

**VIRGINIA  
STANDARDS OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS**

**Spring 2001 Released Test**

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**END OF COURSE  
English:  
Reading/Literature and Research**

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**DIRECTIONS**

Read each passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer to each question. Mark the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.

**SAMPLE**

**Salmon Run**

No one has taught them how to struggle up  
On this, a run of grueling, flogging odds.  
Instinctive wisdom and a will to rise  
Suspends their forms against the crashing flood.  
5 Nothing can defeat the pounding roar as  
Enraged waters battle their advance.  
Clinging by a hidden will they climb,  
Stubborn, tireless, faithful as a dream.  
Ascending higher regions of the stream.

**A** What does this poem describe?

- A Depression
- B Punishment
- C Regret
- D Determination

**B** Lines 8 and 9 utilize —

- F end rhyme
- G slant (approximate) rhyme
- H internal rhyme
- J alliteration

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

## from *Nature*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

- 1 To go into solitude, a man needs to retire as much from his chamber as from society. I am not solitary whilst I read and write, though nobody is with me. But if a man would be alone, let him look at the stars.
- 2 The stars awaken a certain reverence, because though always present, they are inaccessible; but all natural objects make a kindred impression, when the mind is open to their influence. Nature never wears a mean appearance. Neither does the wisest man extort her secret, and lose his curiosity by finding out all her perfection. Nature never became a toy to a wise spirit. The flowers, the animals, the mountains, reflected the wisdom of his best hour, as much as they had delighted the simplicity of his childhood.
- 3 To speak truly, few adult persons can see nature. Most persons do not see the sun. At least they have a very superficial seeing. The sun illuminates only the eye of the man, but shines into the eye and the heart of the child. The lover of nature is he whose inward and outward senses are still truly adjusted to each other; who has retained the spirit of infancy even into the era of manhood. His intercourse with heaven and earth becomes part of his daily food. In the presence of nature a wild delight runs through the man, in spite of real sorrows. Nature says, — he is my creature, and maugre [in spite of] all his impertinent griefs, he shall be glad with me. Not the sun or the summer alone, but every hour and season yields its tribute of delight; for every hour and change corresponds to and authorizes a different state of the mind, from breathless noon to grimmiest midnight. Nature is a setting that fits equally well a comic or a mourning piece. In good health, the air is a cordial of incredible virtue.
- 4 Crossing a bare common, in snow puddles, at twilight, under a clouded sky, without having in my thoughts any occurrence of special good fortune, I have enjoyed a perfect exhilaration. I am glad to the brink of fear. In the woods, too, a man casts off his years, as the snake his slough, and at what period soever of life is always a child. In the woods is perpetual youth. Within these plantations of God, a decorum and sanctity reign, a perennial festival is dressed, and the guest sees not how he should tire of them in a thousand years. In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life,—no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground,—my head bathed by the blithe air and uplifted into infinite space,—all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or parcel of God. The name of the nearest friend sounds then foreign and accidental: to be brothers, to be acquaintances, master or servant, is then a trifle and a disturbance. I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness, I find something more dear and connate than in streets or villages. In the tranquil landscape, and especially in the distant line of the horizon, man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature.
- 5 Yet it is certain that the power to produce this delight does not reside in nature, but in man, or in a harmony of both. It is necessary to use these pleasures with great temperance. For nature is not always tricked in holiday attire, but the same scene which yesterday breathed perfume and glittered as for the frolic of the nymphs is overspread with melancholy to-day. Nature always wears the colors of the spirit.

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- 1 From which point of view is this selection written?
- A First person
  - B Third person, limited to Emerson
  - C Third person, limited to Nature
  - D Omniscient
- 2 At the end of paragraph 2, Emerson elicits a feeling of nostalgia in the reader through his use of —
- F foreshadowing
  - G logic
  - H sarcasm
  - J imagery
- 3 Which of the following is an example of a simile?
- A Paragraph 2 – “Nature never became a toy to a wise spirit.”
  - B Paragraph 4 – “... a man casts off his years, as the snake his slough, ...”
  - C Paragraph 4 – “... the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; ...”
  - D Paragraph 4 – “I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty.”
- 4 “Nature never wears a mean appearance” is an example of —
- F metaphor
  - G irony
  - H symbolism
  - J personification
- 5 Emerson’s philosophy is reflected *most* obviously in which of the following?
- A His account of his experience in nature
  - B His descriptions of the setting
  - C His diction and syntax
  - D His attitude toward the family
- 6 All of the following tenets of the Age of Romanticism in American literature are present in this selection *except* —
- F to know nature is to know God
  - G it is the nature of mankind to desire evil
  - H imagination is valued above reason
  - J the world is seen as idealistic rather than realistic
- 7 Which of the following thematic topics in American literature is addressed in this selection?
- A Disillusionment with life
  - B The American Dream
  - C The power of nature
  - D Loss of innocence
- 8 Emerson was an influential spokesperson for a group of nineteenth-century American writers known as —
- F Transcendentalists
  - G Realists
  - H Puritan Reformists
  - J Expatriates



- 9 The form does *not* ask for information about —**
- A your extracurricular activities
  - B your age
  - C when you will graduate from high school
  - D the schools you have attended
- 10 For which item might “0” (zero) be an appropriate response?**
- F 1
  - G 5
  - H 8
  - J 11
- 11 To complete the section labeled “Program of Study,” you will need —**
- A your Social Security card
  - B your driver’s license
  - C a letter from your school counselor
  - D a list supplied by Highgate University
- 12 In the section labeled “Program of Study,” you should indicate —**
- F what your grade point average in high school is
  - G what you are interested in studying in college
  - H which courses you enjoyed most in high school
  - J additional information that you would like the university to send to you
- 13 The section labeled “Household Information” has to do with your family’s —**
- A finances
  - B education
  - C residence
  - D employment
- 14 The section labeled “Affirmations” is written to —**
- F convince you to attend the university
  - G allow officials to check your academic record
  - H guarantee the information you have supplied
  - J give you information about the university
- 15 In the last section on the form, the word substantiation means —**
- A authority
  - B proof
  - C fees
  - D signatures
- 16 Before sending the form, you should make sure that —**
- F you have enclosed a resume
  - G your high school principal has signed the form
  - H all parts of the form have been completed
  - J a photocopy of your high school transcript has been attached

Directions: Read the poems and answer the questions that follow.

## **Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night**

*Dylan Thomas*

Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

5     Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

10    Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

15    Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

“Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” by Dylan Thomas, from THE POEMS OF DYLAN THOMAS. Copyright \_ 1952 by Dylan Thomas. Reprinted by permission of New Directions Publishing Corp.

The nine test questions that follow are based on the poem above and a poem by Robert Hayden entitled “Those Winter Sundays”.

The poem is from Collected Poems of Robert Hayden by Frederick Glaysher.

Due to copyright limitations, this poem is not available publicly on the Internet.

17 Which of the following *best* paraphrases the theme of “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”?

- A Men should fight death for the sake of their families.
- B Even though death is inevitable, one should not just give in to it.
- C Death is a fact of life and should be accepted rather than denied.
- D Death is a blinding reality for wise and good men.

18 Thomas’s repetition of “Rage, rage against the dying of the light” elicits what emotion in the reader?

- F Sympathy with the speaker’s passion
- G Empathy for the dying father
- H Frustration with the repetition
- J Contempt for the speaker’s tone

19 Line 8 of “Do Not Go Gentle...” (“Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,”) is an example of which of the following literary devices?

- A Paradox
- B Symbolism
- C Personification
- D Metaphor

20 In “Do Not Go Gentle...,” all the following metaphors are used for death *except* —

- F Line 1 – “that good night”
- G Line 2 – “close of day”
- H Line 4 – “dark”
- J Line 16 – “the sad height”

21 “Those Winter Sundays” is an example of —

- A blank verse
- B free verse
- C a ballad
- D a sonnet

22 Which of the following *best* paraphrases the theme of “Those Winter Sundays”?

- F It is sad when a father builds a warm fire on a cold morning and is not thanked for it.
- G Children are often indifferent to parents when they live in a house full of anger.
- H A warm fire on a cold morning is sometimes frightening as well as comforting.
- J Simple acts of care-giving reveal a love that may not be verbally communicated.

23 The break between stanzas 1 and 2 in “Those Winter Sundays” indicates —

- A the beginning of a new paragraph
- B the poet’s intention that the reader pause
- C a shift in the speaker’s focus
- D an adherence to poetic form

**24** In “Those Winter Sundays,” Hayden uses images of hardship (e.g., “blueblack cold,” “cracked hands that ached from labor,” and “driven out the cold”) to elicit which emotion in the reader?

- F Compassion
- G Joy
- H Rage
- J Frustration

**25** If you were to write a research paper that compares these two poems, which of the following resources would be *most* helpful in documenting your sources?

- A *Indexes and Indexing*
- B *Longman Companion to Twentieth Century Literature*
- C *American Poets from the Puritans to the Present Day*
- D *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Directions: Read the research paper and answer the questions that follow.

Martin 1

Yasmina Martin  
Mr. Nicholson  
English II  
22 May 1998

## ***Gulliver's Travels: Fun or Fury?***

- 1 Since *Gulliver's Travels* was published in 1726, it has been read in three different ways: as a factual account, as an entertaining children's story, and as a scathing satire of the human race. The novel tells of a voyager who, through shipwrecks and other misadventures, becomes acquainted with several different societies. On the surface, it is a tale of adventure. Jonathan Swift's intentions when he wrote the book, however, were "not to entertain but to vex the reader" (Helmswood 32).
- 2 A modern reader of *Gulliver's Travels* might wonder how anyone could ever have accepted its events and characters as true. When the novel was first published, however, Swift's name was not mentioned due to the book's satirical content. The original title page read as follows: "Travels into several remote Nations of the World, by Lemuel Gulliver" (Fairley 59). This and the first-person narration led many readers to believe that the travel accounts were being presented as fact.
- 3 Viewed in its historical context, furthermore, this misconception is understandable. The book came out during an era of exploration. Europeans were learning about the rest of the world from the accounts of explorers who had journeyed to places as divergent as Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Even the most accurate accounts from these lands were amazing to Europeans who had been familiar only with their own way of life. It is not unusual, then, that many readers took *Gulliver's Travels* at face value. "One sea captain added to this erroneous perception when he claimed to be personally acquainted with Captain Gulliver himself" (Rialto 44). There were also some readers who thought the author was simply "given to hyperbole" (46). While condemning the book because of the author's tendency to stretch the truth, these readers still believed the account to be fundamentally factual.
- 4 Later, *Gulliver's Travels* became one of the best-known children's stories of all time. Through the centuries, many abridged and illustrated versions of the book have been created. Parts of the story have also been presented in film versions, most recently as a television mini-series with Ted Danson in the title role. The events and societies created by Swift in this highly imaginative, colorful tale lend themselves well to these kinds of presentations. When the original, unabridged novel is considered, though, these enchanting tales reveal the author's satirical intent.
- 5 The first society encountered by Lemuel Gulliver is the Lilliputians, a race of tiny people. After finding him shipwrecked on their shores, the diminutive beings go to great lengths to imprison the "Man Mountain." Eventually, he earns their trust and is allowed to be free as long as he adheres to nine laws designed primarily to ensure their safety. For example, the Fourth Article states that he "shall take the utmost care not to trample

upon the bodies of any of our loving subjects, their horses, or carriages; nor take any of our subjects into his hands, without their own consent” (Swift 30). Hundreds of tailors, seamstresses, cooks, and waiters are provided to sew his clothes and prepare and serve his food. It would seem that the Lilliputians are helpful, generous, and obliging – perfect heroes for a children’s story.

6 Upon closer inspection, however, the apparent charm of the Lilliputians diminishes. They use capital punishment freely, putting people to death for crimes such as ingratitude (48). They provide little love for children, allowing their parents to see them only twice a year (50). They are at war with the inhabitants of the neighboring island, Blefescu, because the Blefescudians break their eggs at the big end and the Lilliputians break theirs at the small end.

7 Swift, who was born in Ireland (England’s neighboring island), was satirizing the British king, court, and society in his portrayal of the Lilliputians. In *Gulliver’s Travels* he also satirizes other aspects of humanity and its foibles. For example, a society of out-of-touch scientists and philosophers lives on a floating island. In another land, civilized horses have domesticated a race of savage humans called Yahoos.

8 Clearly, Swift’s view of humans was bitter and unfavorable. Nevertheless, he presented our follies and cruelties in such a creative way that *Gulliver’s Travels* will continue to delight and fascinate readers of all ages.

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### Works Cited

- Fairley, Matthew. *Jonathan Swift*. New York: Gemstone, 1986.
- Helmswood, Fern. “The Satirical Works of Jonathan Swift.” *Understanding Literature* 17 January 1995: 31-34.
- Rialto, Bettina. “They Believed in Gulliver.” *Fact and Fiction* 6 June 1996: 43+.
- Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver’s Travels*. New York: Washington, 1969.

**Due to space constraints, some of the specifications of the style manual used (such as double-spacing and a separate page for citing works) have not been followed in this paper.**

**26 In this report, which question does Yasmina seek to answer?**

- F Did Jonathan Swift actually spend much of his life traveling?
- G What were Swift’s intentions when he wrote *Gulliver’s Travels*?
- H How can an author make people believe that fictional events are true?
- J Was Lemuel Gulliver a real voyager or a fictional character?

**27 In paragraph 3 of this report, the word hyperbole means —**

- A independence
- B criticism
- C exaggeration
- D prosperity

**28** Articles similar to those cited in this report would *most* likely be found in which one of these magazines?

- F *Literature and History*
- G *Current Political Issues*
- H *International Travel*
- J *Writing for Children*

**29** Which of these could be used as a heading for the second and third paragraphs of this report?

- A *Gulliver's Travels* First Accepted as Truth
- B How to Read *Gulliver's Travels*
- C The Renowned Author of *Gulliver's Travels*
- D *Gulliver's Travels*: A Charming Story for Children

**30** If Yasmina wanted to learn about other satirical works by Jonathan Swift, she should read the cited source written by —

- F Bettina Rialto
- G Jonathan Swift
- H Fern Helmswood
- J Ted Danson

**31** Which information from the report supports the idea that *Gulliver's Travels* is an entertaining children's story despite the satirical intent of its author?

- A Many readers condemned the author for not adhering strictly to the facts.
- B When the original, unabridged novel is considered, it is clear that the book ridicules human folly.
- C Upon closer inspection, the apparent charm of the characters diminishes.
- D The events and characters in the book create an imaginative, colorful tale of adventure.

**32** Yasmina included enough information in this report to show that —

- F Jonathan Swift enjoyed writing primarily for children
- G readers now know that *Gulliver's Travels* is purely fictional
- H Jonathan Swift spent his entire life in Ireland
- J people are encouraged to travel by reading *Gulliver's Travels*

33 Read the following selection from page 37 of Fairley’s book, *Jonathan Swift*.

“One of Swift’s most brilliant works is one which he never intended for publication: *Journals to Stella*, a series of letters in which he recounted his daily events to the woman he loved.”

Which of the following would be considered correct documentation of this selection?

- A One of Swift’s most brilliant works is one which he never intended for publication: *Journals to Stella*, a series of letters in which he recounted his daily events to the woman he loved. (Fairley, *Jonathan Swift*, p. 37)
- B *Journals to Stella* is a series of letters in which Swift recounted his daily events to the woman he loved. It is “one of his most brilliant works” (Fairley 37).
- C According to Matthew Fairley, “One of Swift’s most brilliant works is one which he never intended for publication: *Journals to Stella*, a series of letters in which he recounted his daily events to the woman he loved” (37).
- D “One of Swift’s most brilliant works is one which he never intended for publication: *Journals to Stella*, a series of letters in which he recounted his daily events to the woman he loved.”

34 Which one of these would *best* help the reader evaluate the accuracy of the information in this report?

- F Reading a biography of Jonathan Swift
- G Writing an original work of satire
- H Rereading the paper several times
- J Checking the source pages cited

*Permission pending for publication on internet.*

“Someday the Old Junker Will Be a Neat Car Again” by Bailey White can be found in *Mama Makes Up Her Mind*, copyright 1993 by Bailey White, published by Addison-Wesley.

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**35** “Someday the Old Junker Will Be a Neat Car Again” is classified as a personal essay for all the following reasons *except* that —

- A the first person point of view is used
- B it is autobiographical
- C it is informal
- D an important problem is solved

**36** The diction in this essay is very distinct: (e.g., “I slopped some gas in the tank,” “I rolled all the windows up by mashing a button,” “I shoo the rats”). The effect of this diction is that it —

- F reflects the narrator’s educational background
- G adds a humorous element to the essay
- H frustrates the reader
- J creates sympathy

**37 Which of the following *best* describes the effect of White’s distinction between her “real car” and her “new car”?**

- A It reveals her sense of loyalty.
- B It keeps the cars separate in the reader’s mind.
- C It illustrates how much her ideas have changed.
- D It reflects her materialism.

**38 The author’s attitude toward her subject is *most* obviously observed in which of the following?**

- F The descriptions of the car
- G The decision to buy a new car
- H The essay’s point of view
- J The use of figurative language

**39 Which of the following contains an example of personification?**

- A Paragraph 5 – “The seat-belt catch finally wore out, and I tied on a huge bronze hook with a fireman’s knot.”
- B Paragraph 9 – “The windshield wipers said ‘Gracie Allen Gracie Allen Gracie Allen.’”
- C Paragraph 9 – “I didn’t like a lot of conversation in the car, because I had to keep listening for a little skip . . .”
- D Paragraph 10 – “I would gather up my things and give the car a last look.”

**40 Which of the following contains a simile?**

- F Paragraph 5 – “A hole wore in the floor where my heel rested in front of the accelerator, . . .”
- G Paragraph 8 – “The fuel gauge never worked again after that, but I got to where I could tell when the gas was low by the smell.”
- H Paragraph 10 – “... I would look down ... and hear each barely contained explosion, just as a heart attack victim is able to hear her own heartbeat, ...”
- J Paragraph 11 – “It [the new car] smelled like acrylic, and vinyl, and Steve.”

**41 Because of White’s detailed descriptions, the typical reader’s reaction at the end of the essay is one of —**

- A frustration
- B nostalgia
- C amusement
- D sadness

**42 What *best* indicates that this essay was written in the twentieth century?**

- F The subject
- G The theme
- H The characters
- J The conflict

## Answer Key

<b>Test Sequence</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Reporting Category</b>	<b>Reporting Category Description</b>
1	A	002	Understand the elements of literature.
2	J	002	Understand the elements of literature.
3	B	002	Understand the elements of literature.
4	J	002	Understand the elements of literature.
5	A	002	Understand the elements of literature.
6	G	002	Understand the elements of literature.
7	C	002	Understand the elements of literature.
8	F	002	Understand the elements of literature.
9	A	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
10	J	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
11	D	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
12	G	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
13	A	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
14	H	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
15	B	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
16	H	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
17	B	002	Understand the elements of literature.
18	F	002	Understand the elements of literature.
19	C	002	Understand the elements of literature.
20	J	002	Understand the elements of literature.
21	B	002	Understand the elements of literature.
22	J	002	Understand the elements of literature.
23	C	002	Understand the elements of literature.
24	F	002	Understand the elements of literature.
25	D	003	Locate and use information from a variety of resource materials.
26	G	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
27	C	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
28	F	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
29	A	003	Locate and use information from a variety of resource materials.
30	H	003	Locate and use information from a variety of resource materials.
31	D	003	Locate and use information from a variety of resource materials.
32	G	003	Locate and use information from a variety of resource materials.
33	C	003	Locate and use information from a variety of resource materials.
34	J	001	Understand a variety of printed materials.
35	D	002	Understand the elements of literature.
36	G	002	Understand the elements of literature.
37	A	002	Understand the elements of literature.
38	F	002	Understand the elements of literature.
39	B	002	Understand the elements of literature.
40	H	002	Understand the elements of literature.
41	C	002	Understand the elements of literature.
42	F	002	Understand the elements of literature.