

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/SSAT UPPER LEVEL/ CLASS 18 HOMEWORK /SUMMER 2016

NAME: _____

MARK: _____

Section 1: Read the passages and answer the following questions.

When I was a boy, there was but one permanent ambition among my comrades in our village on the west bank of the Mississippi River. That was, to be a steamboat-man. We had transient ambitions of other sorts, but they were only transient. When a circus came and went, it left us all burning to become clowns; the first minstrel show that came to our section left us all suffering to try that kind of life, - now and then we had a hope that if we loved and were good, God would permit us to be pirates. These ambitions faded out, each in its turn; but the ambition to be a steamboat-man always remained.

1. The author's intent in this passage is to

- (A) explain how he chose his adult profession (B) describe the life of a steamboat-man
(C) convey some of his childhood aspirations (D) present a social history of the Mississippi
(E) compare the merits of several different occupations

2. According to the passage, the author considered all of the following as possible careers EXCEPT

- (A) steamboat-man (B) clown (C) minstrel (D) writer (E) pirate

3. As it is used in line 5, the word "transient" means

- (A) appealing (B) relative (C) short-lived (D) disastrous (E) equal

4. The author most likely uses the phrase "all burning to become clowns" in order to

- (A) provide an example of the boys' fleeting ambitions
(B) illustrate the lack of cultural life in Mississippi
(C) encourage his readers to follow similar career paths
(D) clarify why the boys all wanted to be steamboat-men
(E) show the kind of people that traveled on steamboats

5. Which of the following best describes the effect of the phrase "if we loved and were good, God would permit us to be pirates"?

- (A) pathos (B) humor (C) exaggeration (D) mockery (E) rhyme

6. The attitude of the author toward the subject is

- (A) nostalgic (B) regretful (C) optimistic (D) cynical (E) somber

Alchemy is the name given to the attempt to change lead, copper, and other metals into silver or gold. Today, alchemy is regarded as a pseudoscience. Its associations with astrology and the occult suggest primitive superstition to the modern mind, and the alchemist is generally portrayed by historians as a charlatan obsessed with dreams of impossible wealth. For many centuries, however, alchemy was a highly respected art. In the search for the elusive secret to making gold, alchemists helped develop many of the apparatuses and procedures that are used in laboratories today. Moreover, the results of their experiments laid the basic conceptual framework of the modern science of chemistry.

7. The passage is mainly about the

- (A) early history of a scientific field (B) manufacture of gold from other metals
(C) mystery surrounding the origins of chemistry
(D) links between chemistry, astrology and sociology

8. According to the passage, alchemists are generally portrayed in history books as

- (A) wealthy businessmen
- (B) rogues motivated by greed
- (C) talented but misunderstood individuals
- (D) the ancestors of today's chemists
- (E) brilliant scientists

9. It can be inferred from the passage that a "charlatan" (line 7)

- (A) existed only in the Middle Ages
- (B) is not respected by historians
- (C) practiced an early form of chemistry
- (D) uses his research for criminal purposes
- (E) understood the secret to making gold

10. The style of the passage is most like that found in a

- (A) scientists' diary
- (B) novel about alchemists
- (C) history textbook
- (D) newspaper article
- (E) personal letter

Line Even such is time that takes in trust
 Our youth, our joys, our all we have,
 And pays us but with age and dust
 Who in the dark and silent grave,
(5) When we have wandered all our ways,
 Shut up the story of our days,
 But from this earth, this grave this dust,
 My God shall raise me up, I trust.

From the poem "Even Such is Time,"* by Sir Walter Raleigh

12. In this poem, time is described as doing which of the following?

I. Causing pleasant experiences to end

II. Rewarding the author with immortality

III. Making people older

- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) I and III
- (D) I and II only
- (E) I, II and III

13. As used in line 6, the word "story" most likely refers to
(A) a person's life (B) a narrative (C) a tale (D) an emotion (E) the human body
14. The words "I trust" in line 8 primarily indicate that the author
(A) has an unshakable belief in God
(B) knows that all things come to an end
(C) is unhappy at the prospect of dying
(D) fears the process of growing older
(E) hopes for some form of life after death
15. With which of the following statements about life would the author most likely agree?
(A) Time heals all wounds.
(B) Life must be enjoyed to its fullest extent.
(C) Time eventually takes back everything that it gives.
(D) Material possessions are worthless.
(E) Time passes more quickly as we get older.

Line On May 18, 1980, in Washington state, the volcano Mount Saint Helens erupted, sending a cloud of dust 15 miles into the air. The explosion was not unexpected; the earth's crust had shaken

(5) for weeks beforehand, providing people in the surrounding area with plenty of advance warning. In spite of these danger signals, no one was prepared for the extent of the blast; over the course of several weeks, the volcano's eruption ripped the

(10) top 1300 feet off the mountain, resulting in a landslide that was the largest in recorded history. 540 million tons of ash from the volcano were spread over three states, altering the earth's weather patterns for several years afterward. One

(15) thing missing from the initial eruption was fluid lava usually identified with volcanic activity. Later eruptions emitted a thick and oozing lava. Thick lava is easily outrun because it moves extremely slowly. In addition, thick lava creates taller

(20) volcanoes because it often cools and hardens instead of flowing down the volcano's sides.

16. This passage is primarily about

- (A) the geological history of Washington state
- (B) the difficulty of predicting volcanic activity
- (C) a contrast between different forms of lava
- (D) a story of an unusual geological event
- (E) the factors that cause landslides

17. As used in line 6, the word "advance" means

- (A) ahead of time
- (B) moving forward
- (C) in the past
- (D) undetected
- (E) extremely urgent

18. According to the passage, all of the following were caused by the Mt. St. Helens eruption EXCEPT

- (A) tidal waves
- (B) streams of lava
- (C) a massive landslide -
- (D) changes in the earth's climate
- (E) the emission of clouds of ash

19. It can be inferred from the passage that fluid lava (lines 15 and 16)

- (A) is very thick
- (B) creates tall volcanoes
- (C) is only found in the United States
- (D) is not easily outrun
- (E) destroyed many forests in Washington

20. The author's style is best described as

- (A) surprised (B) dramatic (C) skeptical (D) informative (E) mysterious

- Line The cowboy of the American West is an enduring icon in popular culture, but Hawaiian cowboys predated their American counterparts by several decades. In 1792, King Kamehameha the
- (5) Great of Hawaii received gifts of beef cattle, goats, sheep, and horses from Captain George Vancouver. The introduction of these unfamiliar animals caused unrest among the native islanders, because the unruly animals often trampled the crops in
- (10) their fields. Initially, the king protected his imports from wrathful Hawaiians under kapu laws. But in 1830, Kamehameha HI decided to hire a few Spanish vaqueros from California to keep the animals under control. Soon the Hawaiians were
- (15) riding, roping, and lassoing alongside the Spanish cowboys.

21. It can be inferred from the passage that the American cowboy

- (A) taught the Hawaiians how to ride and lasso
- (B) accompanied the shipment of horses and cattle to Hawaii
- (C) did not understand the Hawaiians' opposition to horses
- (D) emerged in the West later than his counterpart in Hawaii
- (E) was not able to lasso as well as the Hawaiian cowboy

22. According to the passage, all of the following are true about horses and cattle EXCEPT

- (A) They were unfamiliar to Hawaiians before 1792.
- (B) They were introduced to Hawaii in the 18th century.
- (C) They were protected by Hawaiian law.
- (D) They were found to be too expensive to import.
- (E) They were destructive to Hawaiian property.

23. According to the passage, the Hawaiian cowboys

- I. were taught to ride by the Spanish vaqueros
- II. existed earlier than the American cowboys
- III. proved better at roping and lassoing than their American counterparts

- (A) I only
- (B) II only

(C) I and II only

(D) II and III only

(E) I, II and II

24. This passage is primarily about

(A) the roping of cattle

(B) the history of King Kamehameha

(C) the Spanish relationship with Hawaii

(D) the history of horses in Hawaii

(E) the introduction of cowboys to Hawaii

25. The attitude of the writer toward the subject is

(A) biased (B) condescending (C) neutral (D) elated (E) confused

Line These are the times that try men's souls. The
 summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in
 this crisis, shrink from the service of their country;
 but he that stands it now, deserves the love and
(5) thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell is
 not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation
 with us, that the harder the conflict, the more
 glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap,
 we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives
(10) everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a
 proper price upon its goods; and it would be
 strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom
 should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army
 to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a
(15) right (not only to tax) but "to bind us in all cases
 whatsoever* and if being bound in that manner is
 not slavery, then is there not such a thing as
 slavery upon earth. Even the expression is
 impious; for so unlimited a power can belong only
(20) to God.

Excerpted from "The Crisis*" by Thomas Paine

26. Which of the following best describes the main point of this speech?

(A) The British Army presents a formidable opponent.

(B) Governments cannot judge men's souls.

(C) No task that is easy is worth undertaking.

(D) Taxation is an inherently unjust system.

(E) Rebellion against the British is justified.

27. As it is used in line 2, the word "summer* suggests

(A) an affection for warmer climates

(B) a tendency to avoid difficult situations

(C) a willingness to fight for important causes

(D) a desire to fight in favorable conditions

(E) a fear of the changing seasons

28. According to the speech, the British

(A) virtually enslaved their subjects

(B) rightfully increased taxation (C) provided greater trade opportunities

(D) assembled a superior army

(E) sacrificed many of their soldiers

29. With which of the following statements about war would the author most likely agree?

(A) The greater the struggle, the more worthy the victory.

(B) Success is attained by waiting for an opportune moment to strike.

(C) It is wrong to fight against one's own country.

(D) The odds of winning must always be carefully considered.

(E) A true patriot would avoid participating in the brewing conflict.

In recent years, scientific research has done much to alter long-held beliefs about history. This is particularly true of scholarship surrounding the Silk Road. The Silk Road was a trans-Asian trading route that extended across two continents, linking China with the center of European trade in the Mediterranean. Most famous for the transport of silk, this ancient highway was also the conduit for such items as roses, peaches, gunpowder, and

paper. Systems of belief were also passed along the road: The spread of Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam was accelerated by the connection between East and West.

Based on historical texts, historians have traditionally believed that the Silk Road was established in 115 BC, yet the recent discovery of a much older piece of silk in Egypt suggests that the road was established at least a thousand years earlier. Through carbon-dating, scientists dated the fabric of the newly discovered piece of silk to around 1000 BC. In that period, only the Chinese held the secret to silk manufacturing; Mediterranean countries would not develop the technology to manufacture silk until the sixth century AD. As a result, historians now believe that Asia and Europe may have traded silk via the Silk Road as long ago as the second century B.C.—though exactly how traders navigated the plateaus, mountains and deserts that lie along the route remains a mystery.

30. This passage is primarily about

- (A) the impact of a new discovery on a historical theory
- (B) ancient trading routes between East and West
- (C) the introduction of silk manufacturing to Europe
- (D) conflict between Chinese and Mediterranean traders
- (E) the spread of Christianity, Buddhism and Islam

31. As used in line 10, the phrase "systems of belief * most likely means

- (A) travel routes (B) organizations (C) languages (D) religions (E) military secrets

32. According to the passage, all of the following were traded along the Silk Road EXCEPT

- (A) fabrics (B) explosives (C) fruit (D) flowers (E) jewels

33. It can be inferred from paragraph 2 that historians believe that

- (A) the silk fragment discovered in Egypt was a fake
- (B) most ancient Egyptian garments were made of silk
- (C) the ancient Egyptians were unable to cross plateaus, mountains or deserts

- (D) carbon-dating is not the most accurate method of dating artifacts
- (E) the ancient silk fragment found in Egypt must have been imported from China

34. The author's style is best described as

- (A) surprised (B) dramatic (C) poetic (D) mysterious (E) informative

Line	During the 15th century, the Belgian city
	Bruges was the most important commercial city in
	the north of Europe. Like Florence in Italy, Bruges
(5)	derived its wealth from wool and banking. Ships
	brought raw wool there from England and Spain,
	and carried away finished wool cloth which was
	celebrated throughout Europe. Bankers came to
	Bruges on the heels of the wool merchants—
(10)	among them, representatives of the House of
	Medici. Soon Bruges became the financial center
	for all of northern Europe. Merchants from Italy,
	the Near East, Russia, and Spain all congregated in
	Bruges. Even though nearby cities such as Ghent
(15)	and Louvain also flourished, Bruges so outshone
	them in prosperity that the Duke of Burgundy
	made that city his capital and moved his court
	there in the early 15th century.

35. As it is used in line 4, the word 'derived* most nearly means

- (A) created (B) exchanged (C) invested (D) obtained (E) traveled

36. It can be inferred from the text that the arrival of representatives of the House of Medici in Bruges

- (A) improved the quality of life for all residents of Bruges
- (B) increased the amount of raw wool brought to Bruges
- (C) required the city to provide official translators
- (D) secured the status of Bruges as an important financial center
- (E) lowered the level of market activity in Bruges

37. It can be inferred from the text that the wool brought to Bruges

- (A) was of the best quality available in northern Europe
- (B) was not instrumental in Bruges' growth as a financial center
- (C) was woven into cloth, and shipped throughout Europe
- (D) was also sent to rival towns Ghent and Louvain

(E) was as valuable as gold and other precious metals

38. The author most likely mentions "merchants from Italy, the Near East, Russia and Spain" in order to

(A) illustrate the variety of merchants involved in the wool trade

(B) convey the excitement of Europe in the 15th century

(C) portray the peaceful cooperation of European countries

(D) indicate the poverty of trade in those countries

(E) demonstrate how successful Bruges became

39. According to the text, why did the Duke of Burgundy choose Bruges over Ghent and Louvain as the site of his court?

(A) Ghent was on the verge of a financial crisis.

(B) Ghent and Louvain were too far away from Burgundy.

(C) Bruges was unquestionably the most wealthy city.

(D) Bruges produced a higher quality of wool fabric.

(E) More painters and musicians lived in Bruges than in other cities.

40. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

{A} The growth of the wool trade transformed commerce in the Renaissance.

(B) Tired of his court in France, the Duke of Burgundy moved to Bruges.

(C) Wool and banking made Bruges the commercial center of northern Europe

(D) Bruges outshone Florence in prosperity and cultural diversity.

(E) Most fifteenth-century cities centered around banking and wool manufacture.