

**Alberta**  
EDUCATION



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June 1994  
**English 30 Part B: Reading  
Questions Booklet**  
Grade 12 Diploma Examination

*Description*

**Part B: Reading** contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark.

There are 70 questions in the Questions Booklet and 8 reading selections in the Readings Booklet.

*Time allotted: 2 hours. You may take an additional 1/2 hour to complete the examination if needed.*

*Instructions*

- Be sure that you have an English 30 Questions Booklet **and** an English 30 Readings Booklet.
- You may **not** use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.
- On the answer sheet provided, use **only** an **HB** pencil to mark the correct or best answer for each question. Fill in the circle that corresponds to your answer. For example:

Which month has 31 days?

- A. February
- B. April
- C. November
- D. December

Answer Sheet

(A) (B) (C) ●

- Do not fold the answer sheet.
- Mark only one answer for each question.
- If you change an answer, erase your first mark completely.
- Answer all questions.

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**I. Read “My Graduation Speech” on pages 1 to 3 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 9.**

1. The speaker refers to Athenians and Visigoths as the students’ “spiritual ancestors” (line 8) because young people
  - A. recognize Europe as the seat of civilization
  - B. can benefit from an historical knowledge of their roots
  - C. must eventually identify the values that they choose to inherit
  - D. are confused by the conflicting values of their biological ancestors
2. According to the speaker, the sole outstanding virtue of Visigoth society was
  - A. radicalism
  - B. acquisitiveness
  - C. physical prowess
  - D. pragmatic reasoning
3. The word that **best** describes the basic impulse of the Visigoth is
  - A. defeatist
  - B. apathetic
  - C. egocentric
  - D. revolutionary
4. The ancient Athenians would have considered the Visigoths “*idiotes*” (line 77) because the Visigoths were
  - A. without values
  - B. uninterested in public welfare
  - C. without any major achievement
  - D. uneducated and unintelligent
5. A modern-day Visigoth would measure artistic excellence by
  - A. popular appeal
  - B. durability of product
  - C. crudeness of expression
  - D. creative imaginativeness

*Continued*

6. Which words **best** represent the “idea” (line 56) of the Athenian and the Visigoth respectively?
- A. idealistic and prudent
  - B. theoretical and assertive
  - C. conciliatory and ruthless
  - D. progressive and regressive
7. The idea that “the thread which holds civilized society together is thin and vulnerable” (lines 68–69) is reinforced by the statement
- A. “They invented the idea of political democracy, which they practiced with a vigor that puts us to shame” (lines 18–19)
  - B. “I mean that to be an Athenian or a Visigoth is to organize your life around a set of values” (lines 54–55)
  - C. “it is much harder to be an Athenian, for you must learn how to be one, you must work at being one, whereas we are all, in a way, natural-born Visigoths” (lines 88–90)
  - D. “I have no difficulty imagining that Plato, Aristotle, or Democritus would be quite at home in our classrooms” (lines 100–102)
8. The phrase “closet Visigoths” (line 98) suggests the element of
- A. disguise
  - B. laziness
  - C. belligerence
  - D. stubbornness
9. The speaker’s best hope for institutions of learning is that they will
- A. create interest in artistic pursuits
  - B. increase the numbers of people in the professions
  - C. provide students with an appreciation of Athenian history
  - D. stimulate perceptions of and interest in the Athenian way

**II. Read “Fairground” on pages 4 and 5 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 10 to 17.**

10. The context of lines 1 to 8 reinforces the meaning of “household proverbs” (line 3) as being
- A. essential chores
  - B. cautionary advice
  - C. family arguments
  - D. frightening stories
11. That jeopardy, panic, and shock are “dispensed in measured doses by foolproof engines” (lines 7–8) conveys that
- A. excitement is rare but appreciated
  - B. thrills are mechanically calculated
  - C. fears are responded to matter-of-factly
  - D. fairgrounds are dangerous but beneficial
12. Youth’s conformity is **most strongly** reinforced in the image
- A. “clumsy conflict / of Right and Left” (lines 13–14)
  - B. “the riding mob melts into / one spinning sphere” (lines 14–15)
  - C. “caressed by clammy cobwebs” (line 18)
  - D. “grinning initiates emerge into daylight” (line 19)
13. This poem is divided into two distinct parts. The shift in focus occurs with the lines
- A. “Soon the roundabout ends the clumsy conflict / of Right and Left” (lines 13–14)
  - B. “the perfect shape performing / the perfect motion” (lines 15–16)
  - C. “Fun for Youth who knows his libertine spirit / is not a copy of Father’s” (lines 21–22)
  - D. “to be found in coigns where, sitting / in silent synods, they play chess or cribbage” (lines 29–30)

*Continued*



14. The contrasting images in this poem are connected by the lines
- A. “a ground sacred to the god of vertigo / and his cult of disarray” (lines 5–6)
  - B. “As passive objects, packed tightly together / on roller coaster or ferris wheel” (lines 9–10)
  - C. “yet to / learn that the tissues which lend it stamina, / like Mum’s, are bourgeois” (lines 22–24)
  - D. “they play chess or cribbage, / games that call for patience, foresight, maneuver” (lines 30–31)
15. In comparing war and marriage (line 32), the poet narrowly avoids cynicism by using the words
- A. “caution, agenda” (line 28)
  - B. “silent synods” (line 30)
  - C. “chess or cribbage” (line 30)
  - D. “patience, foresight” (line 31)
16. This poem suggests the idea that
- A. conflict is unavoidable
  - B. life’s ventures change in nature
  - C. youth never recovers its energy
  - D. spiritual needs increase in adulthood
17. The tone of the poem conveys a sense of the poet’s
- A. reflective acceptance
  - B. enthusiastic approval
  - C. disapproving anger
  - D. bored indifference



**III. Read “Happiness” on pages 6 and 7 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 18 to 25.**

18. The author begins this essay by
- A. stating the thesis
  - B. relating an anecdote
  - C. providing historical proof
  - D. introducing major characters
19. In addition to being impertinent, Dr. Johnson’s observation, “she was happy without health, without beauty, without money and without understanding” (lines 4–5) emphasizes the
- A. difficulty of achieving success
  - B. necessity of enduring hardships
  - C. speaker’s unfamiliarity with happiness
  - D. commonly accepted standards of happiness
20. The context of lines 10 to 16 indicates that “fatuous” (line 14) means
- A. fitting
  - B. foolish
  - C. fantastic
  - D. flamboyant
21. The statement “To pursue happiness . . . is the surest way to miss it altogether” (lines 17–18) is intended as an example of
- A. irony
  - B. metaphor
  - C. symbolism
  - D. exaggeration

*Continued*

22. According to the author, human misery is **mainly** the result of
- A. innate imperfection
  - B. competition and aggression
  - C. distorted notions of happiness
  - D. refusal to surrender to the inevitable
23. In lines 33 to 52, the author implies that a “true response to life” (line 43) is characterized **mainly** by
- A. artistry
  - B. moral stamina
  - C. religious piety
  - D. selflessness
24. The author’s ironic predictions regarding happiness in the modern world are directly alluded to in
- A. “The sister-in-law of a friend of Dr. Johnson was imprudent enough once to claim in his presence that she was happy” (lines 1–2)
  - B. “The pursuit of happiness, included along with life and liberty in the American Declaration of Independence as an inalienable right” (lines 12–13)
  - C. “The Gadarene swine were doubtless in pursuit of happiness when they hurled themselves to destruction over the cliff” (lines 21–22)
  - D. “When Pastor Bonhoeffer was taken off by his Nazi guards to be executed . . . his face was shining with happiness” (lines 48–49)
25. The **best** expression of the thesis of this essay is
- A. “he spoke as an eighteenth-century man, before our present preoccupation with happiness . . . became prevalent” (lines 7–9)
  - B. “To pursue happiness . . . as a conscious aim is the surest way to miss it altogether” (lines 17–18)
  - C. “Pleasure is but a mirage of happiness” (line 26)
  - D. “At its highest level such happiness is the ecstasy which mystics have inadequately described” (lines 33–34)



IV. Read “Prophet of the New World: A Poem for Voices” on pages 8 to 12 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 26 to 35.

26. The Chorus in lines 1 to 14 serves **primarily** to
- A. inspire interest in the protagonist
  - B. foreshadow the protagonist’s fate
  - C. provide historical information
  - D. establish setting
27. The dramatic effectiveness of lines 1 to 14 as an introduction stems **mainly** from the
- A. descriptive details of the setting
  - B. use of the phrase “*l’amour de dieu*”
  - C. repetition of the phrase “Who is he”
  - D. references to Ireland and Scandinavia
28. Riel’s Métis heritage is referred to in the line
- A. “Ireland in his name / and Scandinavian humour in his veins” (lines 7–8)
  - B. “His father came from ribboned country” (line 16)
  - C. “a hunter, yet a dreamer” (line 27)
  - D. “I, the half-caste” (line 121)
29. The quotation from the second Chorus that **most** directly conveys Riel’s destiny is
- A. “from the dark we come / suffer a little; and into the dark go” (lines 98–99)
  - B. “A door closes” (line 100)
  - C. “daffodils plunge wilder into the wild wood” (line 102)
  - D. “Earth to her ancient privilege” (lines 106)

*Continued*

30. The image “future skyscrapers choked in a desperate struggle for air” (lines 107–108) is paralleled by the image
- A. “every poet’s mad / who has a message burning in his bowels” (lines 113–114)
  - B. “the slowly turning world / rifled with hate” (lines 115–116)
  - C. “all of nature made / into a kitchen midden for man’s wasteful heart” (lines 117–118)
  - D. “who would destroy and burn / the shame of racial hate” (lines 120–121)
31. The line that serves metaphorically to suggest the futility of human hopes is
- A. “the lean rock pulls winter on its face” (line 3)
  - B. “the farms run neck and neck to reach the river” (line 17)
  - C. “the wind was whistling for October” (line 43)
  - D. “the hand loved garden is smothered over with weeds” (line 101)
32. In his final speech, Riel asks God “Make me more mad, dear Father!” (line 127) because he associates his state of mind with
- A. what sanity should be
  - B. an escape from his duty
  - C. power over others
  - D. the forgotten past
33. The metaphor that **best** reveals what Riel sees as his purpose is
- A. “I was a child again” (line 73)
  - B. “and I slow animal with limbs of man / battling the light” (lines 80–81)
  - C. “and I it was who bruised and streaming lay” (line 90)
  - D. “and so, forever be on fire / a comet flashing faith upon the world” (lines 129–130)

*Continued*



34. The literary device that **most** enhances the dramatic effectiveness of this excerpt is
- A. simile
  - B. imagery
  - C. symbolism
  - D. understatement
35. Riel's character as depicted in this poem is **best** described as
- A. arrogant
  - B. ambitious
  - C. passionate
  - D. resourceful

V. Read the excerpt from “First Light” on pages 13 to 15 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 36 to 45.

36. In the first paragraph, the chaotic nature of the household is **most vividly** reinforced by the phrase
- A. “cold, and loud with bullying winds” (line 1)
  - B. “arguing, quarreling, and putting us to bed at random” (lines 4–5)
  - C. “meals appeared like dismal conjuring tricks” (lines 5–6)
  - D. “washing filled all the lines in the kitchen” (line 10)
37. The narrator responds to his mother’s disappearance (lines 1–11) with
- A. anguish
  - B. optimism
  - C. excitement
  - D. resignation
38. The statement “The doll’s house became a madhouse” (lines 22–23) is an appropriate description of the girls’
- A. pleasure in their newly acquired power
  - B. successful transition from innocence to maturity
  - C. consciousness of the war’s effects on their family
  - D. struggle to make the transition from play to responsibility
39. The mother’s absence is made **most** obvious by
- A. “Doth giggled helplessly, Phyl wept among the vegetables” (lines 23–24)
  - B. “One night we sat round the kitchen table, cracking walnuts with the best brass candlestick” (lines 28–29)
  - C. “The girls got tea and talked about it” (line 36)
  - D. “We went hand in hand through the rain, up the bank and down the street” (lines 42–43)

*Continued*



40. In context, the statement “All my life was the war, and the war was the world” (line 37) is **most indicative** of the narrator’s
- A. innocence
  - B. exuberance
  - C. suspicion
  - D. curiosity
41. That the children were largely unaware of the broader implications of war is **best** indicated by their
- A. concentration on domestic responsibilities
  - B. enjoyment of freedom in their mother’s absence
  - C. lack of interest in their parents’ welfare during the war
  - D. fascination with the tumultuous response to the war’s ending
42. In the village, the news of the war’s ending produces a general atmosphere of
- A. peace
  - B. dismay
  - C. abandon
  - D. uneasiness
43. The burning of the schoolhouse chimney serves as a
- A. warning to those who celebrate
  - B. grim reminder to the narrator of the past
  - C. vivid climax to the narrator’s perceptions
  - D. reflection of the excitement of the passing storm

*Continued*

44. The narrator's overwhelming sense of doom is **most comprehensively** conveyed by the juxtaposition of impressions in
- A. "In weather that was new to me, and cold, and loud with bullying winds, my Mother disappeared to visit my father" (lines 1–2)
  - B. "All my life was the war, and the war was the world. Now the war was over. So the end of the world was come" (lines 37–38)
  - C. "great rockets of flame came gushing forth, emptying the tiny house, so that I expected to see chairs and tables, knives and forks, radiant and burning, follow" (lines 66–68)
  - D. "Oh, the end of the war and the world! There was rain in my shoes, and Mother had disappeared. I never expected to see another day" (lines 82–84)
45. The effectiveness of this excerpt is based **mainly** on the use of
- A. vivid detail
  - B. local dialogue
  - C. dramatic tension
  - D. character analysis



**VI. Read the excerpt from *Henry VIII* on pages 16 to 20 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 46 to 56.**

46. In lines 1 to 8, Cardinal Wolsey responds to the demand to forfeit the seal with an attitude of
- A. alarm
  - B. sarcasm
  - C. apology
  - D. confidence
47. The Earl of Surrey's **most cutting** use of irony is
- A. "Thou art a proud traitor, priest" (line 9)
  - B. "Whilst your great goodness, out of holy pity, / Absolved him with an axe" (lines 22–23)
  - C. "Your goodness, / Since you provoke me, shall be most notorious" (lines 47–48)
  - D. "Now, if you can blush and cry 'guilty,' cardinal, / You'll show a little honesty" (lines 65–66)
48. Cardinal Wolsey suggests that he is absolved from responsibility for Buckingham's death when he states
- A. "This, and all else . . . is most false" (lines 24–26)
  - B. "The duke by law / Found his deserts" (lines 26–27)
  - C. "You have as little honesty as honor" (line 31)
  - D. "All goodness / Is poison to thy stomach" (lines 41–42)
49. The Earl of Surrey's words to the Duke of Norfolk in lines 49 to 52 imply that Cardinal Wolsey's continued power will result in
- A. Norfolk becoming one of the defenders of the people
  - B. Wolsey becoming more powerful than the king
  - C. the nobility being undermined and eliminated
  - D. the nobility living in fear

*Continued*

50. Cardinal Wolsey's remark that he is "bound" to be charitable (lines 55–56) is a reference to his
- A. vows as a priest
  - B. loyalty to the king
  - C. duties as a statesman
  - D. gentleman's code of honor
51. In lines 68 and 69, Cardinal Wolsey states that rather than blush from guilt upon hearing the charges against him, he would blush from
- A. fear for himself
  - B. indignation for the king
  - C. regret for being careless
  - D. embarrassment for Surrey
52. The Earl of Surrey's comment, "I had rather want those than my head" (line 70), is an indirect reference to the
- A. fate of Wolsey
  - B. powerlessness of the king
  - C. emotional aspect of Wolsey
  - D. necessity for calm reasoning
53. The accuser who clearly expresses compassion toward Cardinal Wolsey is the
- A. Lord Chamberlain: "Press not a falling man too far: 'tis virtue" (line 96)
  - B. Earl of Surrey: "I forgive him" (line 100)
  - C. Duke of Suffolk: "Lord Cardinal, the king's further pleasure is" (line 101)
  - D. Duke of Norfolk: "So fare you well, my little good Lord Cardinal" (line 110)

*Continued*

- 54.** The accuser who is **most** antagonistic toward Cardinal Wolsey is the
- A.** Duke of Norfolk: “Those articles, my lord . . . are foul ones” (lines 57–58)
  - B.** Duke of Suffolk: “That out of mere ambition” (line 86)
  - C.** Earl of Surrey: “since they are of you and odious, / I will not taint my mouth with” (lines 93–94)
  - D.** Lord Chamberlain: “His faults lie open to the laws” (line 97)
- 55.** Cardinal Wolsey acknowledges the basis of his downfall with the words
- A.** “A long farewell to all my greatness!” (line 113)
  - B.** “My high-blown pride” (line 123)
  - C.** “Weary and old with service” (line 125)
  - D.** “Never to hope again” (line 134)
- 56.** The theme of Cardinal Wolsey’s soliloquy (lines 112–134) is the
- A.** futility of the pursuit of glory
  - B.** stages of human development
  - C.** vulnerability of old age
  - D.** inevitability of despair



**VII. Read “The Looking-Through Glass” on page 21 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 57 to 62.**

57. “I, cold, though adequately sheltered” (line 4) implies that the speaker feels
- A. empty
  - B. secure
  - C. confused
  - D. ungrateful
58. The implications of the speaker’s reference to her “dwindling sphere” (line 2) are reinforced in the phrase
- A. “the company / Of winter birds” (lines 4–5)
  - B. “some curious memory or *déjà vu*” (line 7)
  - C. “shrunk worlds” (line 17)
  - D. “Unwinding decades of summers” (line 28)
59. The transition from description to speculation occurs in
- A. “And suddenly, from nowhere is seems” (line 13)
  - B. “And watching them I wonder” (line 16)
  - C. “I revise Alice” (line 22)
  - D. “until I come to someone’s girlhood” (line 30)
60. In the third stanza the speaker suggests that
- A. her experience is not unusual
  - B. her life has been a tragic waste
  - C. women are unappreciated
  - D. women are unique

*Continued*

61. In line 34, the word “this” refers to the speaker’s
- A. dream
  - B. memories
  - C. past experiences
  - D. present circumstances
62. The contrast between the speaker’s present and past is reinforced by the references to
- A. cold and warmth
  - B. people and birds
  - C. darkness and light
  - D. reality and fantasy

**VIII. Read “Sredni Vashtar” on pages 22 to 25 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 63 to 70.**

63. In the context of this story, “rampant” (line 10) means
- A. helpless, without friends
  - B. weak, having no stamina
  - C. concealed, without access
  - D. unchecked, having no boundaries
64. In referring to his cousin and guardian, Mrs. De Ropp, simply as “the Woman” (line 39), Conradin reveals **mainly** that he views her as
- A. the enemy
  - B. a pitiable object
  - C. a necessary burden
  - D. the source of his security
65. In line 70, Mrs. De Ropp experiences “a momentary qualm” because she
- A. is naturally manipulative
  - B. is naturally generous and conciliatory
  - C. anticipates Conradin’s compliance with her wishes
  - D. senses the magnitude of feeling in Conradin’s silence
66. Conradin is attracted to the ferret because the ferret embodies Conradin’s
- A. grudging respect
  - B. repressed hostility
  - C. overwhelming fear
  - D. unconditional power

*Continued*



67. The lines that ultimately ensure the reader's sympathy for Conradin are
- A. "Without his imagination, which was rampant under the spur of loneliness, he would have succumbed long ago" (lines 10–11)
  - B. "The few fruit trees that it contained were set jealously apart from his plucking" (lines 22–23)
  - C. "Conradin found a haven, something that took on the varying aspects of a playroom and a cathedral" (lines 28–29)
  - D. "at breakfast one morning she announced that the Houdan hen had been sold and taken away overnight" (lines 65–66)
68. The comment that **most clearly** reflects the point of view of a ten-year-old child is
- A. "These festivals were of irregular occurrence, and were chiefly appointed to celebrate some passing event" (lines 52–53)
  - B. "He did not pretend to have the remotest knowledge as to what an Anabaptist was, but he privately hoped that it was dashing and not very respectable" (lines 59–61)
  - C. "the making of it 'gave trouble,' a deadly offense in the middle-class feminine eye" (lines 72–73)
  - D. "in an hour or two the gardener would carry away his wonderful god, a god no longer, but a simple brown ferret in a hutch" (lines 101–102)
69. The phrase "the pursed smile he loathed so well" (line 100) serves to reinforce that
- A. Conradin actually meant no harm
  - B. Conradin's hatred was justified
  - C. Mrs. De Ropp sought approval
  - D. Mrs. De Ropp felt guilty
70. The gravity of Mrs. De Ropp's fate is confirmed **mainly** by
- A. "eyes a-blink at the waning daylight" (line 123)
  - B. "silences which fell in quick spasms" (lines 133–134)
  - C. "bore a heavy burden into the house" (lines 137–138)
  - D. "while they debated the matter" (line 140)













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