last line is to suggest  
 (A) a contrast between dreaming and waking states  
 (B) the poet’s depression  
 (C) an allusion to the sonnet form  
 (D) a parallel to the opening quatrain  
 (E) that the writer is optimistic about the future
14. In context, “my fancied sight” (line 10) suggests that the author is  
 (A) imbuing his deceased wife with qualities she did not have  
 (B) unable to separate reality from dreams  
 (C) capriciously conjuring up his wife’s image  
 (D) dreaming  
 (E) suffering from delusions

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15. The author's attitude toward his wife can best be described as
  - (A) inconsolable
  - (B) reverential
  - (C) hopeful
  - (D) incongruous
  - (E) obsequious
16. The poem is primarily concerned with
  - (A) the mourning process
  - (B) the struggle against dying
  - (C) the injustice of death
  - (D) the nature of immortality
  - (E) a belief in heaven
17. What is the effect of using the word "glad" (line 3) instead of "happy" or "joyous"?
  - (A) It suggests that the husband is overwhelmed.
  - (B) It links to "great" and "gave" by alliteration.
  - (C) It stresses that the husband is a particular person.
  - (D) It distinguishes between "Jove's great son" and the husband.
  - (E) It alludes to "I" in line 1.
18. Which of the following are terms of opposition in the poem?
  - (A) "embrace" and "inclined" (line 13)
  - (B) "day" and "night" (line 14)
  - (C) "Full sight" and "without restraint" (line 8)
  - (D) "wash't" (line 5) and "Purification" (line 6)
  - (E) "sight" (line 10) and "shin'd" (line 11)

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**Questions 19-27. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.**

Keenly alive to this prejudice of hers, Mr. Keeble stopped after making his announcement, and had to rattle the keys in his pocket in order to acquire the necessary courage to continue.

Line 5 He was not looking at his wife, but knew just how forbidding her expression must be. This task of his was no easy, congenial task for a pleasant summer morning.

“She says in her letter,” proceeded Mr.

10 Keeble, his eyes on the carpet and his cheeks a deeper pink, “that young Jackson has got the chance of buying a big farm . . . in Lincolnshire, I think she said . . . if he can raise three thousand pounds.”

15 He paused, and stole a glance at his wife. It was as he had feared. She had congealed. Like some spell, the name had apparently turned her to marble. It was like the Pygmalion and Galatea business working the wrong way round. She

20 was presumably breathing, but there was no sign of it.

“So I was just thinking,” said Mr. Keeble, producing another *obligato* on the keys, “it just crossed my mind . . . it isn’t as if the thing

25 were speculation . . . the place is apparently coining money . . . present owner only selling because he wants to go abroad . . . it occurred to me . . . and they would pay good interest on the loan . . .”

30 “What loan?” enquired the statue icily, coming to life.

(1924)

19. Which of the following is the intended effect of the pauses in Mr. Keeble’s conversation?  
(A) It demonstrates that he is a feeble man.  
(B) It makes his speech disjointed.  
(C) It shows his hesitancy in approaching his wife.  
(D) It slows the rhythm of the conversation.  
(E) It elucidates his main point.
20. Which of the following expresses a mythological allusion made in the passage?  
(A) “interest on the loan” (lines 28-29)  
(B) “no sign of it” (lines 20-21)  
(C) “turned her to marble” (lines 17-18)  
(D) “in Lincolnshire” (line 12)  
(E) “the Pygmalion and Galatea business” (lines 18-19)
21. All of the following represent metaphors or similes used by the authors EXCEPT  
(A) “She had congealed” (line 16)  
(B) “enquired the statue icily” (line 30)  
(C) “coming to life” (line 31)  
(D) “presumably breathing” (line 20)  
(E) “Like some spell” (lines 16-17)
22. The phrase “the place is apparently coining money” (lines 25-26) is meant to imply  
(A) the farm is presently engaged in illegal activities  
(B) the farm is profitable  
(C) the investment is unnecessary  
(D) the farm serves as a bank for the local people  
(E) Lincolnshire is a profitable place to live
23. Which of the following expresses Mr. Keeble’s wife’s feeling toward the loan?  
(A) amused detachment  
(B) utter disgust  
(C) preformed opposition  
(D) blatant apathy  
(E) neutrality

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24. All of the following are physical manifestations of Mr. Keeble's anticipation of his wife's response EXCEPT
- (A) "Keenly alive" (line 1)
  - (B) "had to rattle the keys" (line 3)
  - (C) "was not looking at his wife" (line 5)
  - (D) "his eyes on the carpet" (line 10)
  - (E) "producing another *obbligato*" (line 23)
25. The phrase "in Lincolnshire, I think she said" (lines 12-13) implies that which of the following is true of Keeble?
- (A) Keeble is unaware of the location of the farm.
  - (B) Keeble thinks the location is unimportant.
  - (C) Keeble's memory is failing.
  - (D) Keeble is attempting to appear casual.
  - (E) Keeble wants to conceal the location from his wife.
26. Keeble's relationship with his wife is such that
- I. he needs her approval
  - II. he is disgusted by her
  - III. he is intimidated by her
- (A) II only
  - (B) III only
  - (C) I and III only
  - (D) II and III only
  - (E) I, II, and III
27. The last line implies which of the following?
- (A) Mr. Keeble's wife is not interested in lending him money.
  - (B) Mr. Keeble's wife is interested in the proposition.
  - (C) Mr. Keeble has succeeded in his mission.
  - (D) Mr. Keeble's wife is keeping an open mind about the loan.
  - (E) Mr. Keeble's wife wants to hear more about the loan.

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**Questions 28-37. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.**

[A street in London]

Enter LORD MAYOR (*Sir Roger Otley*) and  
EARL OF LINCOLN

Line  
5 LINC: My Lord Mayor, you have sundry times  
Feasted myself, and many courtiers more;  
Seldom or never can we be so kind  
To make requital of your courtesy.  
But, leaving this, I hear my cousin Lacy  
Is much affected to your daughter Rose.

L. MAYOR: True, my good Lord, and she loves him so  
well  
That I mislike her boldness in the chase.

10 LINC: Why, my Lord Mayor, think you it then a  
shame  
To join a Lacy with an Otley's name?

L. MAYOR: Too mean is my poor girl for his high  
birth;  
15 Poor citizens must not with courtiers wed,  
Who will in silks and gay apparel spend  
More in one year than I am worth by far;  
Therefore your honour need not doubt my girl.

LINC: Take heed, my Lord, advise you what you do;  
20 A verier unthrift lives not in the world  
Than is my cousin; for I'll tell you what,  
'Tis now almost a year since he requested  
To travel countries for experience;  
I furnish'd him with coin, bills of exchange,  
25 Letters of credit, men to wait on him,  
Solicited my friends in Italy  
Well to respect him; but to see the end:  
Scant had he journey'd through half Germany,  
But all his coin was spent, his men cast off,  
30 His bills embezzl'd, and my jolly coz,  
Asham'd to show his bankrupt presence here,  
Became a shoemaker in Wittenberg.  
A goodly science for a gentleman  
Of such descent! Now judge the rest by this:  
35 Suppose your daughter have a thousand pound,  
He did consume me more in one half-year;  
And make him heir to all the wealth you have,  
One twelvemonth's rioting will waste it all.  
Then seek, my Lord, some honest citizen  
40 To wed your daughter to.

L. MAYOR: I thank your lordship.  
(*Aside.*) Well, fox, I understand your subtlety.—  
As for your nephew, let your lordship's eye  
But watch his actions, and you need not fear,  
45 For I have sent my daughter far enough.  
And yet your cousin Rowland might do well  
Now he hath learn'd an occupation;  
(*Aside.*) And yet I scorn to call him son-in-law.

LINC: Ay, but I have a better trade for him;  
50 I thank His Grace he hath appointed him  
Chief colonel of all those companies  
Muster'd in London and the shires about  
To serve His Highness in those wars of France.  
See where he comes.

(1599)

28. The word "sundry" (line 1) most nearly means

- (A) groceries
- (B) numerous
- (C) provisions
- (D) infrequent
- (E) few

29. The main effect of the Earl of Lincoln's first four lines is to

- (A) return Lord Mayor's generosity
- (B) acknowledge his indebtedness to Lord Mayor
- (C) emphasize the differences between the men
- (D) flatter Lord Mayor's vanity
- (E) get Lord Mayor to agree to the marriage of Lacy and Rose

30. What reason does the Earl of Lincoln give for his opposition to Lacy and Rose's marriage?

- (A) Rose is not a pleasant person.
- (B) Courtiers cannot marry.
- (C) The wedding will be too expensive.
- (D) Lacy does not love Rose.
- (E) Lacy will not be able to provide for Rose.

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31. The Earl of Lincoln's attitude toward his cousin can best be described as
- (A) censoriousness
  - (B) apathy
  - (C) romantic love
  - (D) dislike
  - (E) affection
32. It can be inferred from the sentence "A goodly science for a gentleman/Of such descent!" (lines 33-34) that
- (A) the profession of shoemaker is not appropriate for someone of high birth
  - (B) shoemakers often declare bankruptcy
  - (C) the Earl of Lincoln admires the profession of shoemaker
  - (D) as a shoemaker, the Earl of Lincoln's cousin will make a thousand pounds a year
  - (E) shoemaking is a scientific occupation
33. Lord Mayor's attitude toward Lacy can best be described as
- (A) reluctant affection
  - (B) avuncular indulgence
  - (C) cautious approval
  - (D) undeserved respect
  - (E) disguised disapproval
34. The line "Well, fox, I understand your subtlety" (line 42)
- (A) allows Lord Mayor to speak to the Earl of Lincoln without others hearing them
  - (B) entices the audience by revealing a secret
  - (C) alienates the audience by prevarication
  - (D) creates an atmosphere of unease in the play
  - (E) insults the Earl of Lincoln
35. All of the following words are used to describe Lacy EXCEPT
- (A) "affected" (line 6)
  - (B) "high" (line 13)
  - (C) "poor" (line 13)
  - (D) "unthrift" (line 20)
  - (E) "jolly" (line 30)
36. This scene reveals a conflict between
- (A) generosity and frugality
  - (B) prodigality and profligacy
  - (C) youth and age
  - (D) joy and melancholy
  - (E) expression and emotions
37. The author has the Earl of Lincoln mention the French wars (line 53) in order to
- (A) reveal Lacy's new profession
  - (B) foreshadow a military death
  - (C) elucidate the causes of the conflict
  - (D) explain a system of privilege
  - (E) home in on a national debate

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Questions 38-45. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

“Fable”

In heaven  
Some little blades of grass  
Stood before God.  
*Line* “What did you do?”  
5 Then all save one of the little blades  
Began eagerly to relate  
The merits of their lives.  
This one stayed a small way behind,  
Ashamed.  
10 Presently, God said,  
“And what did you do?”  
The little blade answered, “O my Lord,  
Memory is bitter to me,  
For if I did good deeds  
15 I know not of them.”  
Then God, in all his splendor,  
Arose from his throne.  
“O best little blade of grass!” he said.  
(1899)

38. It can be inferred that the speaker(s) in line 4 is/are
- (A) an angel
  - (B) St. Peter
  - (C) the blades of grass
  - (D) God
  - (E) the one little blade of grass
39. God’s attitude toward the last little blade of grass may best be described as
- (A) condescending
  - (B) neutral
  - (C) admiring
  - (D) disdainful
  - (E) morally superior
40. The main idea of the poem is that
- (A) it is better to do nothing than too much
  - (B) it is better to forget if you have done something wrong
  - (C) it is better to be modest than to be boastful
  - (D) it is better to keep your problems to yourself
  - (E) if you need to tell your bad deeds to someone, you are not worthy of respect

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41. The word “presently” (line 10) means which of the following in the context of the poem?
- I. as a gift
  - II. after a while
  - III. changing the topic
- (A) I only  
(B) II only  
(C) I and III only  
(D) II and III only  
(E) I, II, and III
42. It can be inferred that the small blade was “ashamed” (line 9) because
- (A) it was smaller than the others
  - (B) it was disgusted with the other blades of grass
  - (C) it didn’t feel worthy of God’s attention
  - (D) it was bitter and lonely
  - (E) it thought its acts greater than the others’ acts
43. The fact that God called the one blade ““O best”” (line 18) can best be characterized as
- (A) unexpected
  - (B) satiric
  - (C) tragic
  - (D) comic
  - (E) unfortunate
44. Which is the effect of lines 16-17 in relation to the rest of the poem?
- (A) They reveal God’s egotism.
  - (B) They heighten anticipation for the last line.
  - (C) They shift the narrative voice.
  - (D) They echo the last lines of the first stanza.
  - (E) They reveal the poet’s true feelings.
45. God’s attitude toward the blades of grass as a group is
- (A) shameful
  - (B) unstated
  - (C) disgusted
  - (D) disapproving
  - (E) melancholy

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**Questions 46-54. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.**

Line  
5 Everybody at all addicted to letter writing, without having much to say, which will include a large proportion of the female world at least, must feel with Lady Bertram, that she was out of luck in having such a capital piece of Mansfield news, as the certainty of the Grants going to Bath, occur at a time when she could make no advantage of it, and will admit that it must have been very mortifying to her to see it fall to the share of their thankless son, and treated as concisely possible at the end of a long letter, instead of having it to spread over the largest part of a page of her own—For though Lady Bertram, rather at home in the epistolary line, having early in her marriage, from the want of other employment, and the circumstance of Sir Thomas's being in Parliament, got into the way of making and keeping correspondents, and formed for herself a very creditable, commonplace, amplifying style, so that a very little matter was enough for her; she could not do entirely without any; she must have something to write about, even to her niece, and being so soon to lose all the benefit of Dr. Grant's gouty symptoms and Mrs. Grant's morning calls, it was very hard upon her to be deprived of one of the last epistolary uses she could put them to.

There was a rich amends, however, preparing for her. Lady Bertram's hour of good luck came. Within a few days from the receipt of Edmund's letter, Fanny had one from her aunt, beginning thus:

30 "My dear Fanny,  
I take up my pen to communicate some very alarming intelligence, which I make no doubt will give you much concern."

(1814)

46. The narrative tone in the above piece can best be described as

- (A) wry
- (B) bitterly ironic
- (C) detached
- (D) melodramatic
- (E) secretive

47. What is implied by the phrase "could make no advantage of it" (line 7) ?

- (A) Lady Bertram could use the news to suit her best interest.
- (B) Lady Bertram was unable to write about the news.
- (C) Lady Bertram could not relay the news in a pleasant light.
- (D) Lady Bertram could convey only part of the news.
- (E) Lady Bertram was bound to secrecy.

48. In context, the word "want" (line 14) means

- (A) requirement
- (B) desire
- (C) poverty
- (D) lack
- (E) defect

49. What is the "benefit" referred to in line 23 ?

- (A) friends with whom to visit
- (B) the ability to assist others
- (C) a house full of visitors
- (D) people willing to write letters
- (E) news to write about

50. The "amplifying style" (line 19) is one in which

- (A) things sound more important than they are
- (B) small bits of news are stretched in importance
- (C) the speaker's voice is very loud
- (D) people are made to sound grand
- (E) one writes in a large, bold print

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51. It can be inferred that Sir Thomas is
- (A) Lady Bertram's son
  - (B) Lady Bertram's husband
  - (C) a boarder at Mansfield
  - (D) a relative of the Grants
  - (E) a friend of Lady Bertram
52. The last three lines serve to illustrate which of the following about Lady Bertram?
- (A) She has found something to write about.
  - (B) She is spreading malicious rumors.
  - (C) She is concerned about the news she is sending.
  - (D) She is unaware of Fanny's feelings.
  - (E) She is worried about her niece.
53. Lady Bertram is best described as
- (A) a social pariah
  - (B) an unwanted family member
  - (C) a disenfranchised member of society
  - (D) a gossipy aristocrat
  - (E) a disillusioned elderly woman
54. The phrase "even to her niece" (line 22) shows that Lady Bertram
- (A) doesn't much care for her niece
  - (B) is unhappy with her niece
  - (C) is uncomfortable around her niece
  - (D) doesn't need to have much to say to her niece
  - (E) dislikes the prospect of writing to her niece

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Questions 55-61. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

“Blue Girls”

Twirling your blue skirts, travelling the sward  
Under the towers of your seminary,  
Go listen to your teachers old and contrary  
Without believing a word.

Line

5 Tie the white fillets then about your hair  
And think no more of what will come to pass  
Than bluebirds that go walking on the grass  
And chattering on the air.

Practice your beauty, blue girls, before it fail;  
10 And I will cry with my loud lips and publish  
Beauty which all our power shall never establish,  
It is so frail.

For I could tell you a story which is true;  
I know a woman with a terrible tongue,  
15 Blear eyes fallen from blue,  
All her perfections tarnished—yet it is not long  
Since she was lovelier than any of you.

(1927)

55. The tone of the poem can best be described as

- (A) cautionary
- (B) mythic
- (C) sarcastic
- (D) optimistic
- (E) hopeful

56. The poem is primarily concerned with

- (A) the importance of beauty
- (B) the lesson to be learned from the past
- (C) the fleeting nature of youth
- (D) telling a story for the girls' benefit
- (E) the permanence of death

57. “Blear eyes fallen from blue” (line 15) is most probably meant to suggest that

- (A) the woman's beauty has deteriorated
- (B) the woman is tired
- (C) the woman is going blind
- (D) disease can happen suddenly
- (E) the girls are responsible for the woman's loss of beauty

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

58. “And chattering on the air” (line 8) refers to
- I. the girls
  - II. the bluebirds
  - III. the teachers
- (A) I only  
(B) I and II only  
(C) I and III only  
(D) II and III only  
(E) I, II, and III
59. The author’s characterization of the woman in the last stanza can best be described as
- (A) a description of decay
  - (B) unyielding and hurtful
  - (C) disdainful and disgusted
  - (D) pleasant and nostalgic
  - (E) full of unhidden emotion
60. The phrases “Without believing a word” (line 4) and “think no more” (line 6) illustrate the girls’
- (A) innate sense of suspicion
  - (B) inherent difficulty with understanding subjects
  - (C) lack of concern about weighty subjects
  - (D) frail nature
  - (E) disregard for the feelings of others
61. The poem’s theme could best be described as
- (A) she who hesitates is lost
  - (B) beauty is a fading flower
  - (C) all that glitters is not gold
  - (D) beauty is truth, truth beauty
  - (E) a penny saved is a penny earned

**STOP**

**IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.  
DO NOT TURN TO ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.**



# **Practice Test 1:**

## **Answers and Explanations**

## Answers and Explanations

- 1 **B** This is a good example of a “least worst” answer. There is no labor involved (A). All we see Babette do is “dance” (line 15), so life is not very “difficult” (C). Nature is not “enigmatic” (a mystery) (D). The differences between Maman-Nainaine and Babette can hardly be called a “battle” (E). So by Process of Elimination, the answer must be (B).
- 2 **C** Choice (C) is the best answer, because Maman-Nainaine says Babette’s visit depends on the figs, which has nothing to do with the visit. So she must have her own reasons for linking the two—“her own logic.” Babette wants to visit her cousins, so the situation is hardly “serious” (A). She may be “overly strict,” but we don’t have enough information to affirm that (B). Choice (D) cannot be the answer because there is no “punishment.” And nothing suggests that “figs were her favorite fruit” (E).
- 3 **B** Choice (B) is the answer because Maman-Nainaine wants Babette to wait to make the visit, but Babette wants to go right now. Maman-Nainaine is patient; Babette is not. Nothing in the passage proves that Maman-Nainaine’s judgment is bad (A). In lines 1–6, the figs have not ripened yet, so there is no passage of time (C). Babette does not talk back to Maman-Nainaine, so there is no insolence (D) or argument (E).
- 4 **E** Maman-Nainaine is patient (line 12) (E). Maman-Nainaine does not look down on Babette, so she is not “contemptuous” (A). Nothing she says to Babette is “flippant” (B). She does not give in to Babette’s wishes, so she is not “reluctantly accepting” (C). There is neither joy nor optimism in the passage (D).
- 5 **E** “Ripe” and “bloom” both refer to later stages of life—they refer to Maman-Nainaine, not Babette, so the answer is (E). It is true that Maman-Nainaine is “patient” and Babette is “restless,” so (A) is not the answer. Babette is young; she wants to make the visit “early,” while Maman-Nainaine is “late” in life (B). The unripe figs represent Babette—they are “green,” while Maman-Nainaine is like a ripe fig—“purple” (C). Maman-Nainaine is older—she “sat” while Babette is young and “danced” (D). (Note: Remember to circle “EXCEPT” and mark each answer with a “Y” for “yes” or an “N” for “no” to find the odd man out.)
- 6 **C** Just as the figs are a symbol of Babette’s maturity, so are the chrysanthemums symbolic (C). It is not illogical of Maman-Nainaine to mention chrysanthemums, as the story shows she measures time by the flowering of nature (A). There is nothing ironic about the statement (B). Literature is not referenced (D). The sentence does not advance the story beyond the boundaries of Maman-Nainaine’s and Babette’s relationship (E).
- 7 **A** By taking time to peel the figs, Maman-Nainaine is making sure they’re ripe (A). There is no cooking in the story (B), nor is superstition the reason for Maman-Nainaine’s

behavior (C). Although she may be refined, the action is not the illustration of refinement (D). We don't see Maman-Nainaine mock Babette (E).

- 8 **D** The two women are different, yet nature forges on, so (D) is the correct answer. In the context of the sentence the word “though” does not show disagreement (A). No moral is given (B). There is no evidence that the figs were not important (C). Babette is restless, not annoyed (E).
- 9 **E** The narration is that of an impartial observer (E). It is not disapproving (A), nor is it first person (B). The protagonist (either Maman-Nainaine or Babette) does not narrate the story (C), nor do we have any evidence that this narrator is unreliable (D).
- 10 **D** Who's Jove? Who cares! This is obviously a reference to someone, so the word “allusion” is our best bet (D). There is no “play on words” (A), nor any “contradiction” (B). Although the poem might be fanciful, there is no “hyperbole” (exaggeration) (C). There are no underlying symbols, so the poem is not an “allegory” (E).
- 11 **C** He thinks he sees his wife as a ghost, like Jove's son gave the image of a ghost to Alcestis's husband, so the line refers to both “my late espoused Saint” (the narrator's wife) (Statement I) and to Alcestis (Statement II). The “glad husband” is not the one “rescued from death” (Statement III).
- 12 **C** The poem says that the wife was purified and that the poet plans to see her in heaven, so “save” means “deliver from sin and punishment” (C). Because she is dead, she is not preserved (A), nor is she kept in health (B). She is neither rescued from harm (D) nor maintained (E)—don't fall into the trap answer just because the definition of “save” is “maintained.”
- 13 **A** When the poet wakes up, the ghost image is gone, and although it is day, he feels like it's night (A). Although the narrator feels grief, there is no evidence that he is depressed (B). This is nothing like a sonnet (C), nor does it parallel any construction (D). The fact that although it is day when he wakes he feels like it's night does not suggest optimism (E).
- 14 **D** He is asleep and sees a ghost, so it is reasonable to infer that he is “dreaming” (D). There is nothing in the poem to suggest that she did not have these qualities in life (A). The fact that he knows it is “fancied” suggests that he knows he is dreaming (B). He is dreaming, so there is nothing capricious about the image, which comes to him unbidden (C), and he realizes it is a dream, so he is not delusional (E).
- 15 **B** He clearly loves his wife a great deal, so he is “reverential” (B). He may be “inconsolable,” but not in his attitude toward his wife (A). Again, she is dead, so he does not have a “hopeful” attitude toward her (C). Neither “incongruous” (bizarre) (D) nor “obsequious” (fawning) (E) makes sense in this context.

- 16 **A** The poem is about how he misses his wife, so (A) is the correct answer. There is nothing to suggest the poet is struggling with death (B), nor does he lament that death is unjust (C) (although you may think so, it's not in the poem). It's more about the poet himself than it is about what happens to the body/soul, so it's not about immortality (D), and the main point is not a belief in heaven (E).
- 17 **B** The three "g" words in the surrounding lines are good examples of alliteration (B). "Glad" does not mean overwhelmed (A), nor does it stress the individuality of the husband (C). "Glad" does not help distinguish between Jove's son and the husband (D), and the narrator is not glad in line 1 (E).
- 18 **B** The day (and the light of his wife) contrasts with the night that the narrator feels (B). The wife was inclining (leaning) over to embrace the narrator when he awoke, so these are not opposites (A). "Full sight" and "without restraint" mean the same thing (C), as do "wash't" and "purification" (D). "Sight" and "shin'd" don't have a relationship (E).
- 19 **C** Mr. Keeble is stuttering because he is afraid of his wife (C). There is no evidence that he is a "feeble man" (A), just that he is afraid of his wife. Disjointed speech (B) is an aftereffect; the cause is his fear. It does not serve to slow the conversation (D). It does not elucidate (explain, shed light on) the main point; in fact, it obfuscates it (hides, makes more confusing) (E).
- 20 **E** A mythological allusion refers to something—usually a work of literature in the myth genre. Pygmalion and Galatea are characters in mythology (E). Lines 28–29 do not refer to anything (A), nor do lines 20–21 (B). In lines 17–18 the narrator is exaggerating but not referring to myth (C), while (D) refers to a place, not a work of literature.
- 21 **D** Breathing is the only one of these examples that is a normal human characteristic, so (D) is the answer. Answer (A) compares her to a liquid that has turned solid, while (B) compares her to a statue. Choice (C) continues the statue comparison, while (E) suggests that the word "Lincolnshire" is "like some spell" (simile).
- 22 **B** Answer choice (B) is a figure of speech meaning that the farm is making lots of money, which is why Mr. Keeble wants to invest in it. There is nothing to suggest the farm is doing something illegal (A). The investment may or may not be unnecessary, but that has nothing to do with "coining money" (C). Answer choice (D) takes the turn of phrase too literally. The farm is in Lincolnshire, but there is nothing to suggest that Lincolnshire itself is a good place to make money (E).
- 23 **C** Mrs. Keeble reacts "icily" before Mr. Keeble can even explain—so she is opposed to the idea (C). She is not amused (A), nor is she disgusted (B). She obviously cares, so she is not apathetic (D), and she is icy, so she is not neutral (E).

- 24 **A** Mr. Keeble is fiddling nervously while he talks, so all of the examples are physical illustrations of fidgeting except “keenly alive,” which simply means he’s aware (A). He rattles keys nervously (B) and (D), and doesn’t look at his wife (C) and (E), because he thinks he knows how she’ll react.
- 25 **D** Mr. Keeble has put a lot of thought into this, so he must be pretending he isn’t sure of the location in an attempt to make it appear as an afterthought or to de-emphasize it (D). He obviously knows where it is (A), and if he didn’t think the location was important, he wouldn’t have mentioned it (B). There is no evidence that he is forgetting (C), and if he had wanted to conceal the location, he would not have said it (E).
- 26 **B** He is obviously intimidated by his wife—he is afraid of her (Statement III), but there is no evidence that he needs her approval—we don’t know his motives for telling her about the farm (Statement I), nor is there any evidence that she disgusts him (Statement II).
- 27 **A** Because she asks the question icily, we can infer that she is not excited about the idea of lending money (A). She is not interested in the proposition (B), and we know nothing of Mr. Keeble’s mission (C). She is icy, so she is not keeping an open mind (D), nor is she curious (E).
- 28 **B** Lord Mayor has invited the Earl of Lincoln to dinner several times; therefore, “numerous” is the best answer (B). “Groceries” (A) is a too-literal synonym for “sundries,” as is “provisions” (C). There have been many dinners, so “infrequent” (D) is not correct, nor is “few” (E).
- 29 **C** The scene is about how Lord Mayor and his daughter are of a different social class than the Earl of Lincoln, so (C) is the best answer. The Earl of Lincoln does not plan to return Lord Mayor’s generosity: “Seldom or never can we be so kind/To make requital of your courtesy” (lines 3–4) (A). Although he does acknowledge Lord Mayor’s magnanimity, this is not the main effect of the lines (B). The phrase is not designed to flatter (D). Neither of the men wants the younger generation to marry (E).
- 30 **E** The Earl of Lincoln says that Lacy spends too much money, so he won’t be able to provide for Rose (E). By saying Rose is “mean,” Lord Mayor means that she is of a lower class, not that she isn’t nice (A). There is no evidence that courtiers cannot marry (B). No mention is made of the cost of a wedding (C). Lacy *does* love Rose: “He is much affected” (line 6) (D).
- 31 **A** The Earl of Lincoln does not approve of his cousin’s spendthrift ways (A). He is not apathetic, because he obviously cares about his cousin’s welfare (B). Romantic love (C) would not describe the relationship between the Earl of Lincoln and his cousin, but rather the relationship between Lacy and Rose. He does not necessarily “dislike” his cousin (D). “Affection” is not the Earl of Lincoln’s primary emotion, as he insults Lacy (E).

- 32 **A** The Earl of Lincoln does not approve of Lacy's new profession—the line is sarcastic (A). There is nothing that tells us how much shoemakers earn, (B) and (D). The Earl of Lincoln does not want his cousin to be a shoemaker, so he obviously does not admire the profession (C). Shoemaking is not a scientific occupation (E).
- 33 **E** Lord Mayor claims his daughter is too common for Lacy, but his aside shows that he does not think that Lacy is a good match: "I scorn to call him son-in-law" (line 48), although he does not admit this (E). He doesn't feel affection (A), nor does he feel like an uncle (avuncular) (B). He never approves the match (C), nor is there any evidence that he respects Lacy (D).
- 34 **B** An "aside" is when a character speaks directly to the audience while the action "freezes." The audience is intrigued because it is revealed that the Earl of Lincoln is up to no good (B). The aside is designed so that other characters cannot hear it (A). The audience is not alienated by the aside (why would a playwright want to alienate an audience?) (C). No atmosphere of unease is created (D), and because the Earl of Lincoln can't hear the aside, it is not designed to insult him (E).
- 35 **C** Lacy is never described as "poor" but Rose is, so the correct answer is (C). As you reread the dialogue, be careful to note exactly which character is being described. Lacy is described as "affected" (line 6) (A), "high" (line 12) (B), "unthrift" (line 19) (C), and "jolly" (line 29) (D).
- 36 **E** Neither of the characters is saying what he is thinking—as revealed by the asides (E). No one is described as frugal (A). Prodigious means extreme wastefulness or generosity, whereas profligacy means dissipation or licentiousness (B); Lacy is described as profligate, but no one is extremely generous (A). There is no conflict between the younger and older generations (C). There is no contrast between happiness and sorrow in this passage (D).
- 37 **A** The Earl of Lincoln most likely mentions the wars because Lacy has just been appointed a soldier (A). We can't know if there will be a death (B). The Earl does not explain why they are fighting the French (C). The lines do not explain the class system in place (D). There is no mention of a national debate (E).
- 38 **D** The blades of grass are standing before God, so presumably God is talking to them (D). There is no angel (A), nor is St. Peter in the poem (B). God is asking the blades to justify their entry into heaven, so God—not the blades of grass—is speaking (E).
- 39 **C** God is happy at the one little blade's comments so (C) is the best answer. God is not "condescending" (A), "neutral" (B), or "disdainful" (D). God does not show that He is "morally superior" in this poem (E).
- 40 **C** God rewards the one little blade of grass for his modesty in contrast with the other blades' boastfulness (C). There is no evidence that it is better to do nothing (A). The blade is not rewarded for his forgetfulness (B). The blades are boasting of their

accomplishments, not their problems (D). There is no mention of having to tell your bad deeds to someone (E).

- 41 **B** The word “presently” means “after a while.” It has nothing to do with presents or gifts, nor does it mean that the speaker is changing the topic.
- 42 **C** The other blades were all boasting, so the one little one is ashamed and hanging back because he does not feel worthy (C). All of the blades of grass were little; their heights are not compared (A). There is no evidence of disgust (B), or bitterness or loneliness (D). Answer (E) is incorrect because the blade thought his acts were less worthy than the others, not more worthy.
- 43 **A** God’s declaration that the one little blade is the best is surprising (“unexpected”) because it was the one blade that did not admit to any accomplishments (A). There is nothing “satiric” (making fun of) about the phrase (B). It is neither “tragic” (C) nor “comic” (D), nor, since the blade is probably headed to heaven, is there anything “unfortunate” (E).
- 44 **B** God rising up is a dramatic pause which heightens the suspense of the poem (B). There is no evidence that God is egotistical (A), nor is there a shift or change in how the narrator sounds (C). These lines do not echo anything in the poem (and it’s hard to tell if there is more than one stanza) (D). We cannot know the poet’s true feelings (E).
- 45 **B** We do not hear about how God reacts to the other little blades of grass, so His attitude can best be described as “unstated” (B). God is not “ashamed of the blades of grass” (A), nor is He “disgusted” (C) with or “disapproving” (D) of them. He does not feel “melancholy” when considering the blades of grass (E).
- 46 **A** The narrator is poking fun at Lady Bertram so that the reader will laugh, so the tone can best be described as “wry” (A). There is no bitterness in the passage (B). The narrator clearly has opinions regarding Lady Bertram, so “detached” is not correct (C). Although Lady Bertram herself is “melodramatic,” the narrator is not (D). And the narrator is free with her opinions and words, so “secretive” is not correct (E).
- 47 **B** Lady Bertram likes to write about gossip. She can’t write about this news (because the son already has), so it is of no use to her (B). Lady Bertram could not use the news (A). There is nothing that suggests Lady Bertram would relay the news unpleasantly (C). There is no evidence that she could write about only part of the news (D), nor are we told that she was bound to secrecy (E).
- 48 **D** “The want of other employment” means she lacked anything else to do, so (D) is the best answer. She did not require other employment (A). “Desire” (B) is a trap answer because it is a common synonym for “want.” There is no mention of finances (C), and we are not told that her employment is defective (E).



- 49 **E** The Grants are going away, so Lady Bertram won't be able to write about Mr. Grant's illness or things that Mrs. Grant says when she comes over, i.e., she'll have no news (E). There is no evidence that she enjoys the Grants, except for the gossip they provide (A), and she does not assist them (B). There is no evidence that her house is full, nor that they stay with her (C). She has many correspondents (D).
- 50 **B** The phrase is explained in the text that follows it: "so that a very little matter was enough for her" meaning that she could make a small bit of gossip go a long way in her letters (B). She does not inflate the importance of things (A). Answer choice (C) is a too-literal synonym of "amplifying." There is no evidence that she tries to make people sound more important than they are (D), nor is there any mention of her penmanship (E).
- 51 **B** Sir Thomas must be Lady Bertram's husband because she is left with nothing to do when he is in Parliament (plus, if she is a lady, then he must be a lord). There is no evidence that he is her son (A), nor that he is a border (C), nor that he is at all connected to the Grants (D), and his Parliament attendance affects her too much for him to be just a friend (E).
- 52 **A** At the end of the passage, Lady Bertram writes to Fanny, so she must have something to say (A). We don't know what the news is, so we cannot say it is "malicious" (mean) (B). She is not concerned about the news, but rather predicts that Fanny will feel concerned (C), so she is aware of Fanny's feelings (D). If she were really worried about her niece, why would she be telling her the news (E)?
- 53 **D** Lady Bertram likes to gossip, and she is a woman of leisure and title (D). She has friends; she is not a "social pariah" (A). We don't know what others in her family think of her (B). She seems to be very connected to society (C), and we don't know anything about her age, except that she has a niece (which says little about how old she is) (E).
- 54 **D** The phrase implies that she needs the least amount of news to write her niece, but doesn't even have that (D). We have no evidence that she doesn't like her niece (A), or that she is mad at (B) or uncomfortable around (C) her niece. Lady Bertram loves writing letters to anyone, so (E) is not correct.
- 55 **A** The poem is a warning to young women about the pitfalls of vanity (A). There are no myths in the poem (B). The poet is not "sarcastic" (C). The poet warns of fading beauty, so the poet is neither "optimistic" (D) nor "hopeful" (E). Think: Because "optimistic" and "hopeful" are synonyms, they can't both be the right answer, so they should both be eliminated.
- 56 **C** The poem is a warning to young women that beauty fades (C). There is no discussion of the importance of beauty (A). There is no "past lesson" to be learned (B). The primary purpose is not to tell a particular story (D). There is no discussion of death (E).



- 57 **A** The last two lines of the poem describe the woman as someone who used to be pretty and is now old and faded, of which her eyes are an example (A). There is no evidence that the woman is tired (B). That she is blind is a too-literal interpretation of the line (C). There is no mention of disease, only old age (D). Girls cannot be responsible for someone's loss of beauty (E).
- 58 **B** The vain girls are compared to bluebirds—the two groups chatter among themselves (Statements I and II). The teachers are not the carefree chatterers that the poem mentions (Statement III).
- 59 **A** The author describes a beautiful woman who lost beauty with age, so (A) is the best answer. The author is not unyielding (stubborn) (B). There is no evidence of the author's disgust (C). The memories are not particularly "pleasant": ("terrible," "tarnished") (D). The emotions are not hidden (E).
- 60 **C** The girls don't listen to their teachers because the teachers are old, and they don't worry about the future ("weighty subjects") (C). There is no sense of suspicion (A) or the notion that subjects are hard to understand (B). They are not described as frail (in fact, they "twirl" their skirts) (D). There is no evidence that they disregard others' feelings (E).
- 61 **B** The theme of the poem is that people should not waste time on beauty because it does not last (B). Acting quickly is not a theme (A). Neither are the trappings of wealth (C). Truth (D) is not a theme, nor is frugality (E).