

Questions 43–56. Read the following passage carefully before you begin to answer the questions.

I mention the spawning of the toads because it is one of the phenomena of spring which most deeply appeal to me, and because the toad, unlike the skylark and the primrose, has never had much of a boost from the poets. But I am aware than many people do not like reptiles or amphibians, and I am not suggesting that in order to enjoy the spring you have to take an interest in toads. There are also the crocus, the missel thrush, the cuckoo, and the blackthorn, etc. The point is that the pleasures of spring are available to everybody, and cost nothing. Even in the most sordid street the coming of spring will register itself by some sign or other, if it is only a brighter blue between the chimney pots or the vivid green of an elder sprouting on a blitzed site. Indeed it is remarkable how Nature goes on existing unofficially, as it were, in the very heart of London. I have seen a kestrel flying over the Deptford gasworks, and I have heard a first-rate performance by a black-bird in the Euston Road. There must be some hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of birds living inside the four-mile radius, and it is rather a pleasing thought that none of them pays a half-penny of rent.

As for spring, not even the narrow and gloomy streets round the Bank of England are quite able to exclude it. It comes seeping in everywhere, like one

of those new poison gases which pass through all filters. The spring is commonly referred to as “a miracle,” and during the past five or six years this worn-out figure of speech has taken on a new lease of life. After the sort of winters we have had to endure recently, the spring does seem miraculous, because it has become gradually harder and harder to believe that it is actually going to happen. Every February since 1940 I have found myself thinking that this time winter is going to be permanent. But Persephone, like the toads, always rises from the dead at about the same moment. Suddenly towards the end of March, the miracle happens and the decaying slum in which I live is transfigured. Down in the square the sooty privets have turned bright green, the leaves are thickening on the chestnut trees, the daffodils are out, the wallflowers are budding, the policemen’s tunic looks positively a pleasant shade of blue, the fishmonger greets his customers with a smile, and even the sparrows are quite a different color, having felt the balminess of the air and nerved themselves to take a bath, their first since last September.

- 43.** From details in the passage, we can infer that it was written
- A. sometime in the mid-nineteenth century
 - B. during World War I
 - C. in the spring of 1925
 - D. in 1945 or 1946
 - E. sometime in the 1970s
- 44.** In the opening sentence of the passage, the author refers to the “spawning of the toads” for which of the following reasons?
- I. He is interested in and informed about natural history.
 - II. He wishes to be different from other writers.
 - III. The reference will surprise his readers.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. I and III only
 - D. II and III only
 - E. I, II, and III
- 45.** The diction of a phrase like “the toad . . . has never had much of a boost from the poets” can be best described as
- A. formal
 - B. interpretive
 - C. colloquial
 - D. jargon-ridden
 - E. reproachful
- 46.** The author refers to the “crocus, the missel thrush, the cuckoo, and the blackthorn” (lines 11–12)
- A. as examples of birds and plants that are especially beautiful
 - B. as examples of birds and plants that are not usually associated with early spring
 - C. to demonstrate the range of his knowledge of the natural world
 - D. as examples of the birds and plants he prefers to toads
 - E. as examples of the birds and plants conventionally associated with spring
- 47.** In a more conventionally written passage of expository prose, the sentence in lines 13–15 — “the pleasures of spring are available to everybody, and cost nothing” — would probably be
- A. edited out of the passage
 - B. placed first as a topic sentence
 - C. changed from a loose to a periodic sentence
 - D. changed from a periodic to a loose sentence
 - E. divided into two complete simple sentences

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

- 48.** All the following are figurative EXCEPT
- A. “boost from the poets” (line 6)
 - B. “many people do not like reptiles or amphibians” (lines 7–8)
 - C. “a first-rate performance by a black-bird” (lines 24–25)
 - D. “new lease of life” (line 41)
 - E. “like the toads” (line 49)
- 49.** The author juxtaposes the natural world and the urban scene in all the following phrases EXCEPT
- A. “brighter blue between the chimney pots” (lines 17–18)
 - B. “elder sprouting on a blitzed site” (lines 19–20)
 - C. “kestrel flying over the Deptford gasworks” (lines 23–24)
 - D. “a black-bird in the Euston Road” (lines 25–26)
 - E. “leaves are thickening on the chestnut trees” (lines 56–57)
- 50.** If nature exists in London “unofficially” (line 21), official London is best represented by
- A. “millions, of birds living inside the four-mile radius” (lines 27–29)
 - B. “the narrow and gloomy streets round the Bank of England” (lines 32–34)
 - C. “one of those new poison gases which pass through all filters” (lines 35–37)
 - D. “winter” (line 48)
 - E. “positively a pleasant shade of blue” on “the policeman’s tunic” (lines 58–60)
- 51.** In the sentence “this worn-out figure of speech has taken on a new lease of life” (lines 39–41), the author employs
- A. a worn-out figure of speech
 - B. a simile based on real estate
 - C. a common error in syntax
 - D. a symbol
 - E. poetic license
- 52.** The most unconventional figure of speech used to describe spring in the passage is probably
- A. “it” (line 34)
 - B. “one of those new poison gases” (lines 35–36)
 - C. “miracle” (line 38)
 - D. “Persephone . . . rises from the dead” (lines 49–50)
 - E. “miracle” (line 52)

- 53.** In the second paragraph, the idea of spring as a miracle is
- I. advanced tentatively at first, then boldly
 - II. initially qualified by the use of “commonly referred to” and “does seem”
 - III. intensified by the bleakness of the winter
- A. III only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. I and III only
 - D. II and III only
 - E. I, II, and III
- 54.** In the last sentence of the passage (lines 54–65), the optimism of the description is undermined by which of the following words or phrases?
- A. “different”
 - B. “balminess”
 - C. “air”
 - D. “nerved”
 - E. “bath”
- 55.** From the passage, we can infer that the author is
- A. eager to earn money
 - B. poor
 - C. unrealistic
 - D. sympathetic to the capitalist system
 - E. conservative
- 56.** All the following adjectives could properly be used to describe the style and effect of this passage EXCEPT
- A. pedantic
 - B. comic
 - C. optimistic
 - D. realistic
 - E. spontaneous

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY. DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

