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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, American Literature	100
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QUESTION NO: 1

Our age is retrospective. It builds the sepulchers of the fathers. It writes biographies, histories, and criticism. The foregoing generations beheld God and nature face to face; we, through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe? Why should not we have a poetry and philosophy of insight and not of tradition, and a religion by revelation to us, and not the history of theirs?

The passage above is from the work of

- A. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- B. Mark Twain
- C. Edith Wharton
- D. Louisa May Alcott
- E. Kate Chopin

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The passage is from the opening paragraph of Emerson's *Nature* (1836). *Nature* explains the main principle of Transcendentalism, the concept of a "mystical unity of nature." Emerson urged independent thinking and encouraged readers to learn from life rather than from books alone.

QUESTION NO: 2

The former viewed nature as comprehensible and a source of divine inspiration and a new spirit of American individualism, while the later saw it as a savage force – beautiful but alien and perilous.

The above text most likely refers to which two authors?

- A. Nathaniel Hawthorne and John Greenleaf Whittier
- B. Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman
- C. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Henry David Thoreau
- D. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Herman Melville
- E. Oliver Wendell Holmes and William Cullen Bryant

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Part of Emerson's new national vision was based on the inspiration he felt individuals could gain from an appreciation of nature. Melville, however, often portrayed nature as a savage or even vengeful force, most famously symbolized by the great white whale Moby Dick.

QUESTION NO: 3

There was no God in his heart, he knew; his ideas were still in riot; there was ever the pain of memory; the regret for his lost youth yet the waters of disillusion had left a deposit on his soul, responsibility and a love of life, the faint stirring of old ambitions and unrealized dreams. But oh, Rosalind! Rosalind!...

"It's all a poor substitute at best," he said sadly. And he could not tell why the struggle was worth while, why he had determined to use to the utmost himself and his heritage from the personalities he had passed.... He stretched out his arms to the crystalline, radiant sky. "I know myself," he cried, "but that is all."

The phrase "had left a deposit on his soul" is best paraphrased as

- A. concealed his true personality
- B. lifted his spirit
- C. washed away his troubles
- D. given him important lessons
- E. made him cynical

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The character's disillusionment taught him important lessons: responsibility and a love of life.

QUESTION NO: 4

Which Boston preacher was known in part for his narratives of the Salem witch trials?

- A. Cotton Mather
- B. William Bradford
- C. Anne Bradstreet
- D. Roger Williams
- E. Michael Wigglesworth

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Cotton Mather was pastor of the Old North Church in Boston and author of over 500 works including *The Wonders of the Invisible World*, a discussion of witches and the supernatural.

QUESTION NO: 5

Which of the following was the preeminent female essayist of the Transcendentalist period in American literature?

- A. Edith Wharton
- B. Phillis Wheatley
- C. Margaret Fuller
- D. Emily Dickinson
- E. Ellen Glasgow

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Margaret Fuller worked as a teacher and editor and wrote about transcendentalism, women's rights, critical theory, gender roles, and related subjects.

QUESTION NO: 6

(1) Working and going to school at the same time is difficult. (2) It's hard to find time to do school work, and there's no time for goofing off, leisure, relaxing and enjoying yourself. (3) What makes the situation worse is that as a young person, the only jobs available are usually boring or unpleasant.

(4) When I worked at the movie complex, I was getting paid minimum wage. (5) I had to run from theater to theater to clean each as quickly as possible. (6) Picking up of garbage was not only disgusting, it was also exhausting. (7) Spilled drinks made the seats and floors sticky. (8) Popcorn that was dropped and stepped on became a mushy pulp.

(9) The video rental store wasn't much better. (10) I always had a manager looking over my shoulder to make sure that I did everything right. (11) I was constantly being threatened with losing my job, and the customers have been the rudest people I ever met. (12) They would take pleasure in making my life as difficult as possible.

(13) Working the buffet line at Soupserve depressed me also. (14) But it was the rude customers that made the job unpleasant. (15) Sweating from the high temperatures, the customers complained the food was not warm enough, while I served them standing between the warming ovens and the steam table.

(16) Having these jobs has convinced me that I need to complete my education. (17) I'm looking forward to completing my degree in my chosen field, business, and going to work as an accountant, which won't be as boring and unpleasant as the jobs I've held while in school.

Which of the following is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 2?

It's hard to find time to do schoolwork, and there's no time for goofing off, leisure, relaxing, and enjoying yourself.

- A. to goof off, leisure, relax, and enjoy

- B. for goofing off, relaxing, and enjoying yourself
- C. to enjoy your leisure time.
- D. to relax and enjoy yourself.
- E. for messing around.

ANSWER: D

QUESTION NO: 7

Which author's polemical anti-slavery novel was first published as episodes in the weekly The National Era?

- A. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps
- B. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- C. Booker T. Washington
- D. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- E. W.E.B. DuBois

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin was first published in 40 weekly installments in the Washington anti-slavery weekly The National Era.

QUESTION NO: 8

Which of the following was NOT common in early Puritan literature?

- A. Poetry
- B. Sermons
- C. Theological tracts
- D. Short stories
- E. Histories

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Puritan writing reflected their disapproval of lighthearted amusement. Short stories were not common in early Puritan literature.

QUESTION NO: 9

All of the following wrote of heroes wandering the open roads of America EXCEPT

- A. James Fenimore Cooper
- B. Henry James
- C. Walt Whitman
- D. Jack Kerouac
- E. John Steinbeck

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Each of the authors listed wrote about lonely travelers of America's open roads and wilderness except for Henry James, who focused instead on the moral and intellectual life of more settled Americans.

QUESTION NO: 10

According to animal protection groups, the measure would be the most decisive action by the commission to date.

Begin with "Animal protection groups believe".

- A. of the measure
would lead to: "Animal protection groups believe that of the measure the following: it would be the most decisive action by the commission to date." (Awkward)
- B. concerning the measure
would lead to: "Animal protection groups believe concerning the measure that it would be the most decisive action by the commission to date." (Awkward)
- C. that the measure
- D. which the measure
would lead to: "Animal protection groups believe which the measure would be the most decisive action by the commission to date." (Improper sentence structure)
- E. to the measure

would lead to: "Animal protection groups believe to the measure would be the most decisive action by the commission to date." (Improper sentence structure)

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The new sentence makes “groups believe” the new subject-verb combination. Now the sentence needs a word to set up a modifying phrase. The correct answer reads: “Animal protection groups believe that the measure would be the most decisive action by the commission to date.”

A. would lead to: “Animal protection groups believe that of the measure the following: it would be the most decisive action by the commission to date.” (Awkward)

B. would lead to: “Animal protection groups believe concerning the measure that it would be the most decisive action by the commission to date.” (Awkward)

D. would lead to: “Animal protection groups believe which the measure would be the most decisive action by the commission to date.” (Improper sentence structure)

E. would lead to: “Animal protection groups believe to the measure would be the most decisive action by the commission to date.” (Improper sentence structure)

QUESTION NO: 11

(1) What most of the world knows as Italian food – pizza and spaghetti with tomato sauce – actually originates from the city of Naples.

(2) Naples, located in the southern part of Italy in the region of Campania, is the third most populated city in Italy.

(3) A popular tourist destination, the city sits on the northern edge of one of the most beautiful areas in Italy: the Bay of Naples.

(4) For many people, Naples is a city defined not by beauty...but by food.

(5) How the once regional Italian cuisine migrated to practically every corner of the world is a tale about the Neapolitan people themselves – their struggle through history and the food that followed them.

(6) The lush countryside and water access made the region of Naples a desirable place to settle as early as 1000 B.C.E(7) Those same geographical features made Naples the envy of many warlike tribes, city-states, and nations over the centuries.

(8) Naples first thrived under Greek rule before it was overtaken by the Romans.

(9) After successive invasions by the Goths, Naples was captured by the Normans in 1139.

(10) They in turn were replaced by the Germans, then the Sicilians, then the Spanish.

(11) The successions of rule were often marked by bloodshed, and the people of Naples were the ones who suffered most.

(12) Poverty and hardship drove multitudes of people from the region to other areas of the world in search of a better life.

(13) People can leave a physical place, but they take their cultures with them.

(14) This is how the worldwide love for Neapolitan food began.

In sentence 5, the phrase “their struggle through history” primarily serves to

A. generate sympathy from the reader.

B. detail the hardships of the Neapolitan people.

- C. summarize the thesis of the essay.
- D. foreshadow the content of the second paragraph.
- E. contrast with the first part of sentence 5

is incorrect because the phrase does not contrast the first part of the sentence; it acts as a logical extension of the first part.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The phrase serves to highlight the content of the second paragraph, which is focused on the struggles of the Neapolitan people. A is off-base as the purpose of the essay is to inform, not to persuade or to generate sympathy. B is incorrect because of the word “detail” – it is the second paragraph that provides all the detail related to the struggle. C is incorrect in that the struggle of the Neapolitan people is only half of the thesis. The other half is the fact that their culture, specifically their food, remained a part of the people’s lives outside of Naples.

E. is incorrect because the phrase does not contrast the first part of the sentence; it acts as a logical extension of the first part.

QUESTION NO: 12

Unfortunately for the swim team, flip turns were not allowed by this particular competition committee because of school safety regulations.

Change “allowed” to “allow”.

A. committee due to

would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee due to school safety regulations did not allow flip turns.” (Missing commas to set off nonessential clause “due to school safety regulations”)

B. committee were

would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee were not allowing flip turns because of school safety regulations.” (Subject-verb disagreement)

C. committee that

would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee that did not allow flip turns because of school safety regulations.” (Incomplete sentence)

D. committee did

E. committee having

would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee having not allowed flip turns because of school safety regulations.” (Incomplete sentence)

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The change from “allowed” to “allow” forces you to go from passive voice to active voice, making “committee” the subject of the sentence. The correct answer reads: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee did not allow flip turns because of school safety regulations.”

A. would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee due to school safety regulations did not allow flip turns.” (Missing commas to set off nonessential clause “due to school safety regulations”)

B. would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee were not allowing flip turns because of school safety regulations.” (Subject-verb disagreement)

C. would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee that did not allow flip turns because of school safety regulations.” (Incomplete sentence)

E. would lead to: “Unfortunately for the swim team, this particular competition committee having not allowed flip turns because of school safety regulations.” (Incomplete sentence)

QUESTION NO: 13

In a Station of the Metro

The apparition of these faces in the crowd; Petals on a wet, black bough.

Which poetic form does the above poem most closely match in subject and rhythm?

- A. Haiku
- B. Free verse
- C. Limerick
- D. Rondel
- E. Epic

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Haiku are short poem of 17 syllables arranged in lines of 5-7-5 syllables. This poem contains 17 syllables arranged in the 5-7-5 pattern. Further, the poem’s use of natural images is also typical of haiku.

Haiku were greatly admired models for the Imagist school, an early twentieth century movement that attempted to shed excess words to create poems of clear, concise details. This poem is “In a Station of the Metro” (1913, 1916) by Ezra Pound, one of the early leaders in the Imagist movement.

QUESTION NO: 14

The passage was most likely written by

- A. Upton Sinclair
- B. Emily Dickinson

- C. Mark Twain
- D. Henry James
- E.
- E. Scott Fitzgerald

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Henry James was a great novelist and critic. The above quote is taken from "The Art of Fiction" (1884).

QUESTION NO: 15

in Just- spring when the world is mud luscious the little lame balloonman whistles far and wee and eddyandbill come running from marbles and piracies and it's spring

The above passage is the work of

- A. E.E. Cummings
- B. Robinson Jeffers
- C. Hart Crane
- D. Marianne Moore
- E. F. Scott Fitzgerald

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

E.E. Cummings was known for his experimental poetry. He arranged words in unusual ways, experimented with punctuation and capital letters, and broke words apart or changed their part of speech.

These experiments in language and grammar were Cummings's way of expressing his individuality and encouraging readers to look at the world in a fresh way.