

AP[®] ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

FREE PRACTICE TEST

Answers and Explanations



ANSWER KEY

1. E	12. A	23. E	34. B	45. B
2. A	13. B	24. C	35. D	46. A
3. C	14. A	25. A	36. E	47. C
4. A	15. C	26. D	37. D	48. E
5. E	16. B	27. C	38. A	49. B
6. B	17. E	28. A	39. B	50. B
7. E	18. D	29. D	40. A	51. C
8. D	19. C	30. E	41. A	52. D
9. D	20. A	31. E	42. D	53. D
10. B	21. D	32. E	43. A	54. A
11. A	22. B	33. A	44. D	55. A

EXPLANATIONS

SECTION 1: Multiple-Choice Questions

- E** In order to determine the purpose of these lines, you need to obtain context. The remainder of the first stanza describes the speaker’s state, the “cruel immortality” in which he dwells. The word “cruel” tells you he is unhappy with his state of immortality. In looking at the answer choices, (A) can be eliminated. Given that the speaker is never going to die, the lines can’t be describing his forthcoming death. Choice (D) can be eliminated as well. Although there is tension between the speaker and his lover, that’s not what these lines serve to establish. Don’t be distracted by (B). While most people view death as something to mourn or grieve, the speaker views the concept of death quite differently. Likewise, don’t be distracted by (C). Although decaying woods and fields are examples of settings, neither is the speaker’s setting; rather, the decaying woods serve a metaphorical purpose. The correct answer is (E). In assessing the poem as a whole, it’s clear that the speaker desperately wishes to be mortal again. These introductory lines are an expression of affection for the natural cycle of life—specifically death, the final stage in the cycle.
- A** To answer this question, you must determine the context of the phrase. Without ascertaining the context, the phrase could be expressing any number of ideas. Lines 5 and 6 state that Tithonus’s immortality cruelly consumes him. Line 8, “a white-hair’d shadow roaming like a dream,” alludes to an elderly body that is so frail that it hardly exists. Choices (B) and (E) can be eliminated, because there is no reference to imagination or truth in the context of line 7. Eliminate (D) as well; Tithonus is referring to being old and in severe discomfort, not to dealing with life’s imperfections. Be careful of (C). Again, Tithonus is most certainly in pain as an immortal, but the context suggests another meaning. Choice (A) is the correct answer. The speaker uses the phrase “the quiet limit of the world” to explain how close he is to dying, and yet still lives on.
- C** Determine what distinguishes this stanza from the others. In it, you learn how the speaker is responsible for his current state of being. The remainder of the poem mainly expresses his deep, lasting misery as an immortal who is confined to old age. Choice (A) can be eliminated. Although the speaker notes that the goddess “didst...grant mine asking with a smile...Like wealthy men who care not how they give” (lines 16–17), this carelessness is not the main purpose of the stanza. Choice (B) can also be eliminated. While line 12 expresses Tithonus’s once “glorious” beauty, it is not the primary role of this stanza. Eliminate (E) for similar reasons. Lines 11–15 explain that the speaker asked to become immortal for egotistical reasons, but, again, that is not the chief purpose of the stanza. Choice (D) can also be eliminated, because the pain Tithonus is experiencing is evident throughout the poem, not just in this stanza. The correct answer is (C). The primary purpose of this stanza is to explain to readers how the speaker got to be in this agonizing situation.

4. **A** Review the entire third stanza for further context. The speaker is in the presence of another being who directly contrasts him, a goddess with bright eyes and a renewed heart—a being who is youthful, unlike himself. The “wild team” refers to the mythological horses who, “yearning for [the goddess’s] yoke” or youthful components, come out of the darkness and exert their powers. Choice (D) can be eliminated most easily. While “darkness” can be an implication of danger, the context doesn’t support that interpretation. Choice (B) can also be eliminated. The “darkness” that’s shaken from the horses’ manes suggests their power, not a transformation. That means that (E) can be eliminated as well, because the power being exerted here is by the mythological horses, not nature. Don’t be distracted by (C). Although the word “love” is included in the quote, there is no suggestion of its benefits. The correct answer is (A). The mythological horses “which love thee,” yearn for the goddess’s “yoke,” or youthfulness.
5. **E** This question requires you to assess the entire stanza. Within it, the speaker refers to another being, as is evident by his use of “thy” in line 38: “Thy sweet eyes brighten slowly close to mine.” The speaker is comparing himself to this being, the goddess who granted him immortality and is also his lover. This goddess is described with vitality: reddening cheeks (line 37) and “pure,” or immaculately perfect, “brows” and “shoulders” (line 35). Choice (A) can be eliminated most easily, because there is no allusion to indecision or assurance. Eliminate (B) for similar reasons: a comparison between animosity and good will is not suggested in the stanza. Choice (C) can be disregarded as well. Although the poem refers to gods and goddesses, this stanza does not compare them with each other. Don’t be distracted by (D). While life and death are contrasted, the speaker isn’t referring to the afterlife (heaven) and life (earth). Therefore, (E) is the correct answer. The speaker contrasts himself, an eternally elderly being, with his love, an eternally youthful being.
6. **B** Read the stanza again and summarize it. In these lines, the speaker is going back in time, remembering when he was a mortal and with another lover (“another heart”) who would sing to him. Choice (D) can be eliminated most easily because there is no hint of sarcasm or taunting, mocking remarks. Also eliminate (C), as a parody is an imitation or spoof of a serious work of literature. There is no hint of that in this serious poem. While this poem is very dramatic, (E) can also be eliminated, because Tithonus’s situation is being portrayed truthfully, not in an exaggerated manner. Don’t be tempted by (A). While this stanza does go back in time, remembering the past, it conveys circumstances opposite of Tithonus’s present existence. Therefore, the stanza does not foreshadow, or hint at what is to come, as Tithonus recalls his past. This observation leads to the correct answer, (B). The poet uses flashback to reveal Tithonus’s past experiences.
7. **E** Read the lines in the poem that include the word “East” and use context clues to determine what it symbolizes. In line 64, Tithonus asks not to be kept forever in “thine East,” then proceeds to contrast his decrepit state with his lover’s youthful state. Choice (D) can be eliminated because the speaker is struggling with his permanent life, not his impermanent life. Eliminate (A) because, while the East could symbolize nature, that idea is not supported by the context. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. While his lover the Greek goddess is credited with keeping Tithonus in the East, the East itself does not symbolize Greek gods. Don’t be distracted by (B). The speaker is confined to the East, but it’s not indicative of his state of mind. Choice (E) is the correct answer. The Sun rises in the East (a symbol of birth and life) and sets in the West (a symbol of endings and death). Confining the speaker to an existence in the East is the poet’s way of explaining that he is continually surrounded by youth, never reaching the West as a mortal being would.
8. **D** To answer this question, first analyze the lines. They describe how the speaker’s lover reacts to him (“Coldly thy rosy shadows bathe me”). They also describe his lover (“cold are all thy lights”) and the speaker (“cold my wrinkled feet... Upon thy glimmering thresholds”). Choice (B) can be eliminated. The lines in no way suggest that the speaker should be exonerated from blame for his current situation. Choice (C) can also be eliminated. The speaker feels emphatically about his current state; he is clearly suffering a great deal and says as much repeatedly. Eliminate (E) as well. While the speaker’s lover did endow him with immortality, it was other mythological creatures that put him into an elderly, suffering state. In addition, that information is not found in these lines, but others in the poem. Be careful of (A). While the speaker’s state does appear, by all accounts, to be permanent, that’s not the primary suggestion in these lines. Choice (D) is the correct answer. By contrasting himself with his lover, the conflict between them is illuminated.

9. **D** This question also requires you to ascertain context. The speaker ascribes the phrase “grassy barrows” to “the happier dead.” In the following line, the speaker asks to be released from his immortality and restored “to the ground”—to nature, from which he came. Choices (C) and (E) can both be eliminated, because although “grassy” refers to life, this phrase is not about nature’s perseverance or liveliness, but death. Eliminate (A) as well. While the speaker would qualify the dead as happily dormant, the context points at a different meaning. Don’t be distracted by (B). The use of “barrows” is not meant to refer to wheelbarrows, something grave diggers might use. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer. The speaker refers to burial sites as “grassy barrows,” mounds of dirt that have since grown grass, in order to portray his desire to live a natural life and therefore die and be buried in the earth.
10. **B** This question asks you to assess the main idea being expressed in the poem. Determining what the poem is mostly about helps to eliminate answer choices. The poem is mainly about Tithonus. As such, (A) and (E) can be eliminated because, while Tithonus is a prince in Greek mythology, the poem is not about Greek mythology as a whole. Choice (C) can also be eliminated. Although the poet explains why Tithonus was given immortality, it’s just a detail in the poem, not the main idea. Choice (D) can be eliminated for similar reasons. Asking for immortality proved unfortunate for Tithonus; he was unaware that he would be punished for his request, but the main idea of the poem goes beyond this specific aspect. Therefore, the correct answer is (B). The passage explains Tithonus’s current state of immortality and why it is such a painful state to inhabit. The poem concludes with his plea to be mortal, like other humans.
11. **A** This question requires you to generalize about the speaker and determine his mood by the information conveyed throughout the poem. Choice (C) can be eliminated, because there is nothing in the poem to suggest readers shouldn’t believe the speaker. Eliminate (D) as well. Although the speaker is experiencing conflict, he’s not conflicted about, or unsure of, how he feels. On the contrary, he seems quite assured in his desire to be mortal. Choice (B) can be eliminated because, while the speaker did experience something unexpected—being in a decrepit immortal body forever—there’s no sense that the speaker is uninformed about matters. Be careful of (E); while Tithonus is firm in his desire to be released from his immortality, it is not the best answer. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. The speaker has been foiled by the gods. He asked for immortality, but it came about in a different form than he had expected.
12. **A** The answer to this question is never directly stated in the poem, but merely suggested. As a result, the process of elimination is the most expedient way of determining the correct answer. Choices (B) and (E) can be eliminated, given that neither are implied in the poem; there is no suggestion that the goddess’s abilities or youthfulness rely on Tithonus’s immortal state. Eliminate (C) as well. While the goddess’s devotion to the speaker is expressed in the poem by her gifting him immortality (lines 15–16) and her crying when they separate (line 45), it is not implied that this is the reason she keeps him in his painful state. Don’t be distracted by (D). While this notion is expressed throughout the poem, it is not a reason why the goddess can’t release Tithonus from his immortality. The correct answer is (A). In the fifth stanza, the speaker asks if he will learn that it is indeed true that the ““Gods themselves cannot recall their gifts”” (line 49), implying that, as a goddess, Tithonus’s lover cannot undo the immortality she bestowed upon him.
13. **B** This question is asking you to assess the fundamental role these lines play in the passage. Use the process of elimination to determine the correct answer. Choice (C) can be eliminated. While it does provide some description of the time and place of the passage, the lines also reveal the narrator’s feelings, and this answer choice doesn’t address those details. Eliminate (D) as well. John isn’t mentioned in these lines, so the primary purpose can’t be to establish conflict between John and his wife. Choice (E) can be eliminated because, while the narrator does lie awake at night, it’s not completely clear in these lines that she has been battling sleeplessness on a consistent basis. Don’t be distracted by (A). One could argue that this is true about the narrator, but the lines serve a more important purpose. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer. These lines are a metaphor for the narrator’s frame of mind. The light “creeps so slowly” always coming in “one window or another,” revealing the narrator’s consistent battle with unhealthy thoughts.
14. **A** This question asks what is suggested in the line. Therefore, the correct answer will take the information in the line one step further to determine what’s being hinted at, but not actually said outright. In this line, John wakes in the middle of the night to find his wife out of bed and examining the bedroom wallpaper. He refers to her as a “little girl,” admonishes her for getting out of bed, and expresses worry that she will get sick because she left the bed. Choice (B) can be eliminated. While he calls her a “little girl,” it’s not meant to be taken literally; in other parts of the passage he uses similarly diminutive language when referring to his wife. Also eliminate (C) and (E) because, although both statements can be inferred from other parts of the passage, neither can be reasonably inferred from these lines. Don’t be distracted

- by (D). There is evidence that John thinks the narrator can easily surmount her illness, but lines 15 and 16 don't suggest this. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. John not only calls his wife a "little girl," but treats her like one. As a result, the line suggests that the narrator is made to feel like a child who is incapable of making her own decisions.
15. **C** This question asks you to evaluate the information in both sets of lines and determine their similarities. Choice (A) can be eliminated first. Both John and the narrator want her to get better, but they are of different mindsets in these lines on how to achieve this. Eliminate (D) as well. There is evidence elsewhere in the passage that the narrator lacks self-confidence, but neither set of lines specifically address that characteristic. Choice (B) can be eliminated as well. Lines 22–27 reveal John's compulsion to care for the narrator, but lines 40–42 don't reveal that. Don't be distracted by (E). While both sets of lines reveal that the narrator succumbing to John; neither shows that she dismisses his advice. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer. In lines 22–27, John tells the narrator that she's better despite her own claims that she doesn't feel better; he is effectively silencing her attempts to convey how she feels. In lines 40–42, the narrator directly states that John has silenced her: "I could not say another word."
16. **B** To analyze John's tone, gather context by reading the lines that come before and after lines 31–34. The narrator explains that she feels sicker when John, her husband, is not present. John's reaction is to think that his wife is being cute; he takes it as a show of her love for him, then persuades her to go back to sleep. Choice (E) can be eliminated most expeditiously. John is clearly playing the role of his wife's caretaker, which is not similar at all to playing the role of a young, innocent sibling. Also eliminate (A). Although you might think a husband would express concern, John doesn't; he actually tries to downplay her worries, as if there is no cause for concern. Eliminate (D) because, although John is trying to persuade the narrator to stop talking and go back to sleep, his tone and diction is personal, unlike the professional tone and diction of a salesperson. Don't be distracted by (C). John is indeed a doctor, and he is caring for his wife, but his tone, again, lacks the professionalism of a doctor-patient dynamic. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer. John's tone is condescending, regarding his wife's heart as "little," like a child's, and joking that her remark (that she gets ill when he leaves) is sweet.
17. **E** In analyzing the passage as a whole, the narrator is clearly obsessed by the wallpaper, specifically its pattern. The lines state that the narrator is aggravated by the pattern's "lack of sequence," "defiance of law," calling it a "constant irritant to a normal mind." The wallpaper, then, becomes a portal to the narrator's interior, giving the reader clues to how the narrator is feeling. Choices (B) and (D) can be eliminated. While both of these answer choices might express a truth in the narrator's life, the way the narrator describes the pattern does not create a valid representation of these two notions. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. It is never established that the narrator is obsessed with order, only that the pattern is irritating her. Be careful of (A). While the narrator is clearly suffering from mental hardship, the wallpaper's pattern is not symbolic of her inability to deal with life. The correct answer is (E). The wallpaper pattern becomes symbolic of the narrator's mindset. It reflects the discordance that is present in her life.
18. **D** This question asks you to analyze the writer's choice of words and their effects. The excerpt comprises the narrator's private, and therefore honest, thoughts. Read in its entirety, the sentence mainly functions to describe the narrator's opinion about the wallpaper's color and pattern. Eliminate (B). The narrator describes the color as "hideous," "unreliable," and "infuriating," so her dislike for the color is much greater than just "slightly unsavory." Choice (A) can be eliminated as well. Although the narrator is repeating a word, there is no suggestion or proof that she often restates her thoughts. Choice (C) can be eliminated for similar reasons, as it, too, is not supported by details in the passage. Don't be distracted by (E). The narrator's mindset is indeed in question by her family, and even herself at times, but this repetition of "enough" could be said by a psychologically healthy person as well. Therefore, the correct answer is (D). By repeating the word "enough," readers gain insight into the limits of the narrator's psychological tolerance. The color is "hideous enough," "unreliable enough," and "infuriating enough" to bother her in this instance, suggesting that she can, at other times, tolerate at least some fraction of hideousness, unreliability, and infuriation.
19. **C** The question states that lines 59–67 are different than those that come before it. To determine what the shift is, reread the lines that precede it. Choices (B) and (D) can be eliminated most readily, as the author does not employ irony (when the implied meaning differs sharply from the meaning being expressed) or hyperbole (exaggeration) in these lines. Choice (E) can also be eliminated. Neither in these lines nor anywhere else in the passage are readers provided with the narrator's past or her reason for feeling ill. Don't be distracted by (A). While these lines do provide a great

deal of detail, that isn't the primary shift that the lines present. The correct answer is (C). The author's narration changes from first person, using the pronoun *I*, to second person, using the pronoun *you*. The effect draws the reader in deeper into the thoughts of the narrator, by implying that readers ("you") would feel as the narrator does.

20. **A** This question requires you to analyze the sentence and determine its role in the passage. The narrator is describing the pattern in the wallpaper, but the author uses the wallpaper to refer to something deeper. Choice (B) can be eliminated. Although the notions being conveyed in this sentence are violent, there is nothing in the passage to suggest the narrator has a violent streak. Similarly, (C) can be eliminated. While John's treatment of the narrator surely impacts her, there's no evidence that he physically abuses her. Eliminate (E) as well. It's not clear how secluded the narrator is from the world, and the candid tone of the sentence plays no part in conveying such a notion. Don't be distracted by (D). The narrator is surely seeing more than what is there, which could be interpreted as her having an overactive imagination, but that notion isn't conveyed through the sentence's parallel structure. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. The author uses personification (attributing human qualities to non-human entities) as a way of expressing the obstacles the narrator experiences in her life.
21. **D** Throughout the passage, the narrator projects her perspective onto the patterns she sees in the wallpaper. This question asks you to analyze what those projections say about her. Choice (A) can be eliminated. The metaphor is largely indicative of a troubled mindset, not a hopeful one. Also eliminate (E). There is no suggestion in this metaphor that the narrator has a phobia of contracting an illness. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. The narrator is clearly obsessed with the wallpaper pattern, but that's not the function of the metaphor in these lines. Don't be distracted by (B). The narrator is confused at times, in that she doesn't always have a grip on reality, but that's not the primary function of the metaphor. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer. Fungus, such as mushrooms, grow by decomposing and absorbing dead or decaying organisms. The metaphor is an indication that the narrator's sense of self is breaking down.
22. **B** The passage ends with the narrator finally realizing that the pattern she's been so obsessed with contains a woman in a "dim sub-pattern." This allows you to apply the adjectives of the pattern, "dim" and "sub," to the woman as well. As such, the woman is located in the background and hardly seen. Choice (E) can be eliminated most readily, since the narrator's epiphany reflects the main plot, not a new, developing one. Choice (C) can also be eliminated. Although the narrator might say things her husband disagrees with, more often than not she seems to let her husband tell her what to do. Be careful of (D). It's not clear that the narrator is insecure, albeit she is troubled. Don't be distracted by (A). While this sentence could symbolize women's roles in society, the presence of the bars around the woman does not indicate that women hold power; it conveys just the opposite. Choice (B) is the correct answer. The narrator feels like the woman she sees in the pattern: stifled, unseen, and trapped. This is also evident by the preceding text, which describes how in light, the pattern has bars, bars that trap the woman.
23. **E** This question asks you to make a generalization about the narrator's point of view, then ascertain which of the answer choices reflects a similar perspective. As a result, process of elimination is the best tactic to take. Eliminate (A). Although the narrator is treated like a child in many ways—and she does live inside her head quite often—her psychological state is much darker and more mature than that of an imaginative child. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. The narrator is alone a lot, but she is not creating something, as an artist would. Eliminate (D) as well. The narrator makes decisions that go against her husband's wishes, which could be viewed as a protest of sorts, but she mostly does what he tells her to do. Don't be distracted by (B). There is evidence that the narrator does feel trapped, much like a prisoner, but there is no indication of her feeling guilt. Therefore, (E) is the correct answer. The narrator is clearly disturbed by the wallpaper and is constantly inspecting it. Her perspective is most like a troubled investigator.
24. **C** This question asks you to assess the overall impact of the passage and the point of view it expresses. Formulate your notion of the passage's perspective, then use the process of elimination to determine the answer choice that best expresses it. Choice (E) can be most easily eliminated. There is nothing in the passage that suggests mental institutions are effective; in fact, such institutions are never mentioned. Eliminate (B) as well. While the relationship that John and the narrator have reveals a problematic dynamic, the overall impact of the passage focuses elsewhere. Be careful of (D). The treatment of women is most definitely touched upon in this passage, but the overall impact of the passage focuses elsewhere. Likewise, don't be distracted by (A). The passage does read like a monologue, in that readers are solely in the head of the narrator, but it offers nothing in the way of how to treat mental illness. The correct answer is (C). The passage offers a sympathetic view on the mindset of an individual suffering from psychological disorders.

25. **A** This question asks you to determine why the setting is important in this passage. Setting comprises time and/or place. Line 1 tells you the characters' location: they are on a plain in the countryside that where there are 30 or 40 windmills present. Choice (C) can be eliminated. The reference to Greek mythology is minor and has little to do with the setting. Also eliminate (B). The setting doesn't result in any symbolism. Eliminate (D) as well. The mood of the passage is derived more from the characters' dialogue than the setting. Be careful of (E). A satire is a work of literature that ridicules human folly. While the character Don Quixote is certainly an example of human folly, the setting of this excerpt doesn't serve to ridicule his human folly. The correct answer is (A). The setting helps to establish Don Quixote's conflict with reality and with Sancho Panza's perspective.
26. **D** This question asks you to qualify the narration of the passage. Given that it is written in the third person (the narrator is not a character in the passage), the correct answer will reflect an impartial narration. For this reason, you can eliminate (A), (B), and (C)—they all reveal a subjectivity. Don't be distracted by (E). Don Quixote is confused, but the narrator is not. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer. The narrator expresses the situation objectively, offering facts and observations about the scene, which allows readers to make up their own minds about the characters' actions and thoughts.
27. **C** Ascertain the context of these lines in order to determine their primary function. Don Quixote dismisses Sancho Panza's warnings that the so-called giants are actually windmills, and in these lines, he decides to go ahead with his warfare on them despite both his close-up view of the windmills and how loudly Sancho Panza yells to persuade him otherwise. Choice (E) can be eliminated. The function of the lines is not to suggest Don Quixote can't physically see well. Eliminate (D) as well. Even though Don Quixote goes against Sancho Panza's advice, his distrust of him isn't what's being imparted in these lines. Choice (A) can also be eliminated. Although Sancho Panza does appear to be loyal to Don Quixote, that is only one detail from these lines, not their overall purpose. Be careful of (B). It's evident that Don Quixote is extremely focused, but the fact that he ignores Sancho Panza's cries and fails to perceive the reality that's right in front of him alludes to something deeper. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer. Despite the fact that Don Quixote is standing right in front of the windmills—meaning there's no reason to mistake them for anything else—he still charges at them as if they were enemies in battle. These lines serve to emphasize just how strong Don Quixote believes in what is not true.
28. **A** This question requires you to apply the information in the footnote. As you assess each answer choice, refer back to the lines to consider if the details support each statement. Eliminate (E). Although Don Quixote refers to Briareus, there's no evidence that he believes he's living during the time that Homer's poems were about. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. Don Quixote describes the "giants" as being even more formidable than Briareus, but there is no evidence to support an inference that he thinks the "giants" are actually nefarious mythological deities. Also eliminate (D). Although Briareus's parents are deities of heaven and earth, there's no suggestion that Don Quixote believes he will move heaven and earth. Don't be distracted by (B). Don Quixote does compare the "giants" to Briareus, but it is not evident that he fought Briareus in the past. The correct answer is (A). The footnote explains that the gods referred to this deity by the name Briareus, while mortals referred to him as Aegaeon. Because Don Quixote calls him Briareus, it can be reasonably deduced that Don Quixote deems himself equal to a Greek deity.
29. **D** Refer back to the sentence in question and make observations about its structure and subsequent effect. Eliminate (C). This sentence presents details in chronological sequence. Choice (E) can be eliminated as well, because alliteration (when a string of words begin with the same consonant sound) is not present in this sentence. Eliminate (A) as well. Stream of consciousness reveals a character's innermost thoughts, but that's not what is happening here. Don't get distracted by (B). The sentence does reveal some of Don Quixote's thoughts—he asks for his lover's support—but it also comprises other details. Thus, the overall effect of the sentence does not reveal his scattered mind. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer. The length of the sentence helps convey how easily Don Quixote was defeated by the "giants."
30. **E** This question requires you to determine the primary role of the lines. Paraphrase the idea that Don Quixote is expressing in this quote, then use the process of elimination to find the correct answer. Eliminate (A). This quote does contain the word "fortune," which can mean "wealth," but in this sentence, it's used to mean any kind of positive outcome in warfare. Choice (D) can also be eliminated. Although Don Quixote speaks as if he has a lot of experience as a knight, that's not the main purpose of this quote. Eliminate (B) as well. Don Quixote is explaining that the nature of warfare involves numerous wins and losses, but that's not the primary purpose of these lines.

Don't be distracted by (C). Although Don Quixote is speaking to Sancho Panza, the lines don't serve to illustrate their relationship. Therefore, (E) is the correct answer. Despite the fact that "the giants" beat Don Quixote easily (and indeed they are not giants but windmills), he insists on believing his delusions.

31. **E** This question asks you to compare Sancho Panza and Don Quixote. Choice (D) can be eliminated because the physical appearance of the characters is not established in the passage. Eliminate (A) as well. Don Quixote rides a horse (a "steed," line 25) and Sancho Panza rides a donkey (an "ass," line 46), but there is no information in the passage that explains who is a more advanced rider. Eliminate (C) because, although Don Quixote does tell Sancho Panza to go pray if he doesn't want to engage in combat, there is no evidence that Sancho Panza actually does pray. Instead, he watches Don Quixote attempt to fight the "giants." Don't get distracted by (B). It's true that Don Quixote embraces adventures, as is the case when he invents one in this passage, and it's true that Sancho Panza doesn't go along with the adventure that Don Quixote concocts, but it's not evident from the details in the passage that Sancho Panza is actually opposed to adventures, that is, to real adventures. The correct answer is (E). Don Quixote's imagination is so strong he sees windmills as giants, whereas Sancho Panza is rooted in reality and sees things for what they actually are.
32. **E** This question asks you to surmise the passage's overall purpose based on its literary elements and details. Eliminate (B). Don Quixote followed his own will and ended up being hurt, so the passage doesn't function as incentive to do as he did. Choice (C) can also be eliminated. While Don Quixote and Sancho Panza have different perspectives, the overall purpose of the passage is to do more than show their differences. Eliminate (D) for similar reasons. Although Don Quixote's fanciful thoughts ultimately lead to his getting hurt, the overall purpose of the passage gets at something larger. Don't get distracted by (A). Although Don Quixote misperceives reality, he is just as sure of himself at the end of the passage as he was at the beginning. Therefore, the dangers of being oblivious are not quite evident in the passage. The correct answer is (E). Overall, the passage expresses an entertaining story about a character who insists on persevering, even in the strangest of circumstances.
33. **A** In these first lines of the excerpt, Lord Illingworth is in disbelief by Mrs. Arbuthnot's rejection, as is evident by his reply, "Are you serious?" Eliminate (C). A businessperson would most certainly be unhappy being jailed, but that is a known outcome—not a surprise—for not paying taxes. Therefore, there's no parallel with Mrs. Arbuthnot's rejection of Lord Illingworth. Choice (E) can likewise be eliminated. A comedian may be disappointed that his or her joke was bad, but not necessarily surprised—not all jokes can be successful. Eliminate (B) as well. A farmer would be devastated by such a loss, but a loss of crops is a scenario that farmers prepare for in various ways, and again, is not necessarily an unexpected outcome. Don't get distracted by (D). Although Lord Illingworth finds Mrs. Arbuthnot's rejection unexpected, this is not a parallel situation. It is true that sailors cannot predict all changes in the wind, but that also means sailors know that nature is unpredictable. Lord Illingworth has no concept that there might be a response other than yes. Therefore, the correct answer is (A). Lord Illingworth's reaction is most similar to a chess champion who has complete and total confidence that he would beat a novice and was flabbergasted at his defeat.
34. **B** Obtain the context for this phrase before answering the question. Lord Illingworth states that "women live by" and "for" their emotions, suggesting that their lives are guided by their feelings and nothing else. He continues by contrasting that outlook with one that includes a "philosophy of life." Choice (D) can be eliminated, because *sentiment* is a synonym for *emotion*. Choice (E) can also be eliminated because the context doesn't support that Lord Illingworth thinks Mrs. Arbuthnot is apprehensive or doubtful. Eliminate (C) as well. To live a life centered on emotions would not prevent a person from having life experiences. Don't be distracted by (A). If women live according to their emotions or how they feel, that still qualifies as having an opinion. The correct answer is (B). Lord Illingworth is contrasting feeling with thinking. He's saying that women are controlled by their emotions and, as a result, have no rationale for how they live. They lack intellect.
35. **D** In these lines, Mrs. Arbuthnot explains to Lord Illingworth that his son began to despise him when he learned the facts about his father. Choices (C) and (E) can both be eliminated because neither suggests gaining any insight; rather, they qualify methods for a process. Eliminate (A) as well. This adage expresses having two conflicting experiences, which is not the aim of Mrs. Arbuthnot's words. Don't be distracted by (B). Although Mrs. Arbuthnot does suggest that her son was ignorant of his father's true nature or actions, she is saying something else in these lines. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer. This adage explains that the more you get to know someone, the more opportunity you have to find something to dislike about them. This is along the same lines as the meaning of Mrs. Arbuthnot's statement. At first, children love their parents. But as they get to know them, they learn their faults and begin to hate them for them.

36. **E** In the passage, Lord Illingworth uses “fin-de-siècle” as an insult. As such, eliminate (C) and (D), because they are both positive qualities. Choice (B) can also be eliminated. Based on the information in the footnote, there’s no suggestion that a fin-de-siècle person deceives others. Don’t get distracted by (A). Although it is an insult to call someone “inadequate,” the information in the footnote points to other qualities. The correct answer is (E). The footnote states that fin-de-siècle is characterized by despair, among other qualities. It most nearly means feeling miserable.
37. **D** A flower can be representative of several notions or qualities. Obtain the context to determine how Lord Illingworth was using it. The preceding sentence imparts something nice about Mrs. Arbuthnot. Therefore, the metaphor has positive connotations. Therefore, eliminate (C) and (E) because both have negative connotations. Don’t get distracted by (A) or (B). Both options could be the intended meaning of flower metaphor, but in this context, the flower is symbolic of something different. Choice (D) is the correct answer. The line concludes with “to do anything I liked with,” suggesting that, back then, Mrs. Arbuthnot was vulnerable and trusting, much like a fragile flower.
38. **A** It’s imperative to obtain the context in which these words were stated by Lord Illingworth. These words are among several he says to convey to Mrs. Arbuthnot the warmth he once felt for her. Choice (B) can be eliminated. Although he refers to Mrs. Arbuthnot as a “plaything,” the overall function is not to imply that she was promiscuous. Choice (E) can also be eliminated. There’s no apparent connection, within these lines or in the surrounding context, that compares the adults’ romance to Gerald and Hester’s. Eliminate (D) as well. While Lord Illingworth seems to be saying something nice on the surface, he is also referring to Mrs. Arbuthnot in diminutive terms: “the most fascinating of small romances” and “the prettiest of playthings.” It’s nice on the surface, but insulting just below. As a result, his love seems disingenuous, not genuine. Don’t get distracted by (C). This line could imply that they were together a short time, as “small romances” could be interpreted, but that’s not the *primary* function of the lines. Choice (A) is the correct answer. Many of the nice things Lord Illingworth says about Mrs. Arbuthnot are also offensive and they show his lack of respect for her as a person. His words function overall to reveal his lack of depth as a person.
39. **B** Obtain the context for this line. Mrs. Arbuthnot slaps Lord Illingworth before he can finish his sentence. After he leaves, she says to herself, “He would have said it. He would have said it.” Therefore, the correct answer is related to dialogue, not actions. Eliminate (C) and (D) because these are both actions. Choice (A) can also be eliminated. Although it’s true that being involved with a married man is considered morally wrong, the interrupted dialogue conveys something else. Don’t get distracted by (E). While it’s clear Lord Illingworth was about to say something that Mrs. Arbuthnot did not want to hear, and Lord Illingworth talks about meeting “people of one’s own rank,” the context points to another notion. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer. Lord Illingworth refers to his former mistress and is about to refer to his son. However, because he was born out of wedlock, she feared he might use a derogatory term, “bastard,” so she cut him off and slapped his face, preventing him from articulating the word.
40. **A** This question asks you to compare two distinct parts of the drama. Quickly reread the sections and note how they differ. Choice (B) can most easily be eliminated. The first part of the drama focuses on both their present and past relationships. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. The dialogue comprising both sets of lines pushes the plot forward and reveals characters’ traits. Eliminate (D) as well. The mood is consistent throughout the drama. Don’t be distracted by (E). The first half of the drama does present a conflict, but the second half does include a resolution (Mrs. Arbuthnot has firmly decided to keep Lord Illingworth out of her life) and the tone throughout the drama remains the same. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. These two sets of lines most emphatically reveal a delineation between revealing the strength of Mrs. Arbuthnot’s character and her vulnerability.
41. **A** The context explains that Lord Illingworth has just left, after Mrs. Arbuthnot abruptly slaps him, cutting him off from finishing his sentence. She is emotional and crying after this bold move. Choice (B) can be eliminated, because Hester tries to comfort Mrs. Arbuthnot after she repeats these words; there’s no indication that she feels jealous. Choice (C) can also be eliminated. Although she refers to Gerald as a boy, it’s out of affection for him, not because she views him as immature or childish. Eliminate (E) as well. Although it’s true that Mrs. Arbuthnot didn’t want Gerald to run into his father, the use of repetition signifies something else. Don’t get distracted by (D). The situation is clearly taking an emotional toll on Mrs. Arbuthnot, but it’s an exaggeration to say she’s going mad. The correct answer is (A). Mrs. Arbuthnot is worried about her son and how the reemergence of his father will affect him.

42. **D** This is the final line of the passage; as such, it naturally holds great weight to the meaning of the passage. Choice (A) can be eliminated. While Mrs. Arbuthnot did reject Lord Illingworth's proposal, that's very separate from the impact of this line. Eliminate (B) as well. Although Mrs. Arbuthnot just had an emotional experience, she knows exactly what she's saying—there is no lack of clarity whatsoever. Eliminate (E) as well. The tension between the characters still exists, despite Mrs. Arbuthnot's seemingly calm tone. Be careful of (C). Mrs. Arbuthnot is indeed not telling the truth, but readers know that from the plot, not her tone. Therefore, the correct answer is (D). Regardless of Mrs. Arbuthnot's dislike for Lord Illingworth, he is indeed a man of importance in her life (he is the father of her child). The irony adds drama to the ending.
43. **A** While the details in the excerpt don't divulge the exact time in which the passage was set, line 30 ("What fin-de-siècle person?") suggests it's set near the beginning of the 20th century. But the biggest hint of the setting is in the passage's plot. The main conflict is between Mrs. Arbuthnot and Lord Illingworth and the repercussions—mainly for Mrs. Arbuthnot—of their having had a child out of wedlock. Choice (E) can be eliminated. While World War I will take place in the years to come, that ensuing political upheaval has little to do with the passage. Eliminate (D) as well. Mrs. Arbuthnot was Lord Illingworth's mistress, not his wife, and there's no suggestion that such behavior was commonplace in marital relationships. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. The class system is referred to in the passage; Lord Illingworth mentions "people of one's own rank" (line 43), but that doesn't serve the thrust of the drama. Don't get distracted by (B). Mrs. Arbuthnot did raise George alone, and that was clearly challenging, but financial hardships aren't alluded to as the main reason for it being so difficult. The correct answer is (A). While the interpersonal dynamics between Lord Illingworth and Mrs. Arbuthnot are part of their conflict, it's bolstered by the fact that women who had children out of wedlock were scorned. During the time of the drama, the roles and expectations of women were highly flawed, especially when compared to the roles and expectations of men.
44. **D** To ascertain an implication, you have to understand what's being stated and then take that information one step further to determine what it's suggesting. Lines 1 and 2 say "Let America be America again" and to "be the dream it used to be," both of which indicate there was an original goal that has yet to be fully realized. A pioneer is the first person to do something, so lines 3 and 4 suggest America would be a "pioneer on the plain." Choice (A) ignores the nuance of the words "again" and "used to be," which suggest America has fallen back or away from its original goals, not continually progressed, so eliminate choice (A). Be careful of choice (B). The speaker would agree with the statement that America was founded on principles that it has been unable to fulfill. However, that's not what is being suggested in the first stanza, so eliminate choice (B). Choice (C) can be eliminated because while sometimes true, there's no information on which to base such a conclusion. Eliminate choice (E) because it takes the last line too literally. Though pioneers were "seeking a home" on the plain, that's not the meaning of these last lines of the stanza. The correct answer is choice (D). By asking America to become "the pioneer on the plain," the speaker is effectively saying that if America was actually a nation wherein all citizens were free and equal, it would be the first nation in the world to achieve such a feat.
45. **B** The question asks you to determine the role of the parentheses. As in every passage, but especially in poetry, punctuation plays a key part in how we read and understand a text. Eliminate (E). Although original forms of poetry were lyrics that poets would sing (not read), that isn't what the parentheses are signifying here. Choice (D) can also be eliminated. There is only one source in this poem: the speaker. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. The words in the parentheses continue the rhyme scheme; they don't disrupt it. Don't be distracted by (A). While parentheses can be used to insert ideas that are slightly off-topic from the surrounding ideas, in this poem, the ideas in parentheses are relevant and do not stray from the topic at hand at all. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer. The poet uses parentheses to reveal the speaker's personal perspective on America.
46. **A** This question asks you to interpret the ideas being expressed in the stanza and how they reflect on the speaker. Choice (E) can be eliminated because there is no comparison of male and female roles in this stanza. Eliminate (D) as well. The speaker is criticizing America, but it's never clear that he wants to live elsewhere. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. Although the speaker does define the liberty he would like to experience, it's not evident that he is giving up hope that it *can* exist. Don't be distracted by (B). The speaker does suggest that some Americans treat other Americans terribly, but these lines don't impart that notion. The correct answer is (A). In line 12, the speaker discusses false patriotism. The implication is that the country touted itself as the land of liberty, but in reality, many Americans are not experiencing true freedom.

47. **C** These are the only full lines the poet decided to italicize within the poem. This question asks you to determine why he made that decision. Eliminate (A). While foreign language words are often set in italics, these lines are in English, the same language as the rest of the poem. Eliminate (D) as well. There's no evidence in the poem that any of the ideas expressed are questionable; the tone throughout the poem is earnest, direct, and strongly opinionated. Choice (B) can be eliminated as well. There doesn't appear to be two distinct sections of the poem. Don't get distracted by (E). The speaker does ask questions within these italicized lines, and he does proceed to answer them, but that's not the main function of the italics. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer. The italics serve to express to readers that an outside voice is inserting itself into the poem, one who asks for the identities of the downtrodden. This then allows the procession of thoughts within the poem to be clear.
48. **E** This question asks you to contrast the eighth and ninth stanzas. The eighth stanza, lines 19–24 (“I am the . . . crush the weak”), portrays the states of mind of disenfranchised Americans. The ninth stanza, lines 25–30 (“I am the . . . one's own greed”), portrays the states of mind of empowered Americans. Eliminate (A). Both sets of lines are written from first person narration, or from the perspective of “I.” Eliminate (B) as well. Neither set of lines is written in a passive tone, but a fervently opinionated one. Choice (C) can be eliminated as well. Lines 25–30 (“I am the . . . one's own greed”) do not express an immigrant's point of view, although lines 19–24 (“I am the . . . crush the weak”) do express a poverty stricken individual. Don't get distracted by (D). Lines 25–30 (“I am the . . . one's own greed”), do not impart a hopeful mood, but a driven, selfish mood. Therefore (E) is the correct answer. Lines 25–30 portray the point of view that causes the point of view in lines 19–24.
49. **B** Exclamation marks can be used to communicate a variety of effects. In these lines, the poet uses six exclamatory statements back-to-back, suggesting he had a very intentional reason for doing so. The lines describe the selfish acts of the wealthy and empowered. Choice (A) can be eliminated. In other parts of the poem, the speaker does appear to want to inspire change in his readers, but the exclamation points in these lines have a different purpose. Eliminate (D) as well. The actions being described in these lines might be considered unbelievably selfish to most people, but the exclamation points contribute to a different goal. Eliminate (C) as well. Exclamation marks are often used to express shouting, but that is not their chief purpose here. Don't get distracted by (E). A form of excitement is being expressed via the exclamation marks in these lines, but it's not for leadership. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer. The exclamation marks impart the feeling of intense greed, of never having enough, always wanting more, and allowing that extreme desire to overcome any moral or ethical standards.
50. **B** This question asks you to obtain the context of these words. Read lines 39–44 to review the entire sentence in which this phrase appears, then paraphrase the meaning of the sentence. Eliminate (C). Although the speaker does consider the dream of freedom flawed because it has heretofore been unattainable, this phrase expresses a different idea. Choice (D) can also be eliminated. Line 41 does express “a dream so strong,” but these lines aren't discussing the nation's strength and dominance. Eliminate (E) as well. The speaker would agree that American leadership has deceived its citizens, but that's not what he's informing readers about with this phrase. Don't get distracted by (A). “Mighty” and “daring” do imply audacity. However, “sings” is not correctly paraphrased in this answer choice. The correct answer is (B). The speaker believes that the hope and dream of creating a land of the free is what compelled citizens to build America. They put in that effort and toil because they thought they were contributing to manifesting a country wherein all citizens could be free and equal.
51. **C** This question asks about the effect of the repetition in the stanza. Note first where the repetition takes place. “Millions” and “all” are repeated often, as is “the millions who have nothing for our pay” (repeated in lines 55 and 60). Eliminate (B). This stanza isn't about political leaders; it's about citizens who have hope and who have made major contributions to the nation, with little to nothing to show for it. Choice (A) can be eliminated as well. The speaker does discuss the “millions on relief today,” but that is just one detail in the stanza and it's not an idea that is impacted by the repetition in the lines. Eliminate (D) as well. In another part of the poem, the speaker does encourage readers to make the country what it set out to be: the land of the free. But that's not the effect of this stanza or its use of repetition. Don't get distracted by (E). These lines do ask several questions, but the speaker is not questioning whether the American dream involves hardships. He is unequivocally saying it *does* involve hardships. The correct answer is (C). The effect of the repetition of “millions” and “all” serve primarily to stress just how many citizens are not free. It's not a small group of citizens, but a formidable quantity, made up of all kinds of people who came to America to pursue a dream of living a free life.

52. **D** Lines 81–82 deal with the maltreatment of American citizens and contrast greatly with the remainder of the poem, which imparts a positive way forward. Choice (C) can be eliminated. Equality is defined elsewhere in the poem (by way of contrast), but not here. Eliminate (A) as well. There is no silver lining, or positive aspect, of inequality and lack of true liberty, and the speaker is not expressing that there is. Choice (E) can also be eliminated. The speaker talks of redeeming America, but not that reparations, or compensation for past injustices, must be made for the suffering that’s already occurred. Don’t get distracted by (B). The speaker does outline the beauty in America by citing its natural wonders, but that’s not the chief difference between this last section of the poem and lines 81–82. The correct answer is (D). The main distinction between lines 81–82 and the remainder of the poem is that, in the latter, the speaker encourages readers to take action, to not settle for things to continue the way they are, and to fight to make America what its founders intended it to be: a land of equality and freedom.
53. **D** The words in alliteration are “rack,” “ruin,” “rape,” and “rot.” How are those words united as a result of them all beginning with the letter “r”? Choice (A) can be eliminated. While both the victims and the aggressors are referenced in these lines, the alliteration does not mainly serve to distinguish those who foment inequality in America and those who are treated unequally. Choice (B) can be eliminated as well. The soft consonant of the “r” has little to no effect on readers’ empathy. Eliminate (C) for similar reasons. Although the “r” is considered a gentle sound (as opposed to “g,” “t,” and other hard consonants), the main function of the alliteration isn’t to establish a gentler tone within the poem. The fact that the words themselves are harsh, also makes it clear that (C) is not the correct answer. Be careful of (E). All four nouns do express destruction of one kind or another, but that’s not the main effect of the alliteration. The correct answer is (D). The main function of the alliteration is to call readers attention to the various atrocities that have been committed.
54. **A** This question asks you to ascertain the role that setting plays in this poem. Setting is the time and place of a work of literature. From the information provided, you know that the poem was first published in 1936, so the correct answer choice should reflect this decade because the poet is addressing the current state of America. Choice (C) can be eliminated. There is no reference to World War II (1939–1945) in this poem. It hasn’t happened yet. Choice (D) can be eliminated as well. Although the speaker does refer to the Old World and serfdom in line 40, that refers to the distant past, which is not the main setting of the poem. Eliminate (B) as well. Line 72 states “the steel of freedom does not stain,” but it’s not a reflection of the nation’s economy; it’s used as a metaphor for strength. Be careful of (E). Line 54 does mention “the millions shot down when we strike,” but it’s not clear what specific event that refers to. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. The speaker uses “Negro” and “red man” to describe people of color, both terms that were used in 1930s, but are not respectful to use today.
55. **A** This question asks you to surmise the speaker’s overall perspective throughout the poem. Think about his opinions and how he delivers those opinions. Eliminate (B). The speaker is not assessing America from a neutral, or impartial, point of view. He has a strong opinion about America. Choice (C) can also be eliminated. While the speaker ultimately believes in America and citizens’ ability to make it the country it claims to be, overall he has major problems with the country. To describe him as an abiding patriot would be farfetched. Choice (D) can also be eliminated. The speaker is emotional, but he’s not telling stories. He’s explaining a reality from his point of view. Be careful of (E). While the speaker is astute, he’s not just an observer, he’s a participant. The subject he discusses reflects his personal experiences. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. The speaker is intelligently prodding readers to take action, to make America the best it can be.