



2024 Academic Challenge

ENGLISH TEST – SECTIONAL

English Test Production Team

Melissa Ames (Author) – Eastern Illinois University
Angela Vietto (Reviewer) – Eastern Illinois University

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully. This is a timed test; any instructions from the test supervisor should be followed promptly.

The test supervisor will give instructions for filling in any necessary information on the answer sheet. Most Academic Challenge sites will ask you to indicate your answer to each question by marking an oval that corresponds to the correct answer for that question. One oval should be marked to answer each question. Multiple ovals will automatically be graded as an incorrect answer.

Be sure ovals are marked as  , not  ,  ,  , etc.

If you wish to change an answer, erase your first mark completely before marking your new choice.

You are advised to use your time effectively and to work as rapidly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not waste your time on questions that seem too difficult for you. Go on to the other questions, and then come back to the difficult ones later if time remains.

Time: 40 Minutes Number of Questions: 80

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**Academic Challenge
2024 Sectional English Exam**

In items 1-10, choose the standard spelling for each word.

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|--|--|
| <p>1. a. Evaniscent b. Evanescent c. Evanescant d. Eveniscant</p> <p>2. a. Characture b. Charicature c. Caricature d. Caraciture</p> <p>3. a. Adulation b. Adullation c. Adolation d. Adolution</p> <p>4. a. Opaque b. Opake c. Opaeke d. Opacque</p> <p>5. a. Perochial b. Parochale c. Parochle d. Parochial</p> | <p>6. a. Inconsequential b. Inconsequencial c. Inconsequentle d. Inconsequential</p> <p>7. a. Errudite b. Erudite c. Irudite d. Irrudite</p> <p>8. a. Onomatopoeia b. Onamonopea c. Onomonopeia d. Onomatopea</p> <p>9. a. Acquescience b. Acquesense c. Acquiescence d. Aquiescence</p> <p>10. a. Ostentatous b. Ostentacious c. Ostintacious d. Ostentatious</p> |
|--|--|

In items 11-30, find the answer that best develops the meaning of the word in boldface.

11. It was **serendipity** meeting the person who would become my life-long best friend in college, three-states away from where I grew up, only to learn that we both lived within three miles of each other throughout our entire childhood.
- It was frustrating to learn how many years they lost out of their potential best friendship.
 - It was a happy accident that these friends found one another once they were off at college even though they had failed to meet near their hometowns.
 - The speaker was shocked to learn that their college best friend had lived so close to them in childhood.
 - The two college friends became close because they reminded each other of their hometowns.

12. The cowboy hats were **ubiquitous** in the large crowd gathered at the country music festival.
- Looking out into the crowd all the hats began to look exactly the same.
 - The cowboy hats were barely visible in the sea of music fans.
 - The fans were wearing oddly obnoxious, loudly decorated cowboy hats to the festival.
 - The cowboy hats were everywhere to be seen in the crowd of fans.
13. Bethany was so talented at talking her way out of punishments, she could **beguile** her parents into believing anything.
- She would trick them with her clever explanations into believing whatever she said.
 - She would tire them out with her long-winded stories so that they gave up on punishing her.
 - She would play on their sympathies so that they would end up believing her sad stories.
 - She would admit to a small sliver of guilt to avoid the bulk of her punishment and then spin the rest of the story to her advantage.
14. The old man smiled as he looked out from his front porch; he could spend hours watching the growing puppies **cavort** together on the spring lawn.
- He enjoyed watching the puppies cuddle together on the lawn
 - He enjoyed watching the puppies run across the lawn in circles.
 - He enjoyed watching the puppies nursing from their mother on the lawn.
 - He enjoyed watching the puppies playing boisterously on the lawn.
15. The preacher was a **dogmatic** individual who was quick to argue with anyone who challenged his opinion.
- The preacher was passionate in his beliefs and insisted on sharing them with people.
 - The preacher had complete faith in his beliefs and wished to convert anyone he crossed paths with.
 - The preacher believed his views were the only correct ones and was quick to share those unwavering opinions.
 - The preacher went into manic rants arguing often with people – even those who shared his views!
16. The front-page news article reported that a grand vessel was a victim of a great **maelstrom**.
- The newspaper reported that a ship was destroyed by a violent storm while at sea.
 - The newspaper reported that a ship was destroyed by a powerful whirlpool at sea.
 - The newspaper reported that a ship was the target of a malicious attack while at sea.
 - The newspaper reported that a ship was brought to the bottom of the ocean by sea creatures.

17. Surprisingly, **noxious** insects are less numerous than is usual in tropical climates.
- Plant-eating insects are less numerous in tropical climates than in other locations.
 - Insects that omit odorous smells are less numerous in tropical climates than in other locations.
 - Insects that produce loud sounds are less numerous in tropical climates than in other locations.
 - Insects that are poisonous are less numerous in tropical climates than in other locations.
18. Margarite rolled her eyes at the **platitudes** written across the greeting cards as she struggled to select one from the grocery store.
- Margarite thought the greeting cards were full of boring clichés.
 - Margarite thought the greeting cards were trying too hard to be clever and funny.
 - Margarite thought the greeting cards were overly sentimental.
 - Margarite thought the greeting cards were poorly written.
19. The documentary discussed how the so-called “sandwich generation” faces a **quandary** as they struggle to hold jobs while simultaneously taking care of aging parents and young children.
- This generation is faced with overwhelming pressure from four different directions.
 - This generation is often unsure how to move forward as they struggle to choose between unfavorable options.
 - This generation is surrounded in conflict and tension as these mounting obligations stack upon them.
 - This generation is heading toward a mental health crisis due to the lack of social safety nets available to support families.
20. The brochure promised the following result: if successful, at the end of the class the fully trained dog would **subjugate** to his master.
- A trained dog would submit to commands given by his owner.
 - A trained dog would be trained to protect his owner.
 - A trained dog would be able to communicate his needs to his owner.
 - A trained dog would be scared of his owner.
21. In the United States, slaves were **enfranchised** in the mid-19th century.
- During this time slaves were empowered.
 - During this time slaves were finally able to own small businesses.
 - During this time slaves were granted freedom.
 - During this time slaves were enlisted in the army.

22. The misdirected tennis ball left a purple and blue **contusion** that reminded Abram that he wanted a new doubles partner.
- Abram's tennis partner left dent marks on the court from his various missed shots.
 - Abram's tennis partner bruised him with a poorly hit ball.
 - Abram's tennis partner had purple and blue stains all over his clothes from his wild dives.
 - Abram's tennis partner is known to be lousy because he tries to show off too much.
23. The local school board voted to **annex** the southern portion of the neighboring town.
- The school board voted to incorporate part of the neighboring town into their school district.
 - The school board voted to separate part of the neighboring town from their school district.
 - The school board voted to no longer financially support that section of the neighboring town.
 - The school board voted to change the district lines that separated their schools from the neighboring town.
24. The three-year-old had no trouble lounging in the hammock pointing into the sky, finding exciting scenes and creatures forming from the puffy clouds. His tired father, however, struggled to see entertaining sights within the **amorphous** clouds.
- The father couldn't find creative items in the quickly changing clouds.
 - The father couldn't find clever scenes in the ever same cloudy landscape.
 - The father couldn't find anything to point out among the shapeless clouds.
 - The father couldn't find anything interesting in the suddenly stormy sky.
25. The students were used to their teacher's **idiosyncratic** way of marking up their essays with bizarre symbols and shorthand phrases that only they understood... after a half-semester of training.
- The students thought the teacher's way of grading papers was idiotic.
 - The students thought their teacher's grading approach was unique to him.
 - The students thought their teacher's grading style was overly confusing.
 - The students thought their teacher's grading style was rather efficient.
26. All of the patrons at the aquatic show looked upon the **hapless** otter that did not joyfully play with the beach ball along with its fellow enclosed companions.
- The audience members looked upon the otter with disdain thinking him to be lazy.
 - The audience member assumed the otter was physically unable to complete the tasks that the other animals could do.
 - The audience looked at the otter with pity when he did not participate in the entertaining spectacle along with the other animals.
 - The audience members wondered if the otter might be rebelling against the zookeepers in refusing to participate in the show.

27. The principal did not approve the film club's movie of the month because she said it contained "**gratuitous** violence."

- a. She argued the film featured unjustifiable moments of violence.
- b. She argued against showing the film because it glorified violent individuals.
- c. She argued the film included plot lines where people profited from completing violent acts.
- d. She argued the film contained unnecessary and unwarranted violence.

28. My **sanctimonious** great-aunt, who drinks a bottle of wine a day, never misses the chance to lecture my siblings and me about the evils of alcohol.

- a. The great aunt's lectures are extremely hypocritical to the speaker because her actions and advice contradict one another.
- b. The great-aunt gives speeches about alcohol because she thinks it is the religiously devout thing to do.
- c. The speaker finds the great-aunt's lectures to be monotonous because they are repeated almost as often as her daily drinking.
- d. The great-aunt's incessant advice on countless topics makes her look foolish.

29. A public policy relating to marriage cannot be separated from the prevailing **mores** surrounding divorce.

- a. A policy relating to marriage cannot fail to consider societal concerns about divorce.
- b. A policy relating to marriage cannot disregard predominant moral attitudes concerning divorce.
- c. A policy relating to marriage cannot ignore circulating policies pertaining to divorce.
- d. A policy relating to marriage must incorporate dominant theories about divorce.

30. The girl's over-acted, melodramatic performance was so **maudlin** that at first people shifted uncomfortably in their seats and then eventually they booed her off the stage.

- a. The girl's acting was depressing and unenjoyable to watch.
- b. The girl took herself too seriously and missed the mark on her performance.
- c. The girl's performance was overly sentimental bordering on the line of foolishness.
- d. The girl's emotional performance made it hard for people to understand the plot of the play.

In items 31-35, select the sentence that has no errors in grammar, punctuation, or mechanics.

31.

- a. Houses in Boston costs less than New York.
- b. In the current conflict, it's uncertain who's borders they are crossing.
- c. The recession had a negative effect on home sales.
- d. Their High School was always pulling pranks on the neighboring school.

- 32.
- Common knowledge to anyone who studies science, is the earth revolve on its own axis every 24 hours.
 - Unfortunately, I cannot make the reception as planned.
 - My sister who lives upstate is an lawyer.
 - Of all the students in the class, perhaps Nina have the most potential.
- 33.
- Would you believe that she has won that contest five years in a row?
 - After I had eaten dinner, I talked to my best friend on the phone.
 - Both Isabel and Barbara loved her children.
 - The meeting ended with a call for humanitarian approach to be taken over a plight of the refugees around the globe.
- 34.
- She was late and he has been standing waiting in the rain before she arrived.
 - Tourism have been considered one of the most important factors in the seaside town's economic development.
 - They were exhausted after the long drive, but they still unpacked the car when they got home.
 - Field trips are required, in several of our high school science courses, such as physics and biology.
- 35.
- The purpose of there visit was to survey the land.
 - Katies favorite jacket got ruined when her brother accidentally threw it in the dryer.
 - The teacher told the class they needed to annotate their copies of The Lion and the witch and the wardrobe.
 - The sunset over the mountains cast a magnificent multi-color shadow across the valley below; it was like mother nature's very own artistic display.

In items 36-45, select the sentence group that best revises any grammatical or punctuation errors or improves the style. If you see no error, select "no change necessary."

36. Would you like to take part of this brief survey? Participation is voluntary and can be terminated at any time with out penalty.
- Would you like to take part of this brief survey? Participation is voluntary and can be terminated at any time without penalty.
 - Would you like to take part in this brief survey? Participation is voluntary and can be terminated at any time with out penalty.
 - Would you like to take part in this brief survey? Participation is voluntary and can be terminated at any time without penalty.
 - No change necessary

37. My brother-in-law advised me to hire a financial planner to help chose my stock portfolio so that I won't loose money on my investments.
- My brother-in-law advised me to hire a financial planner to help choose my stock portfolio so that I won't lose money on my investments.
 - My brother-in-law, advised me to hire a financial planner to help choose my stock portfolio so that I won't loose money on my investments.
 - My brother-in-law advised me to hire a financial planner to help chose my stock portfolio, so that I won't loose money on my investments.
 - No change necessary
38. He ordered a meal from the restaurant that was high in calories.
- The meal that was high in calories was ordered by him.
 - He ordered a meal that was high in calories from the restaurant.
 - The restaurant had a high-calorie meal he ordered.
 - No change necessary.
39. They promised there mother that they would be in by curfew but little did they know that a series of unfortunate events was about to unfold to prevent that from happening.
- They promised their mother that they would be in by curfew, however they did not know that a series of unfortunate events was about to unfold to prevent that from happening.
 - They promised their mother that they would be in by curfew. But they did not know that a series of unfortunate events was about to unfold. They would keep that from happening.
 - They promised their mother that they would be in by curfew, but they did not know that a series of unfortunate events was about to unfold to prevent that from happening.
 - No change necessary.
40. The fan was disappointed to learn that her favorite actor had a surly disposition when he barely smile during their paid session selfie session that she had waited in a two hour line for.
- The fan looked at the selfie of her and her favorite actor on her phone with disappointment. After waiting expectantly in a two-hour line, she barely even got a smile from him.
 - The fan looked down disappointedly at her phone at the selfie of her and her favorite actor staring back up at her. After waiting expectantly in a two-hour line, she barely even got a smile from him.
 - The selfie left the fan feeling disappointed because the actor had barely smiled even after the fan spent two hours waiting to take it.
 - No change necessary

41. The valedictorian looked out onto the huge crowd stretched out across the school's football field and suddenly his well-rehearsed speech flew from his mind.

- a. The huge crowd stretched out across the school's football field pushed out every last syllable of the valedictorian's well-rehearsed speech.
- b. As the valedictorian looked out over the huge crowd stretched across the school's football field, his well-rehearsed speech flew from his mind.
- c. The valedictorian looked out onto the huge crowd stretched out across the school's football field. Suddenly, his well-rehearsed speech from his mind flew.
- d. No change necessary.

42. The photographer crouched in the cold sand of the beach, waiting patiently trying to capture the exact moment, when the moon would rise from lake brightening the lake and the sky alike.

- a. The photographer crouched in the cold sand of the beach. He waited patiently for the perfect shot: the one where moon rose from the lake sending beams of light across the water and sky.
- b. The photographer, crouched in the cold sand of the beach, waited patiently for the perfect shot: the moon rising from the lake, with light across the sky and water.
- c. In the cold sand of the beach, the photographer crouched waiting patiently to capture the exact moment when the moon would break from the surface of the lake, sprinkling light across the water and sky.
- d. No change necessary.

43. Without fail, the children were drawn in by familiar jovial sound of the ice cream truck's melody – it's promise of sugary rewards for fast feet and hands gripping dollar bills that could pay for sweet treats.

- a. Without fail, the children were drawn in by the familiar jovial sound of the ice cream truck's melody which promised sugary rewards for fast feet and hands gripping dollar bills that could pay for sweet treats.
- b. The children were always drawn in by the familiar jovial sound of the ice cream truck's melody with its promise of sugary rewards for fast feet and hand's gripping dollar bills that could pay for their sweet treats.
- c. The children, without fail, were drawn in by the familiar jovial sound of the ice cream truck's melody; its promise of sugary rewards for fast feet and hands gripping dollar bills that could pay for sweet treats.
- d. No change necessary

44. The half abandoned Mall echoed eerily as they walked through it, the many-shuttered storefronts served as sad reminders of a bygone era.

- a. The half abandoned mall echoed eerily as they walked through it; the many shuttered storefronts served as sad reminders of a bygone era.
- b. As they walked through the half abandoned mall, past many shuttered storefronts, their footsteps echoed eerily, serving as a sad reminder of a bygone era.
- c. Their footsteps echoed eerily as they walked through the half-abandoned mall; the many shuttered storefronts served as sad reminders of a bygone era.
- d. No change necessary

45. The young child jumped up and down excitedly and announced her order at the concession stand. I want a hot dog cotton candy and fresh squeezed lemonade.

- a. The young child jumped up-and-down excited and announced her order at the concession stand; "I want a hot dog, cotton candy, and fresh squeezed lemonade."
- b. The young child jumped up and down excitedly at the concession stand. She announced, "I want a hot dog, cotton candy, and a fresh-squeezed lemonade."
- c. The young child, jumping up-and down excitedly at the concession stand, announced, "I want a hot dog and cotton candy, and a fresh squeezed lemonade."
- d. No change necessary

In items 46-50, select the phrase that best describes the underlined words.

46. I'm writing this letter to inform you that you've been awarded a scholarship.

- a. Infinitive
- b. Verb
- c. Future Progressive
- d. Interjection

47. The aliens will be unable to breathe our air.

- a. Present Tense
- b. Indicative Mood
- c. Predicate
- d. Imperative Mood

48. I liked the cake, but I didn't care for the frosting.

- a. Adverb
- b. Article
- c. Coordinating Conjunction
- d. Passive Voice

49. The unrelenting sun beat down on the tourists who had forgotten sunscreen.

- a. Indicative Mood
- b. Adjective
- c. Adverb
- d. Noun

50. They had seen all of the Harry Potter films at least a dozen times.

- a. Past Participle
- b. Past Tense
- c. Subjunctive Mood
- d. Predicate

“Barbie Doll,” written and published in 1971 by Marge Piercy, captures the concerns of many second-wave feminists of the time period. While first-wave feminism was primarily concerned with securing suffrage (women’s right to vote), second-wave feminism tackled a wider range of gender inequalities including, but not limited to, those concerning sexuality, domesticity, reproductive rights, and workplace conditions. Read the following poem and answer the following questions.

1 This girlchild was born as usual
2 and presented dolls that did pee-pee
3 and miniature GE stoves and irons
4 and wee lipsticks the color of cherry candy.
5 Then in the magic of puberty, a classmate said:
6 You have a great big nose and fat legs.

7 She was healthy, tested intelligent,
8 possessed strong arms and back,
9 abundant sexual drive and manual dexterity.
10 She went to and fro apologizing.
11 Everyone saw a fat nose on thick legs.

12 She was advised to play coy,
13 exhorted to come on hearty,
14 exercise, diet, smile and wheedle.
15 Her good nature wore out
16 like a fan belt.
17 So she cut off her nose and her legs
18 and offered them up.

19 In the casket displayed on satin she lay
20 with the undertaker's cosmetics painted on,
21 a turned-up putty nose,
22 dressed in a pink and white nightie.
23 Doesn't she look pretty? everyone said.
24 Consummation at last.
25 To every woman a happy ending.

51. What literary device is featured in lines 15 & 16?

- a. metaphor
- b. enjambment
- c. irony
- d. foreshadowing

52. Collectively, the childhood toys given to the girl featured in the poem, listed in stanza one, align most strongly to which of the following themes?

- a. second-wave feminism
- b. cultural beauty standards
- c. domestic violence
- d. society's gender expectations/training

53. Which of the following describes the format of this poem?

- a. Sonnet
- b. Blank Verse
- c. Free Verse
- d. Villanelle

54. In line 6 a classmate is quoted as saying, "You have a great big nose and fat legs." How does the second person function rhetorically in this line?

- a. The use of "you" has an immature, bullying tone that sounds like a school yard taunt.
- b. The direct address implicates the reader in a way allowing the words to potentially impact more than just the fictional girl featured in the poem.
- c. It allows the reader to serve as a witness to the girl's suffering.
- d. The use of "you" separates the classmate from the girl, showing division and separation, foreshadowing the loneliness that will come later in the poem.

55. Which of the following best summarizes lines 12-16:

- a. The girl became emotionally exhausted by the many mixed messages that society provided her with about how to navigate the world as a woman.
- b. The girl found it hard to play the games that people wanted her to play in order to secure a romantic relationship.
- c. The girl was overwhelmed with media messages about sexuality and beauty.
- d. Over time the girl became depressed as she failed to live up to society's standards.

56. Which of the following adjectives would be fitting to describe the tone of the poem at various points?

- a. Sarcastic
- b. Weary
- c. Cynical
- d. Optimistic

57. Lines 7-10 list a variety of traits supposedly associated with the girl. Which statement below explains their role in the poem best?

- a. The listing of these traits seems sterile, as if they are not valued by the speaker.
- b. Despite having these positive traits, the next line reveals that she apologizes constantly so her lack of self-confidence becomes the focus of the stanza.
- c. These positive strengths listed related to intelligence and strength are juxtaposed against the superficial goals that society is telling the girl to strive for in terms of beauty and sexual appeal.
- d. The fact that the girl does not appreciate her own positive traits foreshadows her downfall that will come at the end of the poem.

58. This poem – and many of its individual lines – has been interpreted in different ways over time. Which line arguably could be read as providing commentary on the trend of participating in plastic surgery in order to meet societal beauty standards?

- a. Line 17
- b. Line 18
- c. Line 20
- d. Line 21

59. Which of the following could be argued to be the function of the rhetorical question posed in the final stanza?

- a. The question gets readers to assess whether the girl has finally reached her beauty goals.
- b. The question suggests that it is ironic that it was only through death that the girl could be considered beautiful by those she was looking to impress.
- c. By asking the reader to “look” at the girl, the question forces the reader to confront the tragedy that can stem from unobtainable beauty standards.
- d. The question serves as a call and response set-up to the following line’s retort of “consummation at last.”

60. The poem ends with the female character featured within it dead, yet the final line reads: “to every woman a happy ending.” Which of the following statements could you defend by analyzing the text?

- a. Since the girl ultimately dies, the poem is far from happy, so this line is an example of irony.
- b. The pessimistic ending of this poem seems to indicate that societal norms are set-up to thwart women, making a happy ending in reality hard to accomplish for many.
- c. Happy endings are associated with childhood tales and unobtainable fantasies and, therefore – although delivered sarcastically – this final line gives this poem an almost full-circle feeling connecting it back to the childhood play items and time before society wore down the girl.
- d. All of the above are defensible statements.

“The Unknown Citizen” was written by the British poet W.H. Auden, not long after he moved to the United States in 1939. The poem is a satirical elegy written in praise of a man who has recently died and who lived what the government deemed an exemplary life. Read the poem and answer the following questions.

*(To JS/07 M 378
This Marble Monument
Is Erected by the State)*

- 1 He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
- 2 One against whom there was no official complaint,
- 3 And all the reports on his conduct agree
- 4 That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
- 5 For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
- 6 Except for the War till the day he retired
- 7 He worked in a factory and never got fired,
- 8 But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
- 9 Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
- 10 For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
- 11 (Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
- 12 And our Social Psychology workers found
- 13 That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
- 14 The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day
- 15 And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.
- 16 Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
- 17 And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.
- 18 Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
- 19 He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Instalment Plan
- 20 And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
- 21 A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
- 22 Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
- 23 That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
- 24 When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went.
- 25 He was married and added five children to the population,
- 26 Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his generation.
- 27 And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
- 28 Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
- 29 Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

61. The form that this poem takes on is that of:

- a. A Journal Entry
- b. A Dystopian Report
- c. An Epigraph
- d. A Eulogy

62. What social economic position would the “Unknown Citizen” likely hold in society based on the information provided in the poem?

- a. Upper Class
- b. Middle Class
- c. Lower Class
- d. Extreme Poverty

63. Why might one consider the title of the poem ironic?

- a. The title is ironic because the citizen was unaware of how many aspects of his life were under constant supervision.
- b. The title points toward how seemingly inconsequential citizens can play an important role in contributing to society and can be valued by higher level authority figures for their small acts.
- c. The report contains a plethora of details about the citizen’s life, yet collectively readers cannot come to fully know the citizen which assumedly would be the goal of the poem.
- e. Based on the title the reader expects more personal information to be revealed about the citizen than ultimately is.

64. The majority of the poem is written in which of the following?

- a. Iambic Pentameter
- b. Rhyming Couplets
- c. Slant Rhyme
- d. Internal Rhyme

65. The use of rhyme in this poem _____ the more formal tone found within the faux report format.

- a. Contrasts
- b. Exaggerates
- c. Mocks
- d. Questions

66. Which statement seems like an apt analysis of line 25?

- a. The citizen was concerned with doing what was expected of him which is the only reason why he became a parent in the first place.
- b. The use of past tense in this line emphasizes the fact that the citizen is now deceased and left behind a widow and five children.
- c. The line emphasizes the importance of the citizen’s wife to his happiness.
- d. The use of the word “added” in the poem is impersonal and makes it seem like the children are only statistics and not actually people.

67. Which could describe the rhetorical effect of Auden's capitalization throughout the poem?
- Auden uses capitalization when referring to government officials and organizations to emphasize the importance of their roles and importance in society.
 - Auden uses capitalization to draw attention to the officials and organizations that were reporting on the citizen; these then stand out in the poem making the frequency and prevalence of that monitoring more obvious to the reader.
 - The use of capitalization for these words makes the reader fear these powerful figures and organizations.
 - Capitalization adds to the overall sound of this poem as it tells the reader which words to stress when reading aloud.
68. According to information provided in the poem, the citizen was influenced by which of the following?
- Capitalism
 - Propaganda
 - Both A & B
 - None of the Above
69. Considering the ending of the poem, lines 28 & 29, which of the following interpretations do you think could not be supported with any evidence from the text?
- The government sees freedom and happiness as the same thing and do not necessarily value either as a goal for their citizens.
 - The rhetorical questions posed at the end of the poem could represent questions the reader may have had as they read the poem being that the entire laundry list of random facts provided about the citizen do not speak to his emotional state.
 - One way to interpret the "absurdity" of "the question" is that if the Government reports that the citizen was happy, or at least complacent, then why should anyone bother to even ask the question in the first place?
 - The Government feels they have built trustworthy relationships with their citizens wherein they all come to them with any concerns and troubles they have.
70. Which of the following best describes the final line (line 29) of the poem?
- Although seemingly benign, it is rather chilling and serves as a cautionary warning to any other citizen who might be reading the report that the Government is always watching.
 - The poem closes by reinforcing the motif that the Government thinks it is always right.
 - The juxtaposition between the presumed care in the previous line about the citizen's wellbeing and this one that makes the Government seem all powerful leaves the reader feeling confused about how to feel.
 - Ending with the rhetorical questions engages the reader and leaves them wondering about the citizen's life.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is an autobiography written by Maya Angelou describing the American poet's early years. Through this powerful coming-of-age narrative she touches on important issues related to literacy, racism, and trauma. Read the following excerpt and then answer the following questions.**

For nearly a year, I sopped around the house, the Store, the school, and the church, like an old biscuit, dirty and inedible. Then I met, or rather got to know, the lady who threw me my first lifeline.

Mrs. Bertha Flowers was the aristocrat of Black Stamps. She had the grace of control to appear warm in the coldest weather, and on the Arkansas summer days it seemed she had a private breeze which swirled around, cooling her. She was thin without the taut look of wiry people, and her printed voile dresses and flowered hats were as right for her as denim overalls for a farmer. She was our side's answer to the richest white woman in town.

Her skin was a rich black that would have peeled like a plum if snagged, but then no one would have thought of getting close enough to Mrs. Flowers to ruffle her dress, let alone snag her skin. She didn't encourage familiarity. She wore gloves too.

I don't think I ever saw Mrs. Flowers laugh, but she smiled often. A slow widening of her thin black lips to show even, small white teeth, then the slow effortless closing. When she chose to smile on me, I always wanted to thank her. The action was so graceful and inclusively benign.

She was one of the few gentlewomen I have ever known, and has remained throughout my life the measure of what a human being can be.

Momma had a strange relationship with her. Most often when she passed on the road in front of the Store, she spoke to Momma in that soft yet carrying voice, "Good day, Mrs. Henderson." Momma responded with "How you, Sister Flowers?"

Mrs. Flowers didn't belong to our church, nor was she Momma's familiar. Why on earth did she insist on calling her Sister Flowers? Shame made me want to hide my face. Mrs. Flowers deserved better than to be called Sister. Then, Momma left out the verb. Why not ask, "How are you, Mrs. Flowers?" With the unbalanced passion of the young, I hated her for showing her ignorance to Mrs. Flowers. It didn't occur to me for many years that they were as alike as sisters, separated only by formal education.

Although I was upset, neither of the women was in the least shaken by what I thought an unceremonious greeting. Mrs. Flowers would continue her easy gait up the hill to her little bungalow, and Momma kept on shelling peas or doing whatever had brought her to the front porch...

She appealed to me because she was like people I had never met personally. Like women in English novels who walked the moors (whatever they were) with their loyal dogs racing at a respectful distance. Like the women who sat in front of roaring fireplaces, drinking tea incessantly from silver trays full of scones and crumpets. Women who walked over the "heath" and read morocco-bound books and had two last names divided by a hyphen. It would be safe to say that she made me proud to be Negro, just by being herself.

71. In the first sentence of this passage, the narrator uses a simile to describe her behavior prior to engaging with Mrs. Flowers. What does this simile suggest about her mental, physical, or emotional state of being?

- a. She was sick and/or undernourished.
- b. She had low self-esteem and/or was depressed.
- c. She was lazy and/or distractible.
- d. She was untidy and/or overwhelmed by household obligations.

72. Which of the following words below captures the narrator's tone in paragraph 2 as she describes Mrs. Flowers?

- a. Sentimental
- b. Formal
- c. Detailed
- d. Reverent

73. Based on this description of Mrs. Flowers from paragraph 2 ("She had the grace of control to appear warm in the coldest weather, and on the Arkansas summer days it seemed she had a private breeze which swirled around, cooling her"), which statement accurately sums up how Maya feels about her?

- a. She is in awe of her.
- b. She is envious of her.
- c. She is intimidated by her.
- d. She is unnerved by her.

74. What does Maya's mother do that embarrasses her?

- a. Talks to Mrs. Flowers too familiarly
- b. She uses non-standard English dialect
- c. Both A & B
- d. None of the Above

75. What sentence below does not underscore the monumental impact that Mrs. Flowers had on Maya?

- a. Then I met, or rather got to know, the lady who threw me my first lifeline.
- b. She was our side's answer to the richest white woman in town.
- c. She was one of the few gentlewomen I have ever known, and has remained throughout my life the measure of what a human being can be.
- d. It would be safe to say that she made me proud to be Negro, just by being herself.

76. In paragraph 8, based on the context of the sentence, which synonym below best defines the word "unceremonious"?

- a. undignified
- b. careless
- c. embarrassing
- d. routine

77. Consider this moment from paragraph 7: “It didn’t occur to me for many years that they were as alike as sisters, separated only by formal education.” Which of the following do you agree with?

- a. This is a common practice within the memoir genre wherein narrators punctuate scenes with retrospective life lessons learned after the scenes in which they are describing.
- b. The maturity reflected in this sentence allows the reader to forgive the youthful narrator for her critical treatment of her mother in the previous sentence and paragraphs.
- c. This sentence develops one of Angelou’s recurring themes throughout this larger piece concerning literacy.
- d. All of the Above

78. The different reactions that the two adults have to the social exchange featured in paragraph 8, suggests that they have learned what lesson that the narrator has yet to learn at her young age?

- a. That life is too short to worry about formalities
- b. That it is never a waste of time to stop and talk to a neighbor
- c. That people’s worth should not be defined by their social class or education
- d. That children should be seen and not heard

79. Paragraph 9 provides what new information to the reader about Maya?

- a. She has a fascination with British culture.
- b. She is an avid reader of literary novels.
- c. She wants to travel the world.
- d. She finds joy in comparing people to fictional characters.

80. Throughout the excerpt, Maya seems to respect people and things that are_____.

- a. The most unlike herself and her immediate surrounding
- b. Beautiful and impressive
- c. Rich and famous
- d. What she aspires to be like and acquire

SCRATCH PAPER

