

Practice Test 3

Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions

Time: 60 Minutes

55 Questions

Directions: This section contains selections from two passages of prose and two poems with questions on their content, style, and form. Read each selection carefully. Choose the best answer of the five choices.

Questions 1–12. Read the following passage carefully before you begin to answer the questions.

Meditation

We say that the world is made of sea and land, as though they were equal; but we know that there is more sea in the western than in the eastern hemisphere.

(5) We say that the firmament is full of stars, as though it were equally full; but we know that there are more stars under the northern than under the southern pole. We say the elements of man are misery and happiness, as though he had an equal proportion of both, and the days of man vicissitudinary, as though he had as many good days as ill, and that he lived under a perpetual equinoctial, night and day equal, good and ill fortune in the same measure. But it is far from that; he drinks misery, and he tastes happiness; he mows misery, and he gleans happiness; he journeys in misery, he does but walk in happiness; and, which is worst, his misery is positive and dogmatical, his happiness is but disputable and problematical. All men call misery misery, but happiness changes the name by the taste of man. In this accident that befalls me, now that this sickness declares itself by

spots to be a malignant and pestilential disease, if there be a comfort in the declaration that thereby the physicians see more clearly what to do, there may be as much discomfort in this, that the malignity may be so great as that all that they can do shall do nothing; that an enemy declares himself then when he is able to subsist and to pursue and to achieve his ends is no great comfort. In intestine conspiracies, voluntary confessions do more good than confessions upon the rack; in these infections, when nature herself confesses and cries out by these outward declarations which she is able to put forth of herself, they minister comfort; but when all is by the strength of cordials, it is but a confession upon the rack, by which, though we come to know the malice of that man, yet we do not know whether there be not as much malice in his heart then as before his confession; we are sure of his treason, but not of his repentance; sure of him, but not of his accomplices. It is a faint comfort to know the worst when the worst is remediless, and a weaker than that to

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know much ill and not to know that that
 (55) is the worst. A woman is comforted with
 the birth of her son, her body is eased of
 a burden; but if she could prophetically
 read his history, how ill a man, perchance
 (60) how ill a son he would prove, she should
 receive a greater burden into her mind.
 Scarce any purchase that is not clogged
 with secret encumbrances; scarce any
 happiness that hath not in it so much of
 the nature of false and base money as
 (65) that the alloy is more than the metal. Nay,
 is it not so (at least much towards it) even

1. The speaker of the passage is
 - A. an Old Testament prophet
 - B. a sick person
 - C. a physician
 - D. a man who has died and is recalling his last days
 - E. a geographer

2. The comparisons in the first 16 lines of the passage are to illustrate the fact that
 - A. the western oceans are larger than the eastern
 - B. life contains both happiness and sorrow
 - C. good fortune and bad fortune cannot be measured
 - D. the sorrow in life outweighs the happiness
 - E. neither misery nor joy is lasting in men's lives

3. As it is used in line 21, "dogmatical" means
 - A. arrogantly asserted
 - B. authoritatively affirmed

in the exercise of virtues? I must be poor
 and want before I can exercise the virtue
 of gratitude; miserable and in torment
 (70) before I can exercise the virtue of pa-
 tience. How deep do we dig and for how
 coarse gold! And what other touchstone
 have we of our gold but comparison,
 whether we be as happy as others, or as
 (75) ourselves at other times? O poor step to-
 ward being well, when these spots do
 only tell us that we are worse than we
 were sure of before!

- C. asserted without any reference to evidence
 - D. suggested, formulated
 - E. ungrammatically stated
4. The argument in lines 25–32 is that because the disease has now been identified
 - I. it may be so serious that the doctors can be of no use
 - II. it can be more easily treated
 - III. the physicians recognizing its contagion may refuse to treat the disease
 - A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. I and II only
 - D. I and III only
 - E. I, II, and III

 5. In line 36, the word "intestine" is used to
 - A. modify "voluntary confessions"
 - B. refer to a part of the body
 - C. mean murderous or fatal
 - D. mean forceful or violent
 - E. mean domestic or internal

6. The metaphor in lines 33–36
- A. argues that an unseen enemy is more dangerous than an open one
 - B. compares a disease and physicians to an invader and a town under siege
 - C. argues that the enemy has been discovered too late to be defeated
 - D. argues that the temporary defeat of an enemy is no consolation
 - E. compares the enemy to an army with the advantage
7. We can infer that the latest symptoms of the speaker’s disease have appeared
- A. without raising his physicians’ increased concern
 - B. without having been noticed by the physicians
 - C. without increasing the concern of the speaker
 - D. because they have been induced by medicines
 - E. in the natural course of his illness
8. In line 53, “that” refers to
- A. “repentance” (line 50)
 - B. “faint” (line 51)
 - C. “to know the worst” (lines 51–52)
 - D. “remediless” (line 53)
 - E. “that that” (line 54)
9. In lines 62–65, the comparison of happiness to coinage in which the “alloy is more than the metal” is parallel to the comparison of
- A. the sea and land as equal (lines 1–2)
 - B. drinking misery and tasting happiness (lines 16–17)
 - C. the taste of man (lines 24–25)
 - D. the voluntary confessions and confessions under torture (lines 36–39)
 - E. the woman in childbirth (lines 55–60)
10. The “coarse gold” of line 72 is
- A. riches
 - B. virtue
 - C. patience
 - D. misery
 - E. happiness
11. The style of the paragraph is most notably characterized by its use of
- A. extended metaphors
 - B. carefully reasoned syllogism
 - C. reasoning from the specific to the general
 - D. ironic understatements
 - E. citation of intellectual authorities
12. The tone of the passage may be best described as
- A. ambiguous
 - B. skeptical
 - C. pessimistic
 - D. servile
 - E. anxious

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