

CLEP

Analyzing and Interpreting Literature

Time—90 Minutes
80 Questions

For each question below, choose the best answer from the choices given.

Directions: Questions 1–5 are based on the following passage.

Line A thousand ships from Argive land
Put forth to bear the martial band,
That with a spirit stern and strong
Went out to right the kingdom's wrong-
5 Pealed, as they went, the battle-song,
Wild as the vultures' cry;
When o'er the eyrie, soaring high,
In wild bereaved agony,
Around, around, in airy rings,
10 They wheel with oarage of their wings,
But not the eyas-brood* behold,
That called them to the nest of old;
But let Apollo from the sky,
Or Pan, or Zeus, but hear the cry,
15 The exile cry, the wail forlorn,
Of birds from whom their home is torn-
On those who wrought the rapine fell,

*unfledged birds; specifically, nestling hawks

1. This passage opens with
 - (A) a sea voyage of musicians
 - (B) a departure of an army by sea
 - (C) an invasion by water
 - (D) a storm at sea
 - (E) ships leaving to pick up their cargo
2. What does the speaker compare to the “vultures’ cry” (line 6)?
 - (A) the soldiers’ singing
 - (B) the conquered people’s lamenting
 - (C) the soldiers’ grieving
 - (D) the gods’ songs
 - (E) the exiles’ cry

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3. In line 10 the speaker compares bird's wings to
- (A) feelings of grief
 - (B) airy rings
 - (C) weapons of war
 - (D) the oars of a ship
 - (E) the sea winds
4. In line 17 the word "fell" is used as a(n)
- (A) noun
 - (B) adjective
 - (C) intransitive verb
 - (D) transitive verb
 - (E) adverb
5. In the passage, the speaker's metaphor compares the soldiers' ships to
- (A) the gods
 - (B) dying vultures
 - (C) vultures seeking their nests
 - (D) soldiers' families
 - (E) songs

Directions: Questions 6-10 are based on the following passage.

Line **JULIET:** The clock struck nine when I did send the nurse;
In half an hour she promised to return.
Perchance she cannot meet him: that's not so.
O, she is lame! love's heralds should be thoughts,
5 Which ten times faster glide than the sun's beams,
Driving back shadows over louring hills:
Therefore do nimble-pinion'd doves draw love,
And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings.
Now is the sun upon the highmost hill
10 Of this day's journey, and from nine till twelve
Is three long hours, yet she is not come.
Had she affections and warm youthful blood,
She would be as swift in motion as a ball;
My words would bandy her to my sweet love,
15 And his to me:
But old folks, many feign as they were dead;
Unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead.
O God, she comes!

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6. The dramatic situation suggested by this passage is that of a girl
- (A) dreaming of her absent lover
 - (B) cursing her nurse's sluggish walk
 - (C) waiting for word from her lover
 - (D) hoping that her lover returns her feelings
 - (E) meditating on love
7. In the context of this passage, "love's heralds" (line 4) means
- (A) messengers
 - (B) ambassadors
 - (C) announcers
 - (D) forerunners
 - (E) criers
8. Which of the following best summarizes the meaning of lines 9–11?
- (A) Juliet sees the sun about to set and worries that the nurse may return too late.
 - (B) Juliet watches the sun rise higher in the sky and wonders when the nurse will return.
 - (C) Juliet judges the time of day and calculates how long the nurse has been absent.
 - (D) Juliet is waiting for the sun to rise and for the nurse to return.
 - (E) Juliet marvels at the sun's speed and weighs it against the nurse's slowness.
9. Which of the following assumptions is made in lines 12–13?
- (A) Love is like a fever.
 - (B) Youth and love motivate people to action.
 - (C) Youths are always in love.
 - (D) The nurse is late.
 - (E) The speaker is in love.
10. In the context of the passage, the word "bandy" (line 14) means
- (A) anger
 - (B) love
 - (C) dedicate
 - (D) toss
 - (E) negotiate

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Directions: Questions 11–15 are based on the following passage.

Line Mr. Abraham Adams was an excellent scholar. He
was a perfect master of the Greek and Latin
languages; to which he added a great share of
knowledge in the Oriental tongues; and could read
5 and translate French, Italian, and Spanish. He had
applied many years to the most severe study, and
had treasured up a fund of learning rarely to be met
with in a university. He was, besides, a man of good
sense, good parts, and good nature; but was at the
10 same time as entirely ignorant of the ways of this
world as an infant just entered into it could possibly
be. As he had never any intention to deceive, so he
never suspected such a design in others. He was
generous, friendly, and brave to an excess; but
15 simplicity was his characteristick: he did, no more
than Mr. Colley Cibber, apprehend any such
passions as malice and envy to exist in mankind;
which was indeed less remarkable in a country
parson than in a gentleman who hath passed his life
20 behind the scenes,—a place which hath been
seldom thought the school of innocence, and where
a very little observation would have convinced the
great apologist that those passions have a real
existence in the human mind.

11. In line 7 “fund of learning” is best paraphrased as

- (A) money saved for college
- (B) books and other educational materials
- (C) knowledge
- (D) avoided tuition payments
- (E) education

12. In the context of the passage, “good parts” (line 9) refers to the character’s

- (A) character and talents
- (B) physical appearance
- (C) income and worth
- (D) temper and faith
- (E) class and station

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13. The author compares Mr. Adams with a country parson in order to

- (A) highlight his piety
- (B) stress his humble origins
- (C) emphasize his naiveté
- (D) reveal his ignorance
- (E) establish his propriety

14. What “passions” does the speaker refer to in line 23?

- (A) malice and envy
- (B) love and honor
- (C) fear and courage
- (D) heat and energy
- (E) ambition and desire

15. The passage indicates that the speaker perceives Mr. Adams as

- (A) educated but dull
- (B) book learned but unworldly
- (C) astute but uneducated
- (D) cynical but kind
- (E) gifted but unmotivated

Directions: Questions 16–21 are based on the following passage.

Chorus

- Line* NOT marching now in fields of Trasimene,
Where Mars did mate¹ the Carthaginians;
Nor sporting in the dalliance of love,
In courts of kings where state is overturned'd;
5 Nor in the pomp of proud audacious deeds,
Intends our Muse to vaunt his heavenly verse:
Only this, gentlemen,—we must perform
The form of Faustus' fortunes, good or bad.
To patient judgments we appeal our plaud,²
10 And speak for Faustus in his infancy.
Now is he born, his parents base of stock,
In Germany, within a town call'd Rhodes;³
Of riper years to Wittenberg he went,
Whereas his kinsmen chiefly brought him up.

- 15 So soon he profits in divinity,
The fruitful plot of scholarism grac'd,⁴
That shortly he was grac'd with doctor's name,
Excelling all those sweet delight disputes
In heavenly matters of theology;
- 20 Till swollen with cunning,⁵ of a self-conceit,
His waxen wings⁶ did mount above his reach,
And, melting, Heavens conspir'd his overthrow;
For, falling to a devilish exercise,
And glutted [now] with learning's golden gifts,
- 25 He surfeits upon cursed necromancy.
Nothing so sweet as magic is to him,
Which he prefers before his chiefest bliss.
And this the man that in his study sits! [Exit.]

1. Confound.
2. For applause.
3. Roda, in the Duchy of Saxe-Altenburg, near Jena.
4. The garden of scholarship being adorned by him.
5. Knowledge.
6. An allusion to the myth of Icarus, whose wax wings melted when flew too near the sun.

16. In lines 1–6, the Chorus

- (A) outlines the play's plot in general terms
- (B) says what the play will not be about
- (C) introduces the play's major characters
- (D) underlines the play's moral conflict
- (E) states his desire to be in the play

17. In lines 7–8, the Chorus states that the

- (A) play will provoke applause
- (B) author is Faustus
- (C) play will focus on a single character
- (D) lead actor is Faustus
- (E) actors must perform well

18. The phrase “base of stock” (line 11) can be best paraphrased as

- (A) down-to-earth
- (B) rooted
- (C) in debtor's prison
- (D) neglected and infirm
- (E) lower social class

19. Lines 15–19 detail Faustus’

- (A) education
- (B) family life
- (C) childhood
- (D) religious life
- (E) character

20. In the context of this passage, lines 20–27 shows that Faustus’ chief fault was his

- (A) temper
- (B) pride
- (C) sloth
- (D) love
- (E) curiosity

21. The dramatic purpose of the final line of the passage is to

- (A) express Faustus’ loneliness
- (B) emphasize Faustus’ love of learning
- (C) heighten the dramatic tension
- (D) set the stage for the coming scene
- (E) conclude the play

Directions: Questions 22–25 are based on the following passage.

Line If ever two were one, then surely we.
 If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
 If ever wife was happy in a man,
 Compare with me, ye women, if you can.

5 I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
 Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
 My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
 Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.
 Thy love is such I can no way repay,

10 The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
 Then while we live, in love let’s so persevere
 That when we live no more, we may live ever.

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22. In line 7, the speaker compares her love to

- (A) hunger
- (B) water
- (C) bliss
- (D) thirst
- (E) fire

23. In which of the following sentences is the word “ought” used in the same way as in line 8?

- (A) You ought to pay your debts.
- (B) You ought to keep warm.
- (C) Today ought to be the 4th of July.
- (D) For ought he knew the man was lying.
- (E) She ought to be here by now.

24. The final line is an example of

- (A) paradox
- (B) exposition
- (C) onomatopoeia
- (D) hyperbole
- (E) simile

25. The author addresses the poem to

- (A) her husband
- (B) God
- (C) her lover
- (D) lovers
- (E) Christians

Directions: Questions 26–29 are based on the following passage.

Line It is not, Celia, in our power
To say how long our love will last;
It may be we within this hour
May lose those joys we now do taste;
5 The Blessèd, that immortal be,
From change in love are only free.

Then since we mortal lovers are,
Ask not how long our love will last;
But while it does, let us take care

10 Each minute be with pleasure past:
Were it not madness to deny
To live because we're sure to die?

26. In the first stanza, the poet suggests that love

- (A) is eternal
- (B) comes and goes from hour to hour
- (C) can end at any time
- (D) is short lasting
- (E) is most precious

27. In the context of the poem, lines 5–6 mean

- (A) lovers are only free because their love may end
- (B) only God's love is eternal
- (C) love lasts forever in heaven
- (D) changes in love can be good
- (E) true lovers live forever

28. The poet uses which of the following techniques to argue love's merits in lines 11–12?

- (A) parallelism
- (B) allegory
- (C) repetition
- (D) humor
- (E) analogy

29. Which of the following best describes the poem's structure?

- (A) The first stanza says that love wanes while the second stanza says that love requests patience.
- (B) The first stanza says that love is illusory while the second stanza urges faith.
- (C) The first stanza says that love is delicious while the second stanza urges moderation.
- (D) The first stanza says that love dies while the second stanza advises people to enjoy love while it lasts.
- (E) The first stanza says that love lives in God while the second stanza praises piety.

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Directions: Questions 30–35 are based on the following passage.

- Line With this shadow on his mind he did not
 care to show himself in the village, and went
 homeward by a roundabout track behind a high
 hedge and across a pasture. Here he beheld scores
5 of coupled earthworms lying half their length on the
 surface of the damp ground, as they always did in
 such weather at that time of the year. It was
 impossible to advance in regular steps without
 crushing some of them at each tread.
- 10 Though Farmer Troutham had just hurt him,
 he was a boy who could not himself bear to hurt
 anything. He had never brought home a nest of
 young birds without lying awake in misery half the
 night after, and often re-instating them and the nest
15 in their original place the next morning. He could
 scarcely bear to see trees cut down or lopped, from
 a fancy that it hurt them; and late pruning, when the
 sap was up and the tree bled profusely, had been a
 positive grief to him in his infancy. This weakness
20 of character, as it may be called, suggested that he
 was the sort of man who was born to ache a good
 deal before the fall of the curtain upon his
 unnecessary life should signify that all was well
 with him again. He carefully picked his way on
25 tiptoe among the earthworms, without killing a
 single one.

30. In the opening line of the passage, the phrase “shadow on his mind” probably refers to a(n)

- (A) anxiety
- (B) shyness
- (C) hatred
- (D) memory loss
- (E) desire

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31. In lines 19–20, the narrator qualifies the character’s “weakness” with the phrase “as it may be called” because he
- (A) identifies a weakness that is clearly helpful
 - (B) is unsure that the character is truly weak
 - (C) is addressing this weakness for the first time
 - (D) feels he shouldn’t criticize the character
 - (E) feels the trait is not really so bad
32. What does the “fall of the curtain” represent in line 22?
- (A) birth
 - (B) death
 - (C) marriage
 - (D) puberty
 - (E) retirement
33. The last sentence of the passage serve to emphasize the character’s
- (A) weakness
 - (B) sensitivity
 - (C) cruelty
 - (D) hesitation
 - (E) immaturity
34. Which of the following best describes the structure of the second paragraph in the passage?
- (A) Examples are given, a claim is made, a conclusion is reached.
 - (B) A prediction is made, proof is presented, and the claim is justified.
 - (C) A claim is made, examples are provided, and a conclusion is made.
 - (D) A characteristic is identified, expanded upon, and disproved.
 - (E) Failings are cited and refuted, a success is identified.
35. The narrator’s understanding of the character’s feelings in this passage indicate that the narrator is
- (A) optimistic
 - (B) pessimistic
 - (C) omniscient
 - (D) critical
 - (E) unreliable

Directions: Questions 36–40 are based on the following passage.

The Busy Heart

Line Now that we've done our best and worst, and parted,
I would fill my mind with thoughts that will not rend.
(O heart, I do not dare go empty-hearted)
I'll think of Love in books, Love without end;
5 Women with child, content; and old men sleeping;
And wet strong ploughlands, scarred for certain grain;
And babes that weep, and so forget their weeping;
And the young heavens, forgetful after rain;
And evening hush, broken by homing wings;
10 And Song's nobility, and Wisdom holy,
That live, we dead. I would think of a thousand things,
Lovely and durable, and taste them slowly,
One after one, like tasting a sweet food.
I have need to busy my heart with quietude.

36. In the context of the poem, the first line refers to

- (A) dying
- (B) returning from war
- (C) lovers separating
- (D) a game ending
- (E) friends leaving

37. In lines 4–10 the author summons up

- (A) private fantasies
- (B) comforting thoughts
- (C) sad memories
- (D) memories of old friends
- (E) miserable recollections

38. The word “dead” in line 11 refers to a

- (A) lover
- (B) day
- (C) parent
- (D) bird
- (E) relationship

39. The antecedent of “them” line 12 is

- (A) foods
- (B) feelings
- (C) opinions
- (D) memories
- (E) beliefs

40. The final line explains that the speaker wishes to fill his heart with feelings

- (A) for his lover
- (B) of awe and wonder
- (C) about the natural world
- (D) concerning his family
- (E) of peace and calm

Directions: Questions 41–49 are based on the following passage.

Line In short, Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman.
The mother-women seemed to prevail that summer
at Grand Isle. It was easy to know them, fluttering
about with extended, protecting wings when any

5 harm, real or imaginary, threatened their precious
brood. They were women who idolized their
children, worshipped their husbands, and esteemed
it a holy privilege to efface themselves as
individuals and grow wings as ministering angels.

10 Many of them were delicious in the role; one of
them was the embodiment of every womanly grace
and charm. If her husband did not adore her, he
was a brute, deserving of death by slow torture. Her
name was Adele Ratignolle. There are no words to

15 describe her save the old ones that have served so
often to picture the bygone heroine of romance and
the fair lady of our dreams. There was nothing
subtle or hidden about her charms; her beauty was
all there, flaming and apparent: the spun-gold hair

20 that comb nor confining pin could restrain; the blue
eyes that were like nothing but sapphires; two lips
that pouted, that were so red one could only think of
cherries or some other delicious crimson fruit in
looking at them. She was growing a little stout, but

25 it did not seem to detract an iota from the grace of
every step, pose, gesture. One would not have
wanted her white neck a mite less full or her
beautiful arms more slender. Never were hands
more exquisite than hers, and it was a joy to look at
30 them when she threaded her needle or adjusted her
gold thimble to her taper middle finger as she sewed
away on the little night-drawers or fashioned a
bodice or a bib.

41. In the context of the passage, the word “prevail” in line 2 means that mother-women were

- (A) beautiful
- (B) victorious
- (C) predominant
- (D) effective
- (E) persuasive

42. To what is the author referring to by “precious brood” in lines 5–6?

- (A) chickens
- (B) friends
- (C) acquaintances
- (D) children
- (E) husbands

43. In line 8, the speaker refers to the “holy privilege” of sacrificing

- (A) autonomy to satisfy the demands of family
- (B) personality to be attractive to a husband
- (C) career to enjoy family life
- (D) financial independence to be supported
- (E) objectivity for love

44. The manner in which the speaker uses the word “role” in line 10 indicates that she believes the women

- (A) behave to fulfill social expectations
- (B) are truly happy
- (C) intend to conceal their true feelings
- (D) vie for attention as the best performer
- (E) walk through their parts with little excitement

45. In the context of the passage, lines 12–13 serve to
- (A) highlight the complacency of most husbands
 - (B) emphasize how wonderful the woman was
 - (C) stress her husband’s physical dominance
 - (D) express the speaker’s negativity
 - (E) suggest that Adele was really not a good mother
46. In lines 17–24, the speaker describes a sort of beauty that contrasts with the character’s
- (A) temperament
 - (B) ethnicity
 - (C) domesticity
 - (D) social class
 - (E) judgment
47. Which of the following best characterizes the speaker’s attitude toward all the “mother-women?”
- (A) Deferential
 - (B) Sympathetic
 - (C) Insolent
 - (D) Consoling
 - (E) Antagonistic
48. In particular, the narrator speaks of Mrs. Ratignolle in tones of
- (A) admiration
 - (B) pity
 - (C) astonishment
 - (D) regret
 - (E) disdain

Directions: Questions 49–55 are based on the following passage.

Line A seat in this boat was not unlike a seat upon a
bucking broncho, and, by the same token, a broncho
is not much smaller. The craft pranced and reared,
and plunged like an animal. As each wave came,
5 and she rose for it, she seemed like a horse making
at a fence outrageously high. The manner of her
scramble over these walls of water is a mystic thing,
and, moreover, at the top of them were ordinarily
these problems in white water, the foam racing

10 down from the summit of each wave, requiring a
new leap, and a leap from the air. Then, after
scornfully bumping a crest, she would slide, and
race, and splash down a long incline, and arrive
bobbing and nodding in front of the next menace.

15 A singular disadvantage of the sea lies in the fact
that after successfully surmounting one wave you
discover that there is another behind it just as
important and just as nervously anxious to do
something effective in the way of swamping boats.

20 In a ten-foot dinghy one can get an idea of the
resources of the sea in the line of waves that is not
probable to the average experience which is never at
sea in a dinghy. As each salty wall of water
approached, it shut all else from the view of the

25 men in the boat, and it was not difficult to imagine
that this particular wave was the final outburst of
the ocean, the last effort of the grim water. There
was a terrible grace in the move of the waves, and
they came in silence, save for the snarling of the

30 crests.

49. The meaning of the phrase “by the same token” (line 2) can be best paraphrased as

- (A) of the same style
- (B) in a manner of speaking
- (C) using the same comparison
- (D) a roughly equal amount
- (E) costing the same amount

50. In line 4, the author describes the behavior of the boat using a

- (A) metaphor
- (B) simile
- (C) symbol
- (D) paradox
- (E) motif

51. The antecedent of “her” in line 6 is the

- (A) boat
- (B) broncho
- (C) passenger
- (D) sea
- (E) wave

52. The author’s choice of the word “scornfully” in line 12 is an example of

- (A) allegory
- (B) personification
- (C) irony
- (D) exposition
- (E) hyperbole

53. In lines 15–19, the speaker describes progressive waves as

- (A) defiant
- (B) eager
- (C) passive
- (D) kindly
- (E) apathetic

54. The author suggests that the inability of the passengers to see more than the present member of an infinite progression of waves produces feelings of

- (A) seasickness
- (B) anger
- (C) fulfillment
- (D) frustration
- (E) elation

55. In this passage, nature is presented as

- (A) indifferent to human distress
- (B) determined to destroy human life
- (C) persistent but remorseful
- (D) nurturing and compassionate
- (E) mysterious and unfathomable

Directions: Questions 56–60 are based on the following passage.

Line Nothing could exceed the intentness with which this
 scientific gardener examined every shrub which
 grew in his path: it seemed as if he was looking into
 their inmost nature, making observations in regard
5 to their creative essence, and discovering why one
 leaf grew in this shape and another in that, and
 wherefore such and such flowers differed among
 themselves in hue and perfume. Nevertheless, in
 spite of this deep intelligence on his part, there was
10 no approach to intimacy between himself and these
 vegetable existences. On the contrary, he avoided
 their actual touch or the direct inhaling of their
 odors with a caution that impressed Giovanni most
 disagreeably; for the man's demeanor was that of
15 one walking among malignant influences, such as
 savage beasts, or deadly snakes, or evil spirits,
 which, should he allow them one moment of
 license, would wreak upon him some terrible
 fatality. It was strangely frightful to the young
20 man's imagination to see this air of insecurity in a
 person cultivating a garden, that most simple and
 innocent of human toils, and which had been alike
 the joy and labor of the unfallen parents of the race.
 Was this garden, then, the Eden of the present
25 world? And this man, with such a perception of
 harm in what his own hands caused to grow—was
 he the Adam?

56. In lines 1–7, the narrator describes the gardener's technique as

- (A) experimental
- (B) innovative
- (C) reckless
- (D) gentle
- (E) analytical

57. Lines 8–11 primarily suggest that the gardener

- (A) is squeamish
- (B) does not love his plants
- (C) takes his job seriously
- (D) enjoys his work
- (E) lacks enthusiasm

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58. In the context of the passage, the word “license” (line 18) means

- (A) permission
- (B) freedom
- (C) authority
- (D) sensuality
- (E) continence

59. The young man mentioned in lines 19–20 views gardening as normally

- (A) supporting human life
- (B) a pleasant and enjoyable pursuit
- (C) an unscientific pastime
- (D) the basis of human civilization
- (E) an unwanted chore

60. The attitude of the narrator towards the gardener can be best described as

- (A) sarcastic
- (B) curious
- (C) admiring
- (D) tolerant
- (E) uneasy

Directions: Questions 61–65 are based on the following passage.

- Line There was a good deal of pleasant gossip about old
 Captain “Hurricane” Jones, of the Pacific Ocean,—
 peace to his ashes! Two or three of us present had
 known him; I, particularly well, for I had made four
5 sea-voyages with him. He was a very remarkable
 man. He was born on a ship; he picked up what
 little education he had among his shipmates; he
 began life in the forecastle, and climbed grade by
 grade to the captaincy. More than fifty years of his
10 sixty-five were spent at sea. He had sailed all
 oceans, seen all lands, and borrowed a tint from all
 climates. When a man has been fifty years at sea, he
 necessarily knows nothing of men, nothing of the
 world but its surface, nothing of the world’s
15 thought, nothing of the world’s learning but its A B
 C, and that blurred and distorted by the unfocused
 lenses of an untrained mind. Such a man is only a
 gray and bearded child. That is what old Hurricane
 Jones was,—simply an innocent, lovable old infant.
20 When his spirit was in repose he was as sweet and
 gentle as a girl; when his wrath was up he was a
 hurricane that made his nickname seem tamely
 descriptive.

61. The phrase “peace to his ashes” (line 3) indicates that Captain Jones

- (A) was peaceful to the end
- (B) commanded a coal fired steamship
- (C) was cremated
- (D) died long ago
- (E) was an inveterate smoker

62. Based on the passage, one might conclude that the forecastle (line 8) was the

- (A) hospital wing of the ship
- (B) location for novice employees
- (C) sleeping quarters on the ship
- (D) educational center of the ship
- (E) office of the captain

63. The phrase “borrow a tint” in line 11 suggests that the captain

- (A) was a debtor
- (B) was a colorful character
- (C) adopted ideas from all over the world
- (D) had a weathered look
- (E) drank too much alcohol

64. Which of the following best summarizes the speaker’s meaning when he states that the Captain knew “nothing of the world but its surface” (lines 13–14)?

- (A) He knew only the ocean on which he sailed.
- (B) He understood only the location of cities, not their character.
- (C) He perceived space as having only two dimensions.
- (D) He had an extraordinary knowledge of geography.
- (E) He failed to appreciate the deeper meaning of things.

65. The expression “old infant” (line 19) is an example of

- (A) irony
- (B) paradox
- (C) foreshadowing
- (D) oxymoron
- (E) parable

Directions: Questions 66–70 are based on the following paragraph.

“A Birthday,” by Christina Rossetti

My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a water’d shoot;
My heart is like an apple-tree
Whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a halcyon sea;
My heart is gladder than all these,
Because my love is come to me.

Raise me a daïs of silk and down;
Hang it with vair and purple dyes;
Carve it in doves and pomegranates,
And peacocks with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes,
In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lys;
Because the birthday of my life
Is come, my love is come to me.

- 66.** In the first stanza, the poet compares her heart to three things, only one of which
- a. can be heard
 - b. is a human female
 - c. means a strong emotion
 - d. is able to speak of love
 - e. can write poetry
- 67.** In naming the poem “A Birthday,” the poet is suggesting that the day her love has come to her is
- a. actually the same day as her birthday
 - b. one she’ll always remember and celebrate
 - c. her lover’s birthday
 - d. when she meets him at a birthday party
 - e. when she first knows she will marry him
- 68.** Even if you do not know what a “halcyon sea” is, you can infer from the context that it is
- a. stormy and frightening
 - b. descriptive of a particular place
 - c. dangerous for ships and swimmers
 - d. one that the poet’s lover must cross to reach her
 - e. a time or place that is happy and peaceful
- 69.** The use of such terms as “silk and down,” “purple dyes,” and carved “doves and pomegranates/And peacocks with a hundred eyes” suggests
- a. celebrating with a feast
 - b. handcrafted artwork
 - c. a drama
 - d. a sporting event
 - e. a musical event
- 70.** Which of the following statements is the best summary of the poem?
- a. Only a work of art can express the depth of my love.
 - b. Only a song can express how I feel about my love.
 - c. My love is nothing I can speak of to anyone.
 - d. Nothing can compare to the joy my love gives me.
 - e. My love has been gone and now has returned.

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Directions: Questions 71–75 are based on “A Leave-Taking” by Algernon Charles Swinburne.

Line Let us go hence, my songs; she will not hear.

Let us go hence together without fear;
Keep silence now, for singing time is over,
And over all old things and all things dear.

5 She loves not you nor me as we all love her.

Yea, though we sang as angels in her ear,
She would not hear.

Let us rise up and part; she will not know.

Let us go seaward as the great winds go,

10 Full of blown sand and foam; what help is here?

There is no help, for all these things are so,
And all the world is bitter as a tear.
And how these things are, though ye strove to show,
She would not know.

15 Let us go home and hence; she will not weep.

We gave love many dreams and days to keep,
Flowers without scent, and fruits that would not grow,
Saying, ‘If thou wilt, thrust in thy sickle and reap.’
All is reaped now; no grass is left to mow;

20 And we that sowed, though all we fell on sleep,

She would not weep.

Let us go hence and rest; she will not love.

She shall not hear us if we sing hereof,
Nor see love’s ways, how sore they are and steep.

25 Come hence, let be, lie still; it is enough.

Love is a barren sea, bitter and deep;
And though she saw all heaven in flower above,
She would not love.

Let us give up, go down; she will not care.

30 Though all the stars made gold of all the air,

And the sea moving saw before it move
One moon–flower making all the foam–flowers fair;
Though all those waves went over us, and drove
Deep down the stifling lips and drowning hair,

35 She would not care.

Let us go hence, go hence; she will not see.
Sing all once more together; surely she,
She too, remembering days and words that were,
Will turn a little toward us, sighing; but we,

40 We are hence, we are gone, as though we had not been there.
Nay, and though all men seeing had pity on me,
She would not see.

71. What feeling is the poet expressing in these lines?

- a. Concern
- b. Heartbreak
- c. Admiration
- d. Doubt
- e. Anxiety

72. What seems to hurt the poet most about the woman's attitude?

- a. No one feels any sympathy for him.
- b. She has gone.
- c. She never loved him.
- d. He is not the only one she has stopped loving.
- e. She will not respond to anything he does.

73. Lines 18 and 19 are an example of

- a. personification
- b. a metaphor
- c. exaggeration
- d. a rhyming couplet
- e. a simile

74. What suggestion does the poet make as a last resort for reaching the woman?

- a. Bringing her flowers with a strong scent
- b. Going down to the sea to watch the waves
- c. Having her gaze at the nighttime sky
- d. Singing to her one last time
- e. Leaving her to think things over

75. With which line does the poet reveal that he has no hope the woman will even remember any of them with love?
- a. "We are gone, as though we had not been there."
 - b. "Love is a barren sea, bitter and deep."
 - c. "And all the world is bitter as a tear."
 - d. "Let us rise up and part; she will not know."
 - e. "Keep silence now, for singing-time is over."

Directions: Questions 76–80 are based on these lines.

"The Listeners," by Walter de la Mare

- Line "Is there anybody there?" said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest's ferny floor.
- 5 And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller's head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;
"Is there anybody there?" he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
- 10 No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
- 15 Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Harkening in an air stirred and shaken
- 20 By the lonely Traveller's call.
And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
- 25 For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
"Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word," he said.
Never the least stir made the listeners,

- 30 Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
 From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
 And the sound of iron on stone,
- 35 And how the silence surged softly backward,
 When the plunging hoofs were gone.

76. What is the general atmosphere created by these lines?

- a. Suspicious
- b. Humorous
- c. Terrifying
- d. Mysterious
- e. Unearthly

77. What word best describes how the Traveller feels?

- a. Angry
- b. Baffled
- c. Frightened
- d. Annoyed
- e. Guilty

78. The phrase “a host of phantom listeners” (line 13) suggests that

- a. there are no real people anywhere nearby
- b. the Traveller himself is only a phantom
- c. anyone in the house is fast asleep
- d. any listeners are afraid to answer the Traveller
- e. the scene may exist only in someone’s imagination

79. What is the likely source of “the sound of iron on stone” (line 34)?

- a. Horseshoes on a gravel road
- b. The Traveller pounding on the front door
- c. The Traveller’s foot as he puts it in the stirrup
- d. Someone opening a window in the house
- e. A metal knocker on the door

80. What does the word “smote” mean in the context of these lines?

- a. Struck
- b. Defeated
- c. Killed
- d. Occurred to
- e. Affected

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- 1. The correct answer is B.** The first two lines state that a thousand ships departed carrying a "martial band," an army.
- 2. The correct answer is A.** The speaker compares the soldiers' battle-song (line 5) to the cry of vultures.
- 3. The correct answer is D.** The speaker compares the returning ships to birds circling in the sky turning on wings that the speaker compares to the oars of a ship.
- 4. The correct answer is B.** In line 17 "fell" is an adjective meaning "fierce" which modifies the noun rapine. The phrase "rapine fell" means fierce pillaging or plunder.
- 5. The correct answer is C.** The primary metaphor of the passage compares the soldiers' ships to vultures circling looking for their nests.
- 6. The correct answer is C.** In this passage, Juliet is waiting for her nurse to return with word from her lover.
- 7. The correct answer is A.** Juliet uses the "love's heralds" to speak about the ideal messenger for lovers. She is critical of her nurse, who is acting as a slow messenger between herself and her lover.
- 8. The correct answer is C.** Juliet notes that the sun is directly overhead ("upon the highmost hill") and therefore it is noon. She then calculates that it has been three hours since the nurse left at 9:00 a.m.
- 9. The correct answer is B.** In these two lines Juliet suggests that if her nurse was young and in love, she would be swift to carry out her tasks as a messenger. Juliet assumes that youth and love motivate people to action.
- 10. The correct answer is D.** Juliet says that the nurse would be swift as a ball if she were young and in love.
- 11. The correct answer is C.** In the context of the passage, the "fund of learning" refers to the knowledge acquired over years of diligent study.
- 12. The correct answer is A.** The expression "good parts" refers to a person's character, capacity, or talents.
- 13. The correct answer is C.** The author compares Mr. Adams to a country parson, saying that Mr. Adams' naiveté would be more understandable if he led the innocent life of a rural preacher rather than living among people who are anything but innocent.
- 14. The correct answer is A.** The "passions" mentioned in line 23 refer to the "malice and envy" mentioned in line 17.
- 15. The correct answer is B.** The speaker describes Mr. Adams as very well educated and knowledgeable but unworldly and incapable of seeing the faults in his fellow men. He knows a great deal about what is in books but his good nature prevents him from understanding the darker motivation of those around him.
- 16. The correct answer is B.** The Chorus begins the play by listing typical grand themes which might drive the drama of a play; however, the Chorus states that none of these themes will be the subject of this particular play.

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- 17. The correct answer is C.** Here, the Chorus says that the play will focus one character, Faustus.
- 18. The correct answer is E.** In the expression "base of stock," "base" means "low" and "stock" refers to his family's heritage. Faustus was born to a family of a low social class.
- 19. The correct answer is A.** This section of the passage details Faustus' educational progress earning a doctorate in study of religion.
- 20. The correct answer is B.** Lines 20–27 show Faustus to have been overly proud of his learning—"swollen with cunning, of a self-conceit." His pride fuels his ambition, which leads to his downfall.
- 21. The correct answer is D.** The Chorus has introduced the main character, Dr. Faustus. The final line sets the stage for the next scene by identifying the man sitting in the study.
- 22. The correct answer is E.** The speaker compares her love to a fire when she says that even rivers cannot "quench" (extinguish or put out) her love.
- 23. The correct answer is D.** In line 8, the word "ought" is used to mean "all" or "anything." In the sentence which best matches this meaning "ought" also means "all"; "for ought (all) he knew the man was lying." He had no evidence that the man wasn't lying.
- 24. The correct answer is A.** The final line is an example of paradox because the speaker talks about a situation where she and her loved one are both alive and dead. No one can be both alive and dead, so this is a paradox.
- 25. The correct answer is A.** The first four lines of the poem establish that the author is addressing the poem to her husband. This is especially clear in line 2: "If ever man were loved by wife, then thee."
- 26. The correct answer is C.** In the first stanza the poet tells his lover that they cannot know how long their love will last; it could end "within this hour."
- 27. The correct answer is B.** The word "Blessèd" in line 5 begins with a capital letter, suggesting it is a being. When added to line 6, the likely interpretation is that only God's love is constant and never changing.
- 28. The correct answer is E.** The poet argues that it would be madness to stop living because we know that we will eventually die, and that by analogy it would be foolish to stop loving because love is doomed to die.
- 29. The correct answer is D.** In the first stanza, the poet explains that love is doomed to die and the second stanza advises people to enjoy love while it lasts.
- 30. The correct answer is A.** The "shadow" the character feels on his mind is an anxiety he is currently experiencing. He may be shy, hateful or desirous, but all that is clear from this passage is that he is anxious about something.
- 31. The correct answer is E.** The author realizes that the character's unwillingness to witness or cause harm
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is not a bad quality in and of itself, but rather a trait which will bring the character unhappiness. It is by this qualified standard that he deems the boy's sensitivity a "weakness."

32. The correct answer is B. The narrator uses the figurative expression of the "fall of the curtain" to speak about the character's death at some time in the future.

33. The correct answer is B. In the last three lines the character demonstrates his sensitivity by carefully picking his way among the vulnerable earthworms.

34. The correct answer is C. In the second paragraph, the author makes the claim that the character could not bear to see or cause harm to other creatures. The author then provides examples and makes a conclusion about how this will bring the character pain in the future.

35. The correct answer is C. This passage is narrated by a third-person omniscient narrator. This form of narrative allows the author to describe the feelings the characters experience such as the anxiety and hurt the character senses in this passage.

36. The correct answer is C. The first line sets up the poem's topic: how to deal with the pain of separating from a lover.

37. The correct answer is B. In this section of the poem the author summons up comforting thoughts to fill the empty space left in his heart following a failed relationship.

38. The correct answer is E. "That live, we dead" means that while each person is alive independently, the relationship between the lovers is dead.

39. The correct answer is D. The speaker explains how he slowly appreciates the flavor of the memories he has conjured up to fill the empty space in his heart.

40. The correct answer is E. The speaker states that he wishes to feel peaceful and calm thoughts so that he can recover from the loss of a love.

41. The correct answer is C. The speaker observes that most of the women on Great Isle were "mother-women," in other words, they predominated.

42. The correct answer is D. The speaker compares the "mother-women" with hens who watch their children to prevent them from getting into trouble.

43. The correct answer is A. The author critically observes that the "mother-women" viewed their sacrifice of individuality to attend to their families as a privilege rather than a burden.

44. The correct answer is A. In line 10, the word "role" suggests that the women are playing a part to fulfill social expectations rather than living life just for themselves.

45. The correct answer is B. The speaker states that the woman in question (Adele Ratignolle) was so wonderful that her husband must have appreciated her or he would deserve the worst punishment.

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- 46. The correct answer is C.** The speaker describes Ms. Ratignolle's beauty as "flaming and apparent." Thus, her extravagant beauty contrasts with her staid domestic existence.
- 47. The correct answer is B.** Although the passage is written from the perspective of someone other than a "mother-woman," the description of Mrs. Ratignolle shows great sympathy for her and praises her better qualities.
- 48. The correct answer is A.** The speaker describes Mrs. Ratignolle in tones of great admiration. She describes her as the height of motherly virtue and beauty.
- 49. The correct answer is C.** The expression "by the same token" invites comparison using the same standard of reference. The boat bucked like a broncho and was roughly the same size.
- 50. The correct answer is B.** The author writes that the boat "plunged like an animal." This type of comparison that uses "like" or "as" is a simile.
- 51. The correct answer is A.** Boats and ships are customarily referred to with feminine pronouns—"her" refers to the boat.
- 52. The correct answer is B.** *Personification* is giving human traits to nonhuman things. For example: "The book begged to be read." A boat is not really capable of doing anything "scornfully." The use of the adverb "scornfully" in this instance gives the boat a personality.
- 53. The correct answer is B.** The author describes the infinite progression of waves as "nervously anxious" to sink the boat. He gives the impression that each is eager for chance to sink the craft.
- 54. The correct answer is D.** The author expresses how easy it is to imagine that each wave is the final test for the boat. This leads to frustration as a new wave, just as large and just as menacing, approaches the boat.
- 55. The correct answer is A.** The author gives the impression that nature is indifferent to human distress. The sea is doing what the sea does, without any motivation at all.
- 56. The correct answer is E.** The narrator calls the gardener "scientific," describing his analytical approach of noting differences in the plants' growth.
- 57. The correct answer is B.** This section of the passage indicates that despite the gardener's obvious intellectual interest in the plants, he does not love them. For him, gardening is an intellectual exercise.
- 58. The correct answer is B.** The gardener acts as if giving the plants freedom of action would be as dangerous as giving the dangerous beasts listed in line 17 free reign within the garden.
- 59. The correct answer is B.** The young man is disturbed to see the gardener so fearful of his plants. He views gardening as a pleasant and enjoyable pursuit that should give no cause for alarm.
- 60. The correct answer is E.** The narrator is uneasy about the gardener. He describes the gardener's behavior
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as disturbingly unusual and difficult to understand. Something about the way he acts is wrong.

61. The correct answer is C. The context of the passage suggests that the Captain is dead and that he was cremated. The speaker wishes "peace" to the ashes of his burned body.

62. The correct answer is B. The sentence suggests that Captain Jones worked his way up from the bottom, rising to the rank of captain. Since he began his career in the forecastle, we can assume that this is the typical place for novice employees to work on the ship.

63. The correct answer is D. The captain had traveled in all climates and experienced the weather of all seasons. His appearance showed the effects of all the weather he had experienced.

64. The correct answer is E. The speaker describes the Captain as an uneducated man who was incapable of profound or critical thought. He understood everything as he first perceived it and dug no deeper to find out the true meaning of anything.

65. The correct answer is D. The expression "old infant" combines two terms which are mutually exclusive. No infant can be "old" and no old person can be an "infant."

66. The correct answer is A. The singing bird is the only one that a human can hear. The poet probably mentioned it because a bird's song is often used as a symbol of happiness. Choice B is incorrect because other than the poet, there are no human females mentioned or suggested in the poem. Choice C is incorrect because while the poem suggests the joy of being in love, the poet does not specifically name love or any other emotion. Choice D is incorrect because, of the three things mentioned, none is able to speak. Choice E is incorrect because only humans can write poetry.

67. The correct answer is B. The poet is using "a birthday" to suggest it is a day to remember and celebrate. Choice A is incorrect because the poet is speaking metaphorically when she speaks of a birthday. Choice C is incorrect because there is no mention of a lover's birthday. Choice D is incorrect because there is no mention of an event as specific as a party. Choice E is incorrect because, despite her great love, there is no mention of marriage.

68. The correct answer is E. A halcyon is a mythical bird that breeds in a nest floating at sea, having charmed the winds and waves to be calm and peaceful. Choices A and C are incorrect because the poem suggests only pleasant, peaceful images, not storms or dangers. Choice B is incorrect because no particular place is mentioned. Choice D is incorrect because there is no indication in the lines that the lover has been overseas.

69. The correct answer is B. One clue to the answer is the use of the phrase "raise me a dais" and a second clue is "Work it in gold and silver grapes." Both suggest that someone should design and craft a piece of art in honor of the speaker's new-found love. Although food is mentioned twice, in "silver grapes," which would not be edible, and "pomegranates," which must be carved, possibly out of wood, choice A is incorrect. Choice C is incorrect because there is no suggestion of a stage performance. Choice D is incorrect because there is no mention of sports. Choice B is incorrect because there is no mention of music in the poem aside from the bird's song.

70. The correct answer is D. As the poet says after comparing the state of her emotions to three things, "My

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heart is gladder than all these." Choice A is a possible answer because the poet describes a work of art that might commemorate her love. However, she does not say it is the only way to do so. Choice B is incorrect because there is no suggestion of a musical composition. Choice C is incorrect because the poem itself is broadcasting her emotional state. Choice E is also incorrect; while the reader understands that the lover is there, there is no suggestion that he went on a journey and then returned.

71. The correct answer is B. The poet compares his emotion to such dark and hopeless things as "flowers without scent," "a barren sea," and a world as "bitter as a tear." Choice A is a possibility, but the poet's emotion is stronger than mere concern. Choice C is incorrect because though he still loves the woman, he cannot admire her. Choice D is incorrect because the poet no longer has any doubts about his relationship, as when he says "She would not love," no matter what he did. Choice E is incorrect because the poet's feelings go well beyond just anxiety.

72. The correct answer is E. Though he describes his efforts to reach her—such as singing to her—she behaves as though she cannot even hear. Choice A is incorrect because it is not true; he says "all men seeing had pity on me." Choice B is incorrect because the woman has not gone anywhere, at least not physically. Choice C is incorrect because, as the poet says, he wishes she would be "remembering days and words that were," that is, happier days. Choice D is incorrect because while others share his unhappiness, that is not the main reason he is so unhappy.

73. The correct answer is B. In the metaphor, the poet takes an expression from one field of experience (sowing and reaping) and uses it to say something not related to that field (human relations). Choice A is incorrect because the poet is not attributing human emotions to the sickle or grass. Choice C is incorrect because, as the supporting statements in the other stanzas show, the poet is not overstating the situation. Choice D is incorrect because the two lines do not rhyme. Choice E is incorrect because while the statement is a comparison, it lacks "like" or "as," which would identify it as a simile.

74. The correct answer is D. He suggests they "sing all once more together," but then concludes, "Nay . . . she would not see." Choices A, B, C, and E are incorrect. Though the poet does mention flowers, the sea, stars, and leaving, he concludes that none of those efforts would have any effect.

75. The correct answer is A. Though the poet knows that the woman does not, or cannot, love them now, this line suggests his belief that she won't even remember when she did love them. While choices B, C, D, and E describe the poet's deep pain because of how the woman is now, none have the finality and complete hopelessness of choice A.

76. The correct answer is D. The poem never explains who the listeners are or the reason the Traveller is there. Choice A is a possibility, but what the reader might suspect is not obvious. Choice B is incorrect because the scene that the poem creates is not funny. Choice C is also a possibility, yet nothing actually happens that would terrify the reader. Some readers might consider choice E a possibility, but that is not obvious in the poem.

77. The correct answer is B. The answer is in the line "Where he stood perplexed and still" (line 12). "Baffled" is a synonym for perplexed. Choice A is incorrect because the Traveller shows no sign of anger. Choice C is incorrect for, though the Traveller may have felt some fear, it is not obvious from the text of the poem. Annoyance is not expressed in the poem, so choice D is not the correct answer. Choice E is incorrect

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because, as the Traveller says, "I kept my word," so he has no reason to feel guilty.

78. The correct answer is E. A phantom thought can be one that is a figment of the imagination. Choice A is possible because of the description of the place as being a "lone house." However, that is not central to the story the poem tells, though it does contribute to the atmosphere of quiet and loneliness. Choice B is incorrect. Though the Traveller could be a figment of the imagination, he is presented in the poem as a real person. Choice C is incorrect because the "phantom listeners" are described as standing and "listening in the quiet of the moonlight," not as sleeping. Choice D is incorrect because there is no mention of any living person being fearful.

79. The correct answer is A. The poet describes the Traveller riding away on his horse, the horse's iron shoes hitting the gravel, or stone roadway, as he rides. Choice B is incorrect. It's unlikely that pounding on the door would sound like iron on stone. Choice C is incorrect because while that action might be heard, it would not sound like iron on stone. Choice D is incorrect because we know that the poem says "No head from the leaf-fringed sill/Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes"; that is, no one opened the window. Choice E is incorrect because while the Traveller is described as pounding on the door, there is no mention of an iron knocker, nor is it likely it would be striking stone.

80. The correct answer is A. "Smote" is the past tense of the word "smite," and in line 7 "he smote upon the door a second time," it is used in the sense of hitting. Choices B, C, D, and E are incorrect. Though "smote" can have all of those meanings in different contexts, it means to strike in this poem.