

Directions: This test consists of selections from literary works and questions on their content, form, and style. After each passage or poem, choose the best answer to each question. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

“Elegy”

Let them bury your big eyes
In the secret earth securely,
Your thin fingers, and your fair,
Line Soft, indefinite-coloured hair,—
5 All of these in some way, surely,
From the secret earth shall rise;
Not for these I sit and stare,
Broken and bereft completely:
Your young flesh that sat so neatly
10 On your little bones will sweetly
Blossom in the air.

But your voice . . . never the rushing
Of a river underground,
Not the rising of the wind
15 In the trees before the rain,
Not the woodcock’s watery call,
Not the note the white-throat utters,
Not the feet of children pushing
Yellow leaves along the gutters
20 In the blue and bitter fall,
Shall content my musing mind
For the beauty of that sound
That in no new way at all
Ever will be heard again.

25 Sweetly through the sappy stalk
Of the vigorous weed,
Holding all it held before,
Cherished by the faithful sun,
On and on eternally
30 Shall your altered fluid run,
Bud and bloom and go to seed:
But your singing days are done;
But the music of your talk
Never shall the chemistry
35 Of the secret earth restore.
All your lovely words are spoken.
Once the ivory box is broken,
Beats the golden bird no more.

(1927)

1. The main verb in the second stanza is
 - A. rising (line 14)
 - B. pushing (line 18)
 - C. fall (line 20)
 - D. shall content (line 21)
 - E. will be heard (line 24)
2. The "voice" of the deceased is compared to all of the following EXCEPT
 - A. the sound of an underground stream
 - B. the wind
 - C. the blossom of a flower
 - D. the music of a bird
 - E. the pattering of feet
3. The phrase "cherished by the faithful sun" (line 28) is an example of
 - A. irony
 - B. paradox
 - C. personification
 - D. oxymoron
 - E. poetic license
4. The poem is written in

- A. a regular meter
- B. the elegiac tradition
- C. a consistent rhyme scheme
- D. an extended allegory
- E. pathetic empathy

Try the following third-person passage and answer the questions that follow.

They had walked in single file down the path, and even in the open one stayed behind the other. Both were dressed in denim trousers and in denim coats
Line with brass buttons. Both wore black, shapeless hats
5 and both carried tight blanket rolls slung over their shoulders. The first man was small and quick, dark of face, with restless eyes and sharp, strong features. Every part of him was defined: small, strong hands, slender arms, a thin and bony nose. Behind him
10 walked his opposite, a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with wide, sloping shoulders; and he walked heavily, dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags his paws. His arms did not swing at his sides, but hung loosely.

(1937)

This passage is from John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

5. The structure of the passage is best described as

- A. two characters are compared and then contrasted
- B. each character is introduced and described
- C. two characters are compared to each other and then each is compared to an animal
- D. two characters' physical characteristics are described, followed by their clothing
- E. characters' outward appearances are stated, followed by their inner thoughts

6. The tone of the passage can best be described as

- A. barely hidden contempt
- B. dispassionate description
- C. unforgiving scrutiny
- D. supernatural invention
- E. focused inquiry

Read the following first-person passage and answer the questions that follow.

Call me Ishmael. Some years ago—never mind
how long precisely—having little or no money in
my purse, I would sail about a little and see the wa-
Line tery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving
5 off the spleen, and regulating the circulation. When-
ever I find myself growing grim about the mouth;
whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my
soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing
before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear
10 of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my
hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires
a strong moral principle to prevent me from delib-
erately stepping into the street, and methodically
knocking people's hats off—then, I account it high
15 time to get to sea as soon as I can.

(1851)

This passage is from the opening lines of one of the great classics, *Moby Dick*, by Herman Melville.

7. The passage is best described as

- A. allegorical drama
- B. character introduction
- C. historical commentary
- D. interior monologue
- E. political satire

8. By the end of the passage, Ishmael emerges as

- A. ambitious but generous
- B. crude and inconsiderate
- C. insecure and self-centered
- D. sensitive but self-confident
- E. temperamental but self-aware

9. In line 5, the word "spleen" most nearly means

- A. path
- B. blood
- C. melancholy

D. kidney

E. energy

10. Lines 5-15 ("Whenever I find ... as soon as I can.") contain which of the following?

I. alliteration

II. hyperbole

III. parallel structure

A. none of the above

B. I only

C. II only

D. I & III only

E. All of the above