

Read: “The old map, yellowed at the edges, showed paths that no longer existed. Lina traced a finger along a dotted line and felt as if the past was nudging her forward.”

Question 1: Which inference is the best supported by the passage?

- a) Lina intends to throw away the map.
- b) The map evokes curiosity about history and exploration.
- c) The map was printed yesterday.
- d) The dotted line marks a current highway.

Question 2: Choose the best word to complete: The committee issued a ____ warning about the project’s environmental risks.

- a) frivolous
- b) categorical
- c) nebulous
- d) incidental

Question 3: Choose the sentence correctly rewritten in passive voice: “The committee will announce the winners tomorrow.”

- a) The winners will be announced by the committee tomorrow.
- b) The winners announce the committee tomorrow.
- c) Tomorrow the winners will announce the committee.
- d) The winners will announce tomorrow.

Question 4: Which opening line gives the strongest immediate sensory image for a short story?

- a) It was morning.
- b) The bakery’s windows fogged with warm steam and the smell of cinnamon pulled her down the street.
- c) He woke up.
- d) The weather changed.

Question 5: In poetry, which device uses deliberate repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of nearby words?

- a) Assonance
- b) Consonance
- c) Alliteration
- d) Anaphora

Question 6: During a persuasive speech, which strategy would be the most improved credibility?

- a) Use many rhetorical questions without evidence
- b) Cite reliable sources, acknowledge counterarguments, and maintain confident but calm delivery
- c) Speak as loudly as possible the entire time
- d) Read long statistics from a page without context

Question 7: Read: “When the bridge finally reopened, the town gathered in silence. Some faces were joyful; others were still shadowed with worry.”

What critical analysis question would deepen understanding of the scene?

- a) What colour was the bridge paint?
- b) Why did some townspeople remain worried despite reopening — what unresolved issues might persist?
- c) How many people attended?
- d) Did the bridge have a toll?

Question 8: Choose the word that the best completes: Her answer was precise, but his was _____ leaving listeners unsure of his point.

- a) lucid
- b) equivocal
- c) explicit
- d) categorical

Question 9: Identify the part of speech of the underlined word: She answered promptly when asked.

- a) Noun
- b) Adverb
- c) Verb
- d) Adjective

Question 10: Which sentence best shows “show, don’t tell” for fear?

- a) He was afraid.
- b) His hands trembled; he swallowed but could not steady his voice.
- c) He felt fear and sadness inside.
- d) He had feelings.

Question 11: A novel shows characters who sacrifice small comforts to give to neighbours after a flood. What is a likely theme?

- a) The beauty of isolation
- b) Community resilience and altruism in crisis
- c) The wonders of technology
- d) The futility of human action

Question 12: Which nonverbal cue most helps maintain audience engagement during a talk?

- a) Fixing gaze at a single point on the back wall
- b) Making deliberate eye contact with different segments of the audience and using open gestures
- c) Folding arms and looking downward the whole time
- d) Avoiding movement at all costs

Question 13: Read this headline and lead sentence: “City Council Approves Green Roof Incentive: Officials say new program will reduce downtown heat.” What would be the best critical follow-up question for a reporter?

- a) How many council members voted?
- b) What measurable metrics and timeline will determine whether downtown heat is actually reduced?
- c) What brand of roofing is used?
- d) Which reporter wrote the article?

Question 14: Which word is derived from the root meaning “write” or “record”?

- a) Telephoto
- b) Graphite
- c) Bibliophile
- d) Auditory

Question 15: Choose the sentence with correct tense sequence:

- a) She had studied French before she moved to Paris.
- b) She studied French before she had moved to Paris.
- c) She has studied French before she moved to Paris.
- d) She will study French before she moved to Paris.

Question 16: Which phrase is the clearest example of personification?

- a) The clock crowed the morning.
- b) The soda tasted sweet.
- c) The blue car drove fast.
- d) She smiled.

Question 17: When analysing a short story, which element is the most useful to connect motif and theme?

- a) Repetition of an image or phrase and its variations across scenes
- b) Word count
- c) Number of chapters
- d) The author's birth date

Question 18: Before preparing a speech to younger students, the speaker should first:

- a) Assume they know nothing and use no examples
- b) Consider the audience's age, interests, language level, and tailor examples and vocabulary accordingly
- c) Prepare the same talk as for experts
- d) Use only technical jargon

Question 19: Read: "He kept the ticket stub folded in his wallet for years, smoothing the creases when he felt lonely." The best-supported inference is:

- a) He collects ticket stubs for a hobby only.
- b) The stub is a sentimental reminder linked to an important memory or relationship.
- c) He worked at a ticket counter.
- d) He always loses things.

Question 20: Which word is the closest in meaning to ephemeral?

- a) Permanent
- b) Transient
- c) Massive
- d) Loud

Question 21: Which sentence uses the subjunctive mood correctly?

- a) If I was rich, I buy a yacht.
- b) If I were you, I would accept the offer.
- c) If she is here, she will come yesterday.
- d) If he were, he was going.

Question 22: Which narrative point of view allows direct access to one character's inner thoughts and also permits limited knowledge of other characters?

- a) Third-person omniscient
- b) Third-person limited
- c) First-person plural only
- d) Second-person imperative

Question 23: The phrase “to meet one’s Waterloo” alludes to which historical event and the meaning in literary use?

- a) Waterloo refers to a mountain; it means to climb a peak.
- b) Battle of Waterloo; to suffer a final and decisive defeat.
- c) A river; to swim across.
- d) A famous playwright; to write a play.

Question 24: Which structural pattern is strongest for a persuasive talk on school recycling:

- a) Problem → causes → evidence → proposed solution → call to action
- b) Random ideas with no connection
- c) Only personal anecdotes with no evidence
- d) Read a list of facts with no conclusion

Question 25: A reviewer claims a novel’s unreliable narrator makes readers distrust every detail. Which supporting question would be the best evaluate this claim?

- a) How does the author signal unreliability, and which specific events differ from other characters’ accounts?
- b) How many pages is the novel?
- c) What colour is the book cover?
- d) Did the narrator like coffee?

Question 26: Choose the correct collocation:

Make a ____ decision

- a) make a quick decision
- b) make a fast decision
- c) make a slow decision
- d) make a deep decision

Question 27: Which sentence uses a correct non-defining relative clause?

- a) My brother who lives in London is a doctor.
- b) My brother, who lives in London, is a doctor.
- c) My brother that lives in London is a doctor.
- d) My brother which lives in London is a doctor.

Question 28: Which revision improves clarity and conciseness?

- a) Due to the fact that many students were absent, the teacher rescheduled the test.
- b) Because many students were absent, the teacher rescheduled the test.
- c) The teacher rescheduled the test due to the fact that many students were absent and because the attendance was low.
- d) The teacher postponed the test.

Question 29: In many works, rain is used symbolically. Which interpretation is the most defensible in a literary analysis?

- a) Rain always symbolizes sadness and nothing else.
- b) Rain can symbolize cleansing, renewal, or melancholy depending on context and tone.
- c) Rain only represents weather reports.
- d) Rain always indicates a plot twist.

Question 30: During a Q&A, a speaker receives a hostile question. The best immediate response is to:

- a) Reply defensively and criticize the questioner.
- b) Acknowledge the concern, answer calmly with facts, and if necessary offer to discuss details after the session.
- c) Ignore the question and move on.
- d) Laugh and walk away.

Question 31: Read: “Marisol counted the jars on the shelf — each one labelled with a colour. Today, she reached for a jar marked 'hazel' and paused; the colour did not match the name.” Which analytical question is the most useful to explore theme?

- a) Why are the jars labelled with names that sometimes don't match — what does this say about memory and identity?
- b) How many jars are there exactly?
- c) What brand are the jars?
- d) Is 'hazel' a real colour?

Question 32: Which word means “to make smaller” using an appropriate prefix/suffix?

- a) Magnify
- b) Minimize
- c) Amplify
- d) Expand

Question 33: She said, “I have completed the assignment.” Which is the correct reported speech?

- a) She said that she has completed the assignment.
- b) She said that she had completed the assignment.
- c) She says she have completed the assignment.
- d) She said I have completed the assignment.

Question 34: Which element is the most essential to mark a piece as speculative fiction?

- a) Inclusion of imaginative elements and exploration of their consequences for characters/society
- b) Use of long sentences only
- c) Setting in the present with no imaginative elements
- d) Strict adherence to realism

Question 35: Which poetic form traditionally uses 14 lines and is often written in iambic pentameter?

- a) Limerick
- b) Sonnet
- c) Haiku
- d) Free verse

Question 36: Which rhetorical device pairs two contrasting ideas in balanced phrases?

- a) Anaphora
- b) Antithesis
- c) Metonymy
- d) Simile

Question 37: Read: “The theatre emptied slowly; the streetlights blinked on like obedient soldiers.” Which two devices appear in the sentence?

- a) Hyperbole and oxymoron
- b) Simile and personification
- c) Metaphor only
- d) Alliteration and irony

Question 38: Choose the most formal synonym for help in an academic essay:

- a) Assist
- b) Help out
- c) Lend a hand
- d) Fix

Question 39: Which sentence correctly uses a modal to express ability in the past?

- a) She may swim yesterday.
- b) She could swim when she was five.
- c) She can swim yesterday.
- d) She will could swim.

Question 40: Which strategy best develops a believable character arc?

- a) Give the character clear goals, obstacles, small choices that reveal growth, and consequences that change their beliefs over time
- b) Keep the character identical at beginning and end for consistency
- c) Introduce many names but no actions
- d) Avoid giving the character motivation

Question 41: An unreliable narrator often:

- a) Presents a fully objective account of events.
- b) Offers a subjective or untrustworthy version of events that requires readers to interpret truth from other cues.
- c) Is always a villain.
- d) Uses only dialogue.

Question 42: Which slide design choice helps the audience follow the speaker?

- a) Dense paragraphs in small font filling the slide
- b) Clear headline, 3–4 bullet points, legible font, and relevant visual to support (not distract from) the message
- c) Many unrelated animations and fancy transitions on each slide
- d) No text at all ever

Question 43: Read: “He sighed and folded the letter back into its usual corner, as if tucking away an ache.” Which tone does this line the most suggest?

- a) Lighthearted and comic
- b) Quiet melancholy and resignation
- c) Sarcastic and mocking
- d) Boastful

Question 44: Which idiom means “to delay dealing with something”?

- a) Bite the bullet
- b) Kick the can down the road
- c) Hit the nail on the head
- d) Break the ice

Question 45: Which sentence correctly uses inversion for emphasis?

- a) Never had she seen such a sight.
- b) She never had saw such a sight.
- c) Had she never saw such a sight?
- d) Never she had seen such a sight.

Question 46: Which revision improves narrative clarity by eliminating passive voice?

- a) The prize was won by the student → The student won the prize.
- b) The prize was won by the student → The prize was won.
- c) The student prize was won by the student → Prize won.
- d) No revision needed.

Question 47: In a novel where clocks appear repeatedly in scenes of decision, the recurring clocks most likely function as:

- a) A motif emphasizing time, urgency, or the passage of decisions
- b) A random decorative choice with no meaning
- c) Mere props for set design only
- d) A way to sell watches

Question 48: Which practical tactic reduces anxiety before public speaking?

- a) Skip rehearsal and rely on improvisation only
- b) Practice the opening several times, use deep-breathing exercises, and focus on connecting with audience purpose rather than self-evaluation
- c) Take stimulants to raise heart rate
- d) Avoid eye contact permanently

Question 49: Which question is the best evaluates author bias in an op-ed piece?

- a) What words and evidence does the author use or omit, and what perspective or interests might shape those choices?
- b) What font does the op-ed use?
- c) What is the author's favourite colour?
- d) How many exclamation marks are used?

Question 50: Which adjective is the best contrasts with gregarious (sociable)?

- a) Introverted
- b) Friendly
- c) Talkative
- d) Outgoing

Question 51: Choose the correct mixed conditional sentence for present result of past unreal condition:

- a) If I had studied medicine, I will be a doctor now.
- b) If I had studied medicine, I would be a doctor now.
- c) If I studied medicine, I would be a doctor now.
- d) If I had study medicine, I would be a doctor now.

Question 52: Which line of dialogue will be the most effectively reveal character through subtext?

- a) "I'm fine," she said, while her fingers trembled and the coffee cooled untouched.
- b) "I'm fine." (no other detail)
- c) "I'm fine," she said loudly.
- d) He said, "fine."

Question 53: When comparing two poems that share a sonnet form, which comparative angle is the most insightful?

- a) How each poem adapts sonnet conventions (volta, rhyme, meter) to express different attitudes toward the same theme
- b) Which poem has prettier words only
- c) Whether the poets lived in different centuries only
- d) The color of the book covers

Question 54: Which logical appeal (logos, ethos, pathos) is being used when a speaker cites data from a peer-reviewed study?

- a) Pathos
- b) Ethos
- c) Logos
- d) Kairos

Question 55 Read: "The committee's decision was pragmatic, albeit unpopular." explains "pragmatic" in this context?

- a) Based on idealistic principle rather than practical concerns
- b) Focused on practical and workable solutions despite being unpopular
- c) Chaotic and random
- d) Popular and pleasing

Question 56: Which word is polysemous?

- a) Bank
- b) Elephant
- c) Oxygen
- d) Triangle

Question 57: Which sentence uses commas correctly in a list?

- a) For the picnic we brought sandwiches, juice, plates and napkins.
- b) For the picnic we brought sandwiches juice, plates and napkins.
- c) For the picnic we brought, sandwiches, juice, plates, and napkins.
- d) For the picnic, we brought sandwiches, juice, plates, and napkins.

Question 58: Which revision will be the most speed narrative pacing in a tense action scene?

- a) Use shorter sentences, active verbs, and fewer adverbs to increase momentum.
- b) Insert long descriptive paragraphs about the weather.
- c) Add several subordinate clauses and digressions.
- d) Slow down to explain every character's backstory.

Question 59: Why the historical context is important when interpreting a novel written in another era?

- a) It helps readers understand social norms, assumptions, and references that shaped characters and themes.
- b) It is irrelevant — texts mean the same always.
- c) It replaces the need for close reading.
- d) It is useful only for biography.

Question 60: A student preparing a persuasive speech finds a compelling statistic from an NGO but can't locate its original study.

Ethically the student should:

- a) Use the statistic without qualification
- b) Try to find the original source or, if unavailable, either avoid the statistic or clearly attribute it and explain limitations.
- c) Invent a different statistic.
- d) Use the number but change the decimal place to make it more dramatic.