

Adapted from *The Voyage Out* by Virginia Woolf (1915).

"[... Rachel] had been educated as the majority of well-to-do girls in the last part of the nineteenth century were educated. Kindly doctors and gentle old professors had taught her the rudiments of about ten different branches of knowledge, but they would as soon have forced her to go through one piece of drudgery thoroughly as they would have told her that her hands were dirty. The one hour or the two hours weekly passed very pleasantly, partly owing to the other pupils, partly to the fact that the window looked upon the back of a shop, where figures appeared against the red windows in winter, partly to the accidents that are bound to happen when more than two people are in the same room together. But there was no subject in the world which she knew accurately. Her mind was in the state of an intelligent man's in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth; she would believe practically anything she was told, invent reasons for anything she said. The shape of the earth, the history of the world, how trains worked, or money was invested, what laws were in force, which people wanted what, and why they wanted it, the most elementary idea of a system in modern life—none of this had been imparted to her by any of her professors or mistresses. But this system of education had one great advantage. It did not teach anything, but it put no obstacle in the way of any real talent that the pupil might chance to have. Rachel, being musical, was allowed to learn nothing but music; she became a fanatic about music. All the energies that might have gone into languages, science, or literature, that might have made her friends, or shown her the world, poured straight into music. Finding her teachers inadequate, she had practically taught herself. At the age of twenty-four she knew as much about music as most people do when they are thirty; and could play as well as nature allowed her to, which, as became daily more obvious, was a really generous allowance. If this one definite gift was surrounded by dreams and ideas of the most extravagant and foolish description, no one was any the wiser."

1. The main purpose of this passage is to _____.

show that Rachel is uneducated compared to the majority of her peers

describe the difficulties and injustices of the system of education that Rachel has endured

show that Rachel has not received a rigorous education but is nonetheless very knowledgeable about music

compare the advantages and disadvantages of two different systems of education in the late nineteenth century

2. According to this passage, what is the advantage of Rachel's system of education?

It is relatively easy, so the students don't have to work very hard

It does not impede a student from learning about a subject he or she is interested in

It helps the majority of students achieve academic success

It provides the necessary resources for a student to become an expert in any subject

3. The word in bold in the passage most nearly means _____.

basics

roots

details

founders

4. According to the passage, around the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign what would an intelligent man's mind have been like?

Sophisticated and full of facts

Boorish and uncultivated

Uninformed and imprecise

Inquisitive and creative

5. According to the passage, Rachel's instructors would be unlikely to _____.

be kind to her

allow her to continue the lesson if her hands were dirty

insist that she study hard

teach during the winter

6. Which of the following quotes from the passage is an example of a cause and effect relationship?

"It did not teach anything, but it put no obstacle in the way of any real talent that the pupil might chance to have."

"Finding her teachers inadequate, she had practically taught herself."

"Her mind was in the state of an intelligent man's in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth; she would believe practically anything she was told, invent reasons for anything she said."

"All the energies that might have gone into languages, science, or literature, that might have made her friends, or shown her the world, poured straight into music."

7. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about Rachel's musical talent?

Rachel's musical talent is increasing rather than decreasing

Rachel is a gifted musician but doesn't practice enough

Rachel does not know enough about music to become a great musician

Rachel's instructors have encouraged her to develop her natural talent

8. Based on this passage, what can be inferred about the author's attitude toward the education of women?

The author implies that Rachel, and women in general, could achieve even more if they received a more rigorous education

The author wishes that she could have received the kind of education Rachel did, even though it was flawed

The author is disdainful of Rachel's education because she does not approve of education for women in general

The author is impressed with the quality of women's education, using Rachel as an example of what female students could achieve thanks to this educational system

9. The sentence "All the energies that might have gone into languages, science, or literature, that might have made her friends, or shown her the world, poured straight into music" suggests which of the following about Rachel's education?

That it emphasized the importance of music over other areas of study

That it forced her to study so much that she couldn't make any friends

That it did not allow Rachel to follow her passion for literature

That it enabled Rachel to focus entirely on music without gaining other kinds of knowledge and experience

10. The word underlined in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

Rote memorization

Poorly written text

Difficult, boring work

Physical labor

11. According to the passage, which of the following constitutes evidence for the assertion that

Rachel's system of education "did not teach anything"?

The fact that Rachel knew as much about music as a thirty year-old

The fact that Rachel did not know how trains work

Rachel's inability to concentrate during class

Rachel's ignorance of the ten branches of knowledge

12. The phrase "a really generous allowance" refers to _____.

Rachel's considerable musical talent

A large sum of money that Rachel could use however she wished

Rachel's love of music practice

An anonymous gift that enabled Rachel to practice as often as she wanted