

SAT Subject Test Practice Paper
SAT Literature Practice Paper

Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

Passage

Line Against that time (if ever that time come)
 When I shall see thee frown on my defects,
 When as thy love hath cast his utmost sum,
 Called to that audit by advised respects—
5 Against that time when thou shalt strangely pass,
 And scarcely greet me with that sun, thine eye,
 When love, converted from the thing it was,
 Shall reasons find of settled gravity—
 Against that time do I ensconce me here
10 Within the knowledge of mine own desert,
 And this my hand against myself uprear,
 To guard the lawful reasons on thy part.
 To leave poor me thou has the strength of laws,
 Since why to love I can allege no cause.
15 (1609)

Select an Answer

1. If the speaker is implying in line 10 that he is not deserving of love, which of the following most strongly supports the implication?

A "defects" (line 2)
B "utmost sum" (line 3)
C "strangely" (line 5)
D "love, converted" (line 7)
E "settled gravity" (line 8)
2. The tone of the poem can best be described as

A. playful and lighthearted
B. hesitant and confused
C. confident and determined
D. reasoned and optimistic

E. self-deprecating and apprehensive

3. The speaker of the poem is addressing

- A. an unspecified general audience
- B. a friend of the speaker's beloved
- C. a lover
- D. a former lover
- E. a legal adviser

4. The speaker imagines a time in the future when he might

- A. no longer be in love
- B. no longer be loved
- C. be even more deeply in love
- D. be able to explain why he is in love
- E. look back fondly on his present happiness

5. In line 5, the adverb "strangely" means:

- A. oddly
- B. be even more deeply in love
- C. in a distant manner
- D. eerily
- E. haltingly

6. In lines 1, 5, and 9, "against" is best understood to mean:

- A. in opposition to
- B. in repetition of
- C. in contrast to
- D. in preparation for
- E. in rejection of

7. The "reasons" mentioned in line 8 are best characterized as:

- A. scientific explanations for a natural force
- B. arguments against rationality itself
- C. arguments for the importance of loving
- D. logical explanations for the absence of love
- E. counterarguments to the speaker's propositions

8. One theme of the poem appears to be that
- A. unrequited love is still sweet
 - B. time transforms lust into love
 - C. the value of true love cannot be calculated
 - D. relationships should be controlled by laws
 - E. reason is insufficient to explain love
9. In lines 1-12, which of the following is a main verb?
- A. "come" (line 1)
 - B. "shall see" (line 2)
 - C. "shalt pass" (line 5)
 - D. "shall find" (line 8)
 - E. "Do ensconce" (line 9)
10. Which of the following best describes the language of the poem?
- A. Concrete and matter-of-fact
 - B. Euphemistic and prosaic
 - C. Metaphoric and logical
 - D. Informal and conversational
 - E. Ironic and amused

Read the passage and answer the following questions

Passage

By the time the man with the camera had cut across our neighbor's yard, the twins were out of the trees swingin low and Granny was onto the steps, the screen door bammin soft and scratchy against her palms.

"We thought we'd get a shot or two of the house and everything and then . . ."

"Good mornin," Granny cut him off. And smiled that smile.

"Good mornin," he said, head all down the way Bingo does when you yell at him about the bones on the kitchen floor. "Nice place you got here, aunty. We thought we'd take a . . ."

"Did you?" said Granny with her eyebrows. Cathy pulled up her socks and giggled.

“Nice things here,” said the man buzzin his camera over the yard. The pecan barrels, the sled, me and Cathy, the flowers, the painted stones along the driveway, the trees, the twins, the toolshed.

“I don’t know about the thing, the it, and the stuff,” said Granny still talkin with her eyebrows. “Just people here is what I tend to consider.”

Camera man stopped buzzin. Cathy giggled into her collar.

“Mornin, ladies,” a new man said. He had come up behind us when we weren’t lookin. “And gents,” discoverin the twins givin him a nasty look. “We’re filmin for the county,” he said with a smile. “Mind if we shoot a bit around here?”

“I do indeed,” said Granny with no smile.

Smilin man was smiling up a storm. So was Cathy. But he didn’t seem to have another word to say, so he and the camera man backed on out the yard, but you could hear the camera buzzin still.

“Suppose you just shut that machine off,” said Granny real low through her teeth and took a step down off the porch and then another.

“Now, aunty,” Camera said pointin the thing straight at her.

“Your mama and I are not related.”

(1971)

Select an Answer

1. After Granny’s “Good mornin” (line 5), the camera man probably behaves as he does because he
 - A. is made to realize that he is intruding
 - B. suspects that he is in physical danger
 - C. hopes to win Granny’s affection by appearing at ease
 - D. is relieved that an adult is present
 - E. realizes that he is disturbing the tidiness of the yard
2. The tone of “Now, aunty” (line 25) is most accurately described as
 - A. expectant
 - B. patronizing

- C. accusatory
 - D. obedient
 - E. respectful
3. Granny's final comment can best be understood as a
- A. reluctant confession
 - B. tentative assertion
 - C. witty joke
 - D. surprising revelation
 - E. strong rebuke
4. The episode reveals a conflict between
- A. propriety and impertinence
 - B. virtue and corruption
 - C. kindness and cruelty
 - D. passiveness and aggression
 - E. refinement and grossness

Read the passage and answer the following questions:

**One summer evening (led by her)¹ I found
A little boat tied to a willow tree
Within a rocky cave, its usual home.
Straight I unloosed her chain, and stepping in
Pushed from the shore. It was an act of stealth
And troubled pleasure, nor without the voice
Of mountain-echoes did my boat move on;
Leaving behind her still, on either side,
Small circles glittering idly in the moon,
Until they melted all into one track
Of sparkling light. But now, like one who rows,
Proud of his skill, to reach a chosen point
With an unswerving line, I fixed my view
Upon the summit of a craggy ridge,
The horizon's utmost boundary; for above**

Was nothing but the stars and the grey sky.
She was an elfin pinnace;² lustily
I dipped my oars into the silent lake,
And, as I rose upon the stroke, my boat
Went heaving through the water like a swan;
When, from behind that craggy steep till then
The horizon's bound, a huge peak, black and huge,
As if with voluntary power instinct
Upreared its head. I struck and struck again,
And growing still in stature the grim shape
Towered up between me and the stars, and still,
For so it seemed, with purpose of its own
And measured motion like a living thing,
Strode after me. With trembling oars I turned,
And through the silent water stole my way
Back to the covert of the willow tree;
There in her mooring-place I left my bark, —
And through the meadows homeward went, in grave
And serious mood; but after I had seen
That spectacle, for many days, my brain
Worked with a dim and undetermined sense
Of unknown modes of being; o'er my thoughts
There hung a darkness, call it solitude
Or blank desertion. No familiar shapes
Remained, no pleasant images of trees,
Of sea or sky, no colours of green fields;
But huge and mighty forms, that do not live
Like living men, moved slowly through the mind
By day, and were a trouble to my dreams.

(1850)

1. Nature.

2. A boat.

1. The excerpt is best described as
 - A. an enthusiastic celebration of youthful optimism
 - B. an ironic self-portrait colored by satiric observations
 - C. an imaginative evocation without didactic intention
 - D. a symbolic representation of intellectual creativity
 - E. a narrative episode with philosophical implications

2. In lines 1-7, which of the following devices is used to present nature, the boat, and the mountain echoes?
 - A. Personification
 - B. Apostrophe
 - C. Rhyme
 - D. Paradox
 - E. Simile

3. In lines 6-7, “the voice/Of mountain-echoes” serves to reinforce the speaker’s sense of
 - A. freedom
 - B. omnipotence
 - C. furtiveness
 - D. enthusiasm
 - E. despondency

4. At the conclusion of the excerpt, the “huge peak” (line 22) seems to represent which of the following for the speaker?
 - A. An emblem of the beauty of the natural world
 - B. A figure of undefined and unsettling significance
 - C. An allegorical representation of sin itself
 - D. A curious natural phenomenon
 - E. A trivial figment of the speaker’s