



2024 Academic Challenge

ENGLISH TEST – STATE

English Test Production Team

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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
English Test (State) - 2024

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. a. Acrimonous
b. Acrimonious
c. Acremonious
d. Acriemonous</p> <p>2. a. Loquacious
b. Loquiacious
c. Loquiouous
d. Loquoiaous</p> <p>3. a. Parsimonous
b. Parsemonious
c. Parsemonous
d. Parsimonious</p> <p>4. a. Camaradery
b. Cameradery
c. Camaraderie
d. Camaredere</p> <p>5. a. Palindrone
b. Palendrome
c. Palendrone
d. Palindrome</p> | <p>6. a. Neumonic
b. Mneumonic
c. Mnemonic
d. Nuemonic</p> <p>7. a. zenophobic
b. xenophobic
c. xenaphobic
d. zenaphobic</p> <p>8. a. Alacrity
b. Alacriety
c. Alecriety
d. Allacrity</p> <p>9. a. Pugnacious
b. Pungnacious
c. Pugnaicous
d. Pungascious</p> <p>10. a. Connosour
b. Conossiour
c. Connoisseur
d. Connosseure</p> |
|--|---|

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

11. After a ten-minute elaborate tale about why the teenage child was late for curfew, the two skeptical parents looked at each other with raised eyebrows as if to ask each other silently whether they believed there was even a **modicum** of truth in her story.

- a. Since the teen talked for so long she began modifying her story and contradicting herself which impacted her credibility.
- b. As the parents silently communicated across the room they were wondering if the majority of her story was honest or not.
- c. By the time the teen stopped talking the parents were questioning whether even a small fraction of the story they had just listened to was even true.
- d. Because the teen had always been quite modest and trustworthy in the past, the parents were predisposed to believe the teen despite her questionable behavior on this occasion.

12. After a number of incidents, the mayor issued an **edict** banning skateboarding on government property (like the front steps and ramps of the Capitol building).

- a. The mayor announced his new rule banning skateboarding in the morning issue of the daily newspaper.
- b. Due to the mayor's official order, those not abiding by the new ban against skateboarding on government property could face serious consequences.
- c. The mayor's passionate speech against the dangers of skateboarding addressed the recent incidents that had happened at the Capitol building, thereby convincing people that rules against such recreational activities on government properties should be taken seriously.
- d. Those not following the skateboarding rules were forced to move out of the city within 30 days of their infraction.

13. He was shocked when a string of **vitriolic** text messages from his girlfriend popped up across his phone screen.

- a. His girlfriend was not one to spread gossip so he was surprised by the dramatic events she was relaying through her messages.
- b. Since his girlfriend did not tend to be overly sentimental, he was pleasantly surprised to receive a string of romantic messages from her.
- c. He was shocked by the bitter tone captured in his girlfriend's series of angry text messages.
- d. He was shocked to learn that his girlfriend had changed her ringtone to that of a string quartet when she sent him a series of unrelenting texts in the middle of the day when he was not expecting the melodic interruption.

14. Lynn listened to her friends' conversation for a while. As a newcomer to the scene, she refrained from sharing her opinion until she could bite her tongue no more and then became a passionate **interlocutor**.

- a. Lynn was bored being a bystander at the party and decided to start moderating the debate she saw unfolding between the differing opinions in her friend group.
- b. Lynn could no longer keep her opinions to herself and became an active participant in their conversation.
- c. Although still rather insecure about her role in the friend group, Lynn decided to interrogate those whose opinions she disagreed with on moral grounds.
- d. Lynn's gift was mediating conflict so after having listened to the differing opinions for quite some time, Lynn intervened in the conversation in order to help mend fences and change the topic.

15. Jura is a managing director known for her business **acumen**.

- a. In her managerial role Jura has been recognized for her accomplishments in the realm of business acquisitions and mergers.
- b. Jura's colleagues compliment her for her ability to charm clients and close business deals efficiently.
- c. Jura is known for her ability to make smart business decisions that benefit the company.
- d. Jura's financial management skills are among her greatest strengths.

16. The doctor explained the medication would **palliate** the pain but ultimately have no effect on the actual disease itself.

- a. The medication issued would completely eliminate the pain which is a cause for concern because patients could then believe they are cured.
- b. The doctor discussed how the medication temporarily increased pain levels before starting to treat the symptoms of the disease.
- c. The experimental medication was known to have strange side effects.
- d. While the medication would not combat the disease and eliminate actual symptoms, it would make the patient more comfortable for the remainder of their life.

17. Typically **sanguine**, the choir director caused heads to turn on the day that he melodramatically walked out of the concert dress rehearsal mumbling to himself about how the tenors were never going learn that cut off cue in time for the performance.

- a. Since the choir director was typically a laidback guy, the students were surprised by his outburst.
- b. Since the choir director was typically optimistic and cheerful, the students were surprised by his behavior.
- c. Since the choir director was known to be quiet and reserved, the volatile behavior was out of character.
- d. Since the choir director was known to voice his complaints about students in secret, the students were surprised that he was finally airing his disappointment publicly for a change.

18. She elicits little sympathy due to her **solipsism** and lack of self-awareness.

- a. She is not in the favor of many due to her nature as an awkward loner.
- b. She tends to rub people the wrong way because she launches into monologues without realizing she is boring her audience.
- c. She is not well liked because she acts as if she is the center of the universe.
- d. She is often made fun of because of her peculiar behavior in social settings.

19. It would have been a fun evening playing Bingo had the caller not been so **vociferous** in announcing all of the numbers.

- a. The person announcing the Bingo numbers rambled so much it was difficult to actually determine the winners.
- b. The person announcing Bingo was offensively loud when calling out the winning numbers.
- c. The person announcing Bingo used the position as an opportunity to try out their corny jokes on the crowd.
- d. The person announcing Bingo showed obvious bias when working the crowd at the event.

20. As the election results came in the news reporter commentator wisely remarked, “just because a **demagogue** leaves office doesn’t mean the political fractures he left in his wake will instantly heal.”

- a. Just because a recently divisive and popular leader who ruled by appealing to the passions of the masses is no longer in office, doesn’t mean that the people will quickly move on and accept the leadership that comes next.
- b. Even if a tyrannical dictator finally is removed from a position, there is no guarantee that political healing will begin immediately.
- c. When inspirational leaders vacate their political positions, people are reluctant to look ahead to future eras of prosperity.
- d. Once a leader has risen to a god-like state among his followers, it is only natural that people will feel conflicted over how to move forward in his wake.

21. One should be fully **cognizant** of the privacy risks that are associated with social media usage.

- a. One should be critical of the ways in which social media platforms abuse the privacy of their users.
- b. One should be conscientious when using social media knowing that they could contribute to people accidentally over-sharing private information.
- c. One should be aware of the consequences that stem from using social media in terms of those platforms having access to, and spreading, private information.
- d. One should be aware of how social media sites work on an unconscious level to encourage users to overshare private information.

22. To sell his company’s products, the sly salesman used **circumlocution** to avoid directly answering the woman’s questions.

- a. The salesman launched into long-winded, humorous stories to distract his clients when pitching them products.
- b. The salesman veered off topic and provided partial responses when queried about his products.
- c. The salesman was able to customize his sales pitch to every circumstance and location even if he didn’t know his products as well as he should have.
- d. The salesman was rather over-the-top in his sale techniques, like a circus ring master barking out strange responses to the woman’s questions.

23. The book referred to this as the **antediluvian** period.

- a. This was the period before the Civil War.
- b. This was the period before the Bubonic plague.
- c. This was the period before the Enlightenment.
- d. This was the period before the biblical flood.

24. Her best friend was headstrong and **impetuous** and she loved her all the more for it.
- Her best friend was stubborn and quick to act on impulse.
 - Her best friend was stubborn and unwaveringly loyal.
 - Her best friend was stubborn and able to badger anyone into agreeing with her.
 - Her best friend was stubborn and petty when she felt slighted.
25. Apparently the only campaign strategist with morals, Betsy hesitantly asked, “are we really to the point where the only option left is to **vituperate** our opponent in order to pull ahead in the polls?”
- Betsy questioned whether openly mocking their opponent was the best strategy.
 - Betsy questioned whether threatening their opponent was the best strategy.
 - Betsy questioned whether spreading negative information about their opponent was the best strategy.
 - Betsy questioned whether lying about their opponent was the best strategy.
26. The director felt the **winsome** actress was too youthful to play the role of the middle-aged femme fatale.
- The award-winning actress would not be believable in the part of the femme fatale.
 - Beloved for her many whimsical roles, the young actress would be miscast as a femme fatale.
 - The young actress’s charming, childlike features do not align with those of a femme fatale.
 - Although the ambitious young actress pitched herself well for the femme fatale role, the director had to go in a different direction.
27. Taking a deep breath, the substitute teacher prepared to endure her day of supervising 120 **recalcitrant** teenagers who were to finish composing research papers.
- The substitute teacher was prepared for the students to be unenthusiastic about their assignment.
 - The substitute teacher was prepared for the students to be disrespectful and unpleasant.
 - The substitute teacher was prepared for the students to do poorly on their work.
 - The substitute teacher was prepared for the students to stubbornly resist her authority.
28. Little did they know at the time that the fever was a somber **presage** of his final illness.
- The man’s initial fever was a foreboding prediction of his terminal illness.
 - The fever ultimately ended the man’s life.
 - The fever was the least of the sad symptoms surrounding his long illness.
 - The man came down with a fever right before being diagnosed with his final illness.
29. Not an audience member stirred as the well-known cello **virtuoso** played the final note of the piece.
- The audience was in awe of the famous, highly skilled cello duet.
 - The audience enjoyed the acapella number performed by the cello soloist.
 - The audience was captivated by the musicality of the dazzlingly skilled cello expert.
 - The audience waited to applaud as the celloist played the final number at the charity concert.

30. His aunt was exceptionally considerate and munificent – in both words and deeds.
- His aunt was a thoughtful and loving family member.
 - His aunt was a thoughtful and generous family member.
 - His aunt was a thoughtful and understanding family member.
 - His aunt was a thoughtful and loyal family member.

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

31.

- “We’re going to be late if you don’t hurry up,” her sister called from the kitchen.
- As the news segment came to a close, the reporter quipped; “tune back in at 8pm for full coverage of this unfolding story.”
- “At first,” she said, “I was nervous.” “I didn’t know anyone in my news school.” She continued.
- Mary read the directions: “first, shake the pancake mix; than appropriate amount onto heated griddle; after two minutes flip and cook on opposite side.”

32.

- The cities officials promised to raised money to install better lights along the interstate, but, a year later there were still dark patches of freeway reminding of their broken promises.
- Alison and Annette were always bickering about who was the better friend, it was a ridiculous argument that was made worse by neither being able to win.
- Due to the criticism their cosmetic line had received in the previous year, the company’s marketing team decided a rebranding campaign was needed.
- The teacher informed the class they would be reading Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird” as their next class novel.

33.

- “Your really going to regret not taking photos while you studied abroad,” I said to my sister when she returned with nearly no digital memories to share.
- Finally it was down to three spelling bee contestants who all stood nervously hoping that they would know the next word that came there way.
- In order to succeed in your first year of college you should master soft skill such as, time management, note taking, and organization.
- If you ever start to doubt yourself, call a friend or family member who can provide a great big pep talk on demand.

34.

- a. I always like to take refuge at the Library; it's my safe space to hideaway from the world while also being magically transported all around it.
- b. The fifth grade tried to surprise there teacher with a party for her birthday but was foiled when she came in halfway through the lunch hour while they were decorating her desk.
- c. Watching the Olympian athletes in the opening ceremony – united still in excitement and pride – is always the best part of the games.
- d. Mallorys dad always amused her friends by unconsciously drumming out the rhythm of every song on the radio while he drove them to their various afterschool activities. Mallory, however, was not a fan of his percussion skills.

35.

- a. At the company's annual team bonding retreat; it was announced that half the staff would be laid off.
- b. The local newspaper, *The Daily Scoop*, reported that the new Italian restaurant's soft open was an astounding success.
- c. The two siblings were bickering over who had cleaned the bathroom last. The oldest says her sister is up next, while the youngest would argue that it is, indeed, her older sister's turn.
- d. You'll go farther in life, her father said, if you make sure always put in a little extra elbow grease.

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. The boutique on the corner holds the most irregular hours, which makes it hard for it's clientele to know when to regularly visit the establishment.

- a. The boutique on the corner holds the most irregular hours, making it hard for it's clientele to know when to visit the establishment.
- b. The boutique on the corner, with the irregular hours, makes it hard for clientele to visit regularly.
- c. The boutique on the corner maintains irregular hours, making it hard for clientele to know when to visit.
- d. No change necessary.

37. Christopher missed several of the paper's requirements, he knew his grade would be lowered, but he didn't expect to fail it completely.

- a. Christopher missed several of the paper's requirements. He knew his grade would be lowered, but he didn't expect to fail it completely.
- b. Christopher missed several of the paper's requirements. He knew his grade would be lowered; but, he didn't expect to fail it completely.
- c. Christopher missed several of the paper's requirements, he knew his grade would be lowered but he didn't expect to fail it completely.
- d. No change necessary.

38. Only a really loving best friend, and perhaps book lover, would help you re-shelve your home library (placing all the books alphabetically... and by genre).

- a. Only a really loving best friend and, perhaps, book lover, would help you reshelve your home library; placing all the books alphabetically by genre.
- b. Only a really loving best friend and book lover would help you re-shelve your home library; placing all the books alphabetically, and by genre.
- c. Only a really loving best friend, who also happens to be a book lover, would help you reshelve your home library: placing all the books alphabetically by genre.
- d. No change necessary.

39. The waitress tried not to be amused by the awkward first date that was unfolding, as she served the couple embarking on it.

- a. The waitress tried not to be amused as she served the couple embarking on an awkward first date.
- b. The waitress, trying not to be amused, served the couple who was embarking on an awkward first date.
- c. The waitress tried to stifle her amusement as she served the couple embarking on an awkward first date.
- d. No change necessary

40. After being interrupted for the fourth time during the debate the politician started to lose his calm and collected demeanor and his face grew red and his voice started to raise.

- a. After being interrupted for the fourth time during the debate, the politician's face grew red, his voice started to rise, and his calm and collected demeanor dropped away.
- b. After being interrupted for the fourth time during the debate the politician's calm and collected demeanor dropped away: his face grew red and his voice started to raise.
- c. After being interrupted for the fourth time during the debate; the politicians calm and collected demeanor dropped away and his face grew read and his voice started to rise.
- d. No change necessary.

41. It would not be advisable, the counselor droned on, to take all electives your senior year; even if you have fulfilled all academic requirements. It's important to continue to push yourself with academic rigor, he stressed.

- a. "It would not be advisable," the counselor droned on, "to take all electives your senior year, even if you have fulfilled all of your academic requirements. It's important to continue pushing yourself academically."
- b. "It would not be advisable to take all electives your senior year, even if you have fulfilled all of your academic requirements," the counselor droned on. "It's important to continue pushing yourself academically."
- c. "Even if you have fulfilled all of your academic requirements, it would not be advisable to take all electives your senior year," the counselor droned on. "It's important to continue pushing yourself academically."
- d. No change necessary

42. The media critics were once again pointing out Hollywood's problem with systemic racism and misogyny as reflected in the Oscar nomination slate.

- a. The media critics were, once again, pointing out Hollywood's systemic racism and misogyny problem as reflected in the Oscar nomination slate.
- b. Following the announcement of the Oscar nomination slate, media critics once again drew attention to Hollywood's problem with systemic racism and misogyny.
- c. The media critics again pointed out Hollywood's problem with systemic racism and misogyny, using the latest Oscar nomination slate as an example.
- d. No change necessary

43. Fireworks and Ferris Wheels are two of my favorite ways to see the summer sky come alive, backlit by an array of artificially colored lights.

- a. Fireworks and Ferris Wheels are two of my favorite summer sights; they help make the summer sky come alive, lighting it up with artificially colored lights from behind.
- b. Fireworks and Ferris Wheels: two of my favorite summer ways to see the summer sky backlit by their array of artificially colored lights.
- c. Fireworks and Ferris Wheels. These two make the summer sky come alive, lighting them up with artificial color.
- d. No Change Necessary

44. The kittens stretched out lazily in the patch of sunlight, their owner, looking on, thought to herself: if there is such thing as reincarnation, I'd like to come back as a cat one day.

- a. The kittens stretched out lazily in a patch of sunlight. Their owner, looking on, thought to herself: I'd like to be reincarnated as a cat one day.
- b. The kittens stretched out lazily in a patch of sunlight. Their owner looked on and thought; I'd like to be reincarnated as a cat one day.
- c. The kittens stretched out lazily in a patch of sunlight. Looking over them, their owner thought: I'd like to be reincarnated as a cat one day.
- d. No Change Necessary

45. The mother smiled looking down at the Valentine's Day card her children had made for her. In the middle of the page, little thumb prints formed the shape of a heart.

- a. The mother smiled looking down at the Valentine's Day card her children had made for her; in the middle of the page little thumb prints formed the shape of a heart.
- b. The mother smiled looking down at the Valentine's Day card her children had made for her: In the middle of the page, little thumb prints formed the shape of a heart.
- c. The mother smiled looking down at the Valentine's Day card her children had made for her. In the middle of the page little thumb prints, formed the shape of a heart.
- d. No change necessary.

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

46. The adrenaline rush from my performance typically lasts for hours.

- a. Future perfect progressive
- b. Prepositional phrase followed by an infinitive phrase.
- c. Prepositional phrase followed by an adverb
- d. Nonrestrictive relative clause

47. Coaxing me to help him carry boxes of donations to the car, my father told me to get off the couch and lend a hand.

- a. simile
- b. personification
- c. metonymy
- d. dialect

48. The most liberal candidate in the race, who campaigned to fight for free college for all high school graduates, is likely to win the votes of the 18-21 demographic in the Democratic primaries.

- a. a verbal phrase
- b. an adverb clause
- c. a restrictive adjective clause
- d. a non-restrictive adjective clause

49. Shortly after the holiday dinner started, an estranged family member who had not been invited appeared at the door and was allowed to join the meal in progress.

- a. The first underlined word group is an adverb phrase that modifies the main verb of the sentence
- b. The second underlined word group is an adjective phrase that modifies the noun “number.”
- c. The first underlined word group must be relocated so that it appears after “door.”
- d. The second underlined word group should be enclosed in commas because it is nonrestrictive.

50. Their damaged houses abandoned, the tornado victims sought refuge in surrounding shelters.

- a. Verbal phrase
- b. Absolute phrase
- c. Participle phrase
- d. Adjective phrase

Published in 1926, “I, Too,” is a poem written by Langston Hughes, one of the most influential artists of the Harlem Renaissance period. Like other writers, artists, and musicians of this period, Hughes explored the collective experiences of black Americans, creative expression, racial oppression, and failures of democracy. Read this poem and answer questions 51-60 below.

“I, Too” by Langston Hughes

1 I, too, sing America.
 2 I am the darker brother.
 3 They send me to eat in the kitchen
 4 When company comes,
 5 But I laugh,
 6 And eat well,
 7 And grow strong.
 8
 9 Tomorrow,
 10 I'll be at the table
 11 When company comes.
 12 Nobody'll dare
 13 Say to me,
 14 'Eat in the kitchen,'
 15 Then.
 16
 17 Besides,
 18 They'll see how beautiful I am
 19 And be ashamed-
 20
 21 I, too, am America.

51. The opening line of this poem, “I, too, Sing America” refers to Walt Whitman’s poem, “I Hear America Singing,” which attempts to capture and celebrate the many voices of America. The rhetorical choice to connect these two literary works allows some of the thematic messaging of the antecedent text to transcend onto the second. What literary device is enacted through this practice?

- a. Call and Response
- b. Allusion
- c. Anachronism
- d. Synthesis

52. What literary device is employed in Lines 4 and 7 with the phrasing “company comes” and “grow strong”?

- a. Alliteration
- b. Assonance
- c. Consonance
- d. Dissonance

53. This device is seen in Lines 5, 6, & 7 in order to show perseverance despite acts of oppression: “but I laugh and eat well and grow strong.”

- a. Repetition
- b. Irony
- c. Parallelism
- d. Onomatopoeia

54. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the structure and form of this poem?

- a. This 18-line poem is written entirely in free verse, a poetic style associated with a poet Hughes references in his opening line.
- b. The poem begins and ends with one-line stanzas tied to the poem’s title.
- c. The poem alternates between enjambment and end-line stopped lines throughout to further emphasize particular content.
- d. While the poem makes no use of rhyme scheme, it does include repetition and utilizes a regular metrical pattern to achieve stylistic effect.

55. “I, Too, Sing America” reflects a dark period in the early 20th century when Jim Crow laws throughout the South enforced racial segregation in public spaces, with those practices carrying over into private spaces as well. What lines within the poem listed below capture the discrimination present within this period of time?

- a. Lines 2-4
- b. Lines 8-13
- c. Lines 15-17
- d. Both A & B

56. “I, Too, Sing America” employs different uses of metaphor and extended metaphor throughout the poem. Which of the following is NOT an example of either these?

- a. The speaker refers to himself as a song bird that “sing(s)” the anthem of American (Line 1).
- b. The speaker goes beyond simply referring to himself as an American citizen by connecting himself to the country as a whole: “I, too, am America” (Line 18).
- c. The speaker refers to himself as the household’s “darker brother” which stands to represent American citizenship and human “brotherhood” on a broader level (Line 2).
- d. The household itself described in the poem, with its black and white occupants and segregated spaces, serves as an extended metaphor for America itself and its historical and ongoing legacy of racial injustice (Lines 2-4).

57. Which of the following is seen in Lines 15-17?

- a. Apostrophe
- b. Enjambment
- c. Slant Rhyme
- d. Syncopation

58. At which points in the poem might the poet be using a combination of alliteration and repetition to show a contrast in tones (from quiet defiance to hopeful celebration) or to suggest progress from the past to the future in terms of moving beyond segregation?

- a. Lines 1 & 18
- b. Lines 6 & 7
- c. Lines 3, 4, 10, & 13
- d. Lines 1, 8, 14, & 18

59. There is an important shift that happens between Lines 7 & Lines 8 in the poem between the two major stanzas. Select the interpretation below that best analyzes the moves the author makes at this point in the piece.

- a. Up through the end of stanza two the poem was written in the present tense; however, the third stanza is written in the future tense. The focus on “tomorrow” indicates hope for a future when the discrimination the speaker faces in the current day will lessen and truer equality can be achieved.
- b. The second stanza is full of positive imagery with references to laughing and eating, but the third stanza takes on a darker turn as the speaker’s anger mounts and he voices frustration and threats in Lines 11 & 12.
- c. Between stanza two and three there is a shift in the speaker’s self-image. In the earlier stanza there are indications of lower self-image and potentially internalized racism, for example references to being the “darker brother.” However, that speaker’s image improves and by the third stanza he voices his own worth and his right to “be at the table.”
- d. All of the above interpretations are equally valid and supported by evidence in the text.

60. Hughes ends his poem with a variation on how he began it, writing: “I, too, am America.” Considering the issues that are brought up throughout the poem, the modified second statement takes on a slightly different tone by the time the poem closes. Select the interpretation below that provides the best analysis of the second iteration of this phrase in Line 18 of the poem.

- a. Despite the hardships that Black Americans face, this line represents Hughes’s unwavering, blind patriotism and belief in the possibilities of democracy.
- b. The first line of the poem could represent patriotism, he feels like an American. This declaration at the end, however, is even stronger—he, too, *is* America. The use of this metaphor to end the poem has a very powerful result, and he is proclaiming to his reader that he is just as important as everyone else in the country, and he will not be denied his due recognition.
- c. While the opening utterance of this phrase had a decidedly optimistic, patriotic feeling, this closing line is laced with bitterness reflecting cynicism about how the American democracy is not set up to serve every citizen equally and is, in fact, failing him and his brothers.
- d. Although the poem is only 18 lines long, it reflects a life-long journey and reflection on the important themes reflected within concerning oppression and opportunity. Therefore, the final line reflects the growth of the speaker and his more mature and hopeful outlook on the future of the country in his later years in life.

“Metaphors” is an autobiographical poem written during the poet Sylvia Plath’s pregnancy discussing the meaning of, and her complicated feelings about, motherhood. Written in the form of a riddle, the poem itself never directly uses any words like motherhood, pregnancy, or childbirth but yet allows the countless metaphors within, along with its clever structural clues, to reveal to the reader what the poem is discussing. Read this poem and answer questions 61-70 below.

“Metaphors” by Sylvia Plath

1 I'm a riddle in nine syllables,
 2 An elephant, a ponderous house,
 3 A melon strolling on two tendrils.
 4 O red fruit, ivory, fine timbers!
 5 This loaf's big with its yeasty rising.
 6 Money's new-minted in this fat purse.
 7 I'm a means, a stage, a cow in calf.
 8 I've eaten a bag of green apples,
 9 Boarded the train there's no getting off.

61. In the first three lines of the poem Plath lists a variety of seemingly unconnected things, all clues as to what the poem is about. By joining these all in a series with commas, and not using any form of conjunctions, she is employing this literary device:

- a. Asyndeton
- b. Euphemism
- c. Oxymoron
- d. Chiasmus

62. In Line 6, “Money's new-minted in this fat purse,” this literary device is featured:

- a. Anaphora
- b. Alliteration
- c. Allusion
- d. Assonance

63. In Line 8 the speaker remarks, “I’ve eaten a bag of green apples.” Select the interpretation below that can be supported by the broader context and messaging of the poem.

- a. Considering the poem is about pregnancy, the mention of “green apples” could refer to the strange cravings for food items women are known to have during pregnancy. The use of the word “bag” could further emphasize the amount of food consumed or the size to which the woman feels she has grown due to eating for two.
- b. Being that green apples are often sour in flavor, and green coloring is associated with food items gone bad, this line could be intended as a reference to morning sickness of which pregnant women are known to suffer.
- c. This poem is not written as a joyous celebration of pregnancy, but rather points often to some more negative or ambiguous feelings the speaker has about going through this transitional state. Therefore, it would not be a stretch to see this line as a biblical allusion to the story of women being perpetually punished through the pain of childbirth due to Eve’s sin of eating the apple in the Garden of Eden.
- d. All of the above interpretations are valid

64. The final line of the poem, “Boarded the train there's no getting off” (Line 9), is an example of which of the following literary devices?

- a. Cliché
- b. Epigram
- c. Epithet
- d. Foreshadowing

65. Lines 3 & 4 – “A melon strolling on two tendrils / O red fruit, ivory, fine timbers!” – employ which of the two literary devices listed below?

- a. Allusion and Personification
- b. Assonance and Hyperbole
- c. Personification and Apostrophe
- d. Hyperbole and Alliteration

66. Although the content embedded into the various lines, the metaphors themselves, help to reveal the subject matter of the poem, there are also structural clues that help readers solve the riddle of the poem. Which of the features listed below do NOT serve this purpose?

- a. The meter of the poem mirrors that of a nursery rhyme hinting toward the focus on children.
- b. The length of the poem, the number of lines, aligns with the traditional gestational period
- c. Individual lines are comprised of nine syllables, the number of months a woman is traditionally pregnant for.
- d. The number of syllables within line and the number of lines within the entire poem both add up to the number nine which is associated with pregnancy.

67. Which of the following words would be the LEAST fitting to describe the tone of “Metaphors”?

- a. Ironic
- b. Angry
- c. Humorous
- d. Regretful

68. Which of the following statements is true concerning the meter of this poem:

- a. The overall meter of the poem is iambic tetrameter with a few variations.
- b. Pyrrhic meter is predominant throughout the majority of the poem.
- c. Although not the dominant meter throughout, there is a spondee foot present in the fourth and fifth lines.
- d. Plath alternates between anapest and dactyl feet in odd and even lines throughout the poem.

69. Plath was known to incorporate feminist themes into her work, as such critiquing the ways in which culture at large associate pregnancy and women with the domestic sphere could be viewed as one theme woven throughout this poem. Which line would NOT necessarily align with such a reading?

- a. Line 5
- b. Line 6
- c. Line 8
- d. Line 9

70. Which of the following analyses below of the poem's major themes is LEAST convincing considering the poem's overall context and the textual evidence provided?

- a. One of the major themes within this poem is "metamorphosis and identity." The speaker begins by presenting a series of riddles, comparing themselves to various objects and creatures: an elephant, a house, a melon, and a pregnant cow. These comparisons suggest a sense of transformation and fluidity, as the speaker's identity appears to be in a constant state of flux.
- b. One of the major themes within the poem pertains to the "power and liberation of motherhood." The speaker's journey on a train referenced in the final line, "there's no getting off," symbolizes a sense of elation and transcendence. This image suggests that the speaker feels excited about her life circumstances and what lies ahead.
- c. One of the major themes within this poem involves "the cycle of life and death." The poem alludes to the cycle of life and death through the mention of "a melon strolling on two tendrils" and "a cow in calf." These images suggest the inevitability of change and transformation, as well as the interconnectedness of all living things.
- d. All of the above interpretations are valid

Anton Chekhov, a Russian author who lived in the late 1800s, is considered one of the world's major playwrights. *A Marriage Proposal* is a one-act farce, a play that uses exaggeration for humorous effect. During the time period in which the play is set, land ownership was essential to the social standing of aristocratic Russian families. One way to increase their social power was through marriages, therefore, they often had little to do with love. Read the excerpt from this piece below and answer questions 71-80.

A Marriage Proposal (excerpt) by Anton Chekhov

[A drawing-room in CHUBUKOV'S house. LOMOV enters, wearing a dress-jacket and white gloves. CHUBUKOV rises to meet him.]

- [1] CHUBUKOV: My dear fellow, whom do I see! Ivan Vassilevitch! I am extremely glad! *[Squeezes his hand]* Now this is a surprise, my darling ... How are you?
- [2] LOMOV: Thank you. And how may you be getting on?
- [3] CHUBUKOV: We just get along somehow, my angel, to your prayers, and so on. Sit down, please do. ... Now, you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours, my darling. My dear fellow, why are you so formal in your get-up? Evening dress, gloves, and so on. Can you be going anywhere, my treasure?
- [4] LOMOV: No, I've come only to see you, honoured Stepan Stepanovitch.

- [5] CHUBUKOV: Then why are you in evening dress, my precious? As if you're paying a New Year's Eve visit!
- [6] LOMOV: Well, you see, it's like this. *[Takes his arm]* I've come to you, honoured Stepan Stepanovitch, to trouble you with a request. Not once or twice have I already had the privilege of applying to you for help, and you have always, so to speak ... I must ask your pardon, I am getting excited. I shall drink some water, honoured Stepan Stepanovitch. *[Drinks.]*
- [7] CHUBUKOV: *[Aside]* He's come to borrow money! Shan't give him any! *[Aloud]* What is it, my beauty?
- [8] LOMOV: You see, Honour Stepanitch ... I beg pardon, Stepan Honouritch ... I mean, I'm awfully excited, as you will please notice. ... In short, you alone can help me, though I don't deserve it, of course ... and haven't any right to count on your assistance. ...
- [9] CHUBUKOV: Oh, don't beat around the bush, darling! Spit it out! Well?
- [10] LOMOV: One moment ... this very minute. The fact is, I've come to ask the hand of your daughter, Natalya Stepanovna, in marriage.
- [11] CHUBUKOV: *[Joyfully]* By Jove! Ivan Vassilevitch! Say it again--I didn't hear it all!
- [12] LOMOV: I have the honour to ask ...
- [13] CHUBUKOV: *[Interrupting]* My dear fellow ... I'm so glad, and so on. ... Yes, indeed, and all that sort of thing. *[Embraces and kisses LOMOV]* I've been hoping for it for a long time. It's been my continual desire. *[Sheds a tear]* And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son. May God give you both His help and His love and so on, and I did so much hope ... What am I behaving in this idiotic way for? I'm off my balance with joy, absolutely off my balance! Oh, with all my soul ... I'll go and call Natalya, and all that.
- [14] LOMOV: *[Greatly moved]* Honoured Stepan Stepanovitch, do you think I may count on her consent?
- [15] CHUBUKOV: Why, of course, my darling, and ... as if she won't consent! She's in love; egad, she's like a love-sick cat, and so on. ... Shan't be long! *[Exit.]*
- [16] LOMOV: It's cold ... I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination before me. The great thing is, I must have my mind made up. If I give myself time to think, to hesitate, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married. ... Brr! ... It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. ... What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. *[Drinks]* And it's impossible for me not to marry. ... In the first place, I'm already 35--a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. ... I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset. ... At this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow. ... But the very worst of all is the way I sleep. I no sooner get into bed and begin to go off when suddenly something in my left side gives a pull, and I can feel it in my shoulder and head. ... I jump up like a lunatic, walk about a bit, and lie down again, but as soon as I begin to get off to sleep there's another pull! And this may happen twenty times....

[NATALYA STEPANOVNA comes in.]

71. What clues are provided that reveal the reason for Lomov's visit to Chubokov's house?
- His overly formal attire indicate that this is not merely a casual visit among neighbors.
 - His nervous demeanor suggests that he is there on important business and that the outcome will impact him greatly.
 - Lomov is flattering Chobokov, using terms to show his respect, increasing the odds that his host might be favorable to his forthcoming request.
 - All of the above are clues that could help the reader guess the reason for Lomov's visit which is foreshadowed in the play's title.
72. In prodding Lomov to get to the point, Chobokov uses a well-known cultural expression, "don't beat about the bush" [9]. What literary device does this represent?
- Metaphor
 - Personification
 - Idiom
 - Euphemism
73. Understanding different cultural naming traditions and, therefore, how they are used in literary works, is useful for navigating narratives. In Russian names consist not only of a first name and a last name, but also a middle antonymic, a name that is formed by combining the name of the father with a suffix that then denotes their relationship. Which of the following would be the translation of "Stepanova" in Natalya Stepanova's name?
- Natalya, daughter of Stephan
 - Natalya, granddaughter of Stephan
 - Natalya, wife of Stephan
 - Natalya, betrothed of Stephan
74. Which of the following below contains the accurate full name for one of the characters referenced in this opening exchange?
- Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov
 - Ivan Vassilevitch Chobokov
 - Stepan Stepanovitch Lomov
 - Natalya Vassilevitch Chobokov
75. Which of the following analyses below best applies to these words spoken by Chobokov: "He's come to borrow money! Shan't give him any!" [7]
- This is an example of dramatic irony wherein the audience has more information about how Chobokov is feeling about Lomov than the latter does.
 - The contrast between the spoken words in the aside about Chobokov's suspicion that Lomov has simply come to borrow money is juxtaposed greatly by his overly flattering tone in the following line where he is using terms of endearment when talking directly to Lomov.
 - Besides for providing some characterization for Chobokov, this line also serves as exposition providing the audience with some backstory concerning the relationship these two characters have had with one another in the past.
 - All of the above analyses are useful in interpreting this moment within the play.

76. Considering the historical context provided about the potential for social, cultural, and economic mobility during the time in which the play was set, as well as the information provided in this excerpt, which of the following LEAST likely explains Chobokov's apparent excitement in line [11] about the marriage proposal?

- a. He thinks that the arrangement will benefit his family economically.
- b. He has always been fond of Lomov and thought he would be a good match for his daughter.
- c. His daughter may not have had many other suitors and offers of marriage up until this point.
- d. He may think that this marriage will elevate his family's social status.

77. In dialogue line [15], Chobokov refers to his daughter in the following way: "she's like a love-sick cat." This is an example of the following literary device:

- a. Personification
- b. Hyperbole
- c. Simile
- d. Metaphor

78. In the final bit of dialogue provided in this excerpt, Lomov is alone on stage talking about his thoughts on and motivations for marrying [16]. This practice of having a character speak to him/herself is an example of what literary device/practice?

- a. Monologue
- b. Soliloquy
- c. Epithet
- d. Breaking the Fourth Wall

79. Lomov's speech [16] suggests that he believes that Natalia will be a good wife for which of the following reasons?

- a. She will manage a good household.
- b. She is attractive and well-groomed.
- c. She is intelligent and properly educated.
- d. All of the above

80. Which of the following messages is LEAST likely to be gleaned from the final dialogue section in this excerpt [16]?

- a. Russian society places pressure on both men and women alike to marry by a certain age.
- b. Marriage is an expected part of a traditional lifestyle.
- c. Once women enter into marital arrangements they often have to take care of their spouses and their quality of life decreases.
- d. Marriages that benefit households socially or economically should be chosen over quests for ideal love which may never be obtained.