



Reading > Lesson 4: Purpose/Method/Opinion Questions > Exercise 4.1

**FOCUS:** Recognizing correct and incorrect answer choices for purpose, method, and opinion questions.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Then mark the statements about the passage True or False by clicking on your choice.

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**The Poet Robert Browning**



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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Then mark the statements about the passage True or False by clicking on your choice.

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Robert Browning  
BORN AND BURIED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Robert Browning (1812-1889) was born in the London suburb of Camberwell, England. He received little formal education and gained much of his learning from his father's library. At an early age, he wrote poems in the manner of the romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, whose influence briefly shaped his diet as well as religious beliefs. However, his poetry attracted little attention until the publication of *Paracelsus* (1835) and *Bells and Pomegranates* (1841-1846); however, one volume, *Pauline: A Fragment of a Confession*, prompted a strong reaction from the philosopher John Stuart Mill, who complained that Browning's work was needlessly self-conscious. Such **censure** may have been responsible for Browning's subsequent turning in his work to the creation of dramatic characters and his development of the dramatic **monologue**, a literary form now associated almost exclusively with him. In 1846, he married Elizabeth Barrett, and the couple moved to Florence where he composed *Men and Women* (1855) and also *Dramatis Personae* (1864) which contains some of his finest monologues. After the death of his wife, Browning returned to London where he wrote his greatest single poem *The Ring and the Book* (1869). He died in 1889 while visiting his son in Venice. He is buried in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey. Browning is considered one of the important poets of the Victorian Age; his work--especially his dramatic monologues--had great influence on early twentieth-century writers, notably Ezra Pound.



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Review

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- 1 The author indicates that Browning was uneducated by noting that he studied the books in his father's library.

- ☐ True  
☐ False

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- 2 The author mentions Browning's diet to show one way that Shelley influenced Browning.

☐ True  
☐ False

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- 3 In the author's opinion, Mill's criticism of Browning's poetry could have contributed to Browning's later decision to produce dramatic monologues.

☐ True  
☐ False

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- 4 *Dramatis Personae* is mentioned to provide an example of Browning's greatest poem.

- ☐ True  
☐ False

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- 5 The author believes that Browning's dramatic monologues shaped the writings of the Victorian era.

- ☐ True  
☐ False

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