

I. Sentence Completion (20%)

1. The _____ ruled the empire with atrocious tyranny.
(A) pariah (B) poltroon (C) potentate (D) philistine
2. I thereby indulge myself in your presence, fully allowing my mind to be _____ by you.
(A) validated (B) denigrated (C) mesmerized (D) ostracized
3. It is his _____ when faced with jeopardy that I admire the most.
(A) equanimity (B) indolence (C) delirium (D) propensity
4. Compared with you, I may not be a professional connoisseur, yet I am not a _____, either.
(A) virtuoso (B) charivari (C) dilettante (D) bellwether
5. I dare not trust her. Being _____, she vacillates between every possibility and barely clings to the initial decision she has once promised.
(A) prolific (B) whimsical (C) venomous (D) fetid
6. Regarded as the “Chatty Kathy” in class, May is mostly _____ and seldom taciturn.
(A) laconic (B) lexical (C) garrulous (D) wary
7. Your exasperating feedback indeed _____ the teacher’s fury.
(A) palliates (B) exacerbates (C) ossifies (D) baffles
8. Ignoring my _____ tears, Mom turned away with a stern look insisting I complete my work.
(A) defiant (B) guile (C) heretical (D) skeptical
9. Everything is _____; that is, what seems lasting will one day fade.
(A) surreal (B) treacherous (C) evanescent (D) foolhardy
10. The main course today is _____. I refuse any further attempt in this diner.
(A) vapid (B) trepid (C) friable (D) succinct
11. The archeologists studied the hieroglyphic for days, and still were not able to decipher its _____ meaning.
(A) overt (B) bizarre (C) suppressed (D) auspicious (E) enigmatic
12. She knew the medicine would taste terrible. However, in order to be cured she was forced to _____ it.
(A) concoct (B) devise (C) imbibe (D) inspect (E) impugn
13. In the ten years after an automobile is purchased, the value of the automobile _____ markedly.
(A) amortizes (B) invests (C) appreciates (D) depreciates (E) ingratiates
14. The island inhabitants _____ had never seen such large sailing vessels, nor people with light skin. They _____ and worshiped the captain.
(A) suppressed (B) cascaded (C) revered (D) ostracized (E) exterminated
15. In order to extend his reign, the king had all of his competitors _____.
(A) ensconced (B) eliminated (C) promoted (D) knighted (E) reviled

16. Compared to the modern skyscrapers that appear in many cities, most dwellings are quite _____.
 (A) diminutive (B) engorged (C) restorative (D) variable (E) cerebral
17. After living a life of depravity and transgression, the offender felt so _____ that he declared he would become a priest, and devote the remainder of his life to atonement .
 (A) melancholy (B) tentative (C) stolid (D) terrible (E) contrite
18. He vowed to embrace a newfound candor once the trial began; nonetheless the accused resorted to his typical manner of _____ as soon as he took the stand.
 (A) naïveté (B) residence (C) exuberance (D) duplicity (E) decrepitude
19. The lifestyle of a Cenobite is _____; one must devote oneself to religious exercise, self discipline, and abstention from material satisfaction.
 (A) dull (B) ascetic (C) lachrymose (D) prodigal (E) harsh
- 20.Despite some members of the Board of Education admitting to _____ of his argument, Proposition G6 was still denied by a vote of 4 to 3.
 (A) brusqueness (B) truculence (C) negligence (D) cogency (E) force

II. Cloze test (20%)

Friendship is above reason, for, though you find virtues in a friend, he was your friend before you found them. It is a gift that we offer because we must; to give it as the reward of virtue would be to set a price upon it, and those who do that __21__ no friendship to give. If you choose your friends on the ground that you are virtuous and want virtuous company, you are no nearer to true friendship __22__ if you choose them for commercial reasons. __23__, who are you that you should be setting a price upon your friendship? It is enough for any man that he has the divine power of making friends, and he must leave it to that power to determine who his friends shall be. For, though you may choose the virtuous to be your friends, __24__ may not choose you; indeed, friendship cannot grow __25__ there is any calculated choice. It comes, like sleep, when you are not thinking about it; and you should be grateful, without any misgiving, when it comes.

So no man who knows __26__ friendship is ever gave up a friend because he turns out to be disreputable. His only reason for giving up a friend is __27__ he has ceased to care for him; and, when that happens, he should __28__ himself for this mortal poverty of affection, not the friend for having proved unworthy. For it is inhuman presumption to say of any man that he is unworthy of your friendship, __29__ it is to say of any woman, when you have fallen out of love with her, that she is unworthy of your love. In friendship and in love we are always humble, because we see that a free gift has been given to us; and to lose that humility because we have lost friendship or love is to take a pride in __30__ should shame us.

- 21) (A) to have (B) has (C) have (D) had
 22) (A) than (B) as (C) for (D) from
 23) (A) However (B) Therefore (C) Nevertheless (D) Besides
 24) (A) who (B) he (C) they (D) the one

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| 25) (A) how | (B) where | (C) which | (D) that |
| 26) (A) that | (B) where | (C) whether | (D) what |
| 27) (A) what | (B) that | (C) because | (D) as |
| 28) (A) homogenize | (B) intercede | (C) simulate | (D) reproach |
| 29) (A) just as | (B) just like | (C) as if | (D) despite |
| 30) (A) which | (B) what | (C) while | (D) whereas |

It is hardly necessary for me to cite all the evidence of the depressing state of literacy. These figures from the Department of Education are sufficient: 27 million Americans cannot read at all, and a further 35 million read at a level that is less than sufficient to survive in our society.

But my own worry today is less that of the overwhelming problem of elemental literacy than it is of the slightly more luxurious problem of the decline in the skills even of the middle-class reader, of his unwillingness to afford those spaces of silence, those luxuries of 31 and time and concentration, that surround the image of the classic act of reading. It has been suggested that almost 80 percent of America's literate, educated teenagers can no longer read without an 32 noise (music) in the background or a television screen flickering at the corner of their field of perception. We know very little about the cortex and how it deals with simultaneously conflicting input, but every common-sense hunch suggests we should be profoundly 33. This breach of concentration, silence, solitude goes to the very heart of our notion of literacy; this new form of part-reading, of part-perception against background distraction, renders impossible certain essential acts of apprehension and concentration, 34 that most important 35 any human being can pay to a poem or a piece of prose he or she really loves, which is to learn it by heart. Not by brain, by heart; the expression is vital.

Under these circumstances, the question of what future there is for the arts of reading is a real one. Ahead of us lie technical, psychic, and social transformations probably much more dramatic than those brought about by Gutenberg. The Gutenberg revolution, as we now know it, took a long time; its effects are still being debated. The information revolution will touch every 36 of composition, publication, distribution, and reading. No one in the book industry can say with any confidence what will happen to the book as we've known it.

It now looks as if the arts of reading will fall into three distinct categories. The first will continue to be the vast, 37 mass of reading for distraction, for momentary entertainment—the airport book. I suspect that this kind of reading will more and more involve not cheap paperbacks but cable transmissions to home screens. You will select the book you wish, the speed at which you wish it to be presented on the screen, the speed at which you wish the pages to be turned. Some texts will be read to the viewer by a professional reader. Whether or not the text will appear on the screen as it is being read is an open question.

The second kind of reading will be for information—what De Quincey called “the literature of knowledge,” to distinguish it from fiction, poetry, and drama, which he called “the literature of power.” The means to acquire the literature will alter our habits beyond anything we can now 38. We will be able to summon our requests up on a screen, and here the possibility of a basic

change in the structures of attention and understanding is almost 39.

What about reading in the old, private, silent sense? This may become as specialized a skill and avocation as it was in the scriptoria and libraries of monasteries during the so-called Dark Ages. We now know these were in fact key ages, radiant in their patience, radiant in their sense of what had to be copied and preserved. Private libraries may once again become as notable and rare as they were when Erasmus and Montaigne were famous for theirs. The habit of furnishing a room, with shelves and filling them with books, the attempt to collect the complete editions of an author as well as the first editions, the wish to attend to a demanding text, to master the grammar, the arts of memory, the 40 of repose and concentration that great books demand—these may once more become the practices of an elite, of a mandarin of silence.

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| 31. (A) domesticity | (B) dominance | (C) domicile | (D) domineering |
| 32. (A) adulterating | (B) emulating | (C) attendant | (D) evincible |
| 33. (A) acknowledged | (B) imprecated | (C) propagated | (D) alarmed |
| 34. (A) out of the question | (B) let alone | (C) as I have noted | (D) notwithstanding |
| 35. (A) tribute | (B) testimony | (C) extirpation | (D) dictation |
| 36. (A) facet | (B) prevarication | (C) aplomb | (D) raconteur |
| 37. (A) transparent | (B) amorphous | (C) benevolent | (D) treacherous |
| 38. (A) convince | (B) conserve | (C) conceit | (D) conceive |
| 39. (A) incontestable | (B) incommensurable | (C) incommensurable | (D) inconformable |
| 40. (A) apparel | (B) tactics | (C) fangs | (D) din |

III. Reading Comprehension: (20%)

“Crack-crack...kowowww! Thunder, and a shock of lightening etched its reflection upon the corrugated metal siding,” Rowan read aloud.

She worked to read clearly, with depth and emotion. Her eyes scanned the page to the next paragraph. She took a breath to continue, but was interrupted by her younger brother Nolan, stretched out on the living room couch, flicking a pencil against his forehead.

“I was never a big fan of **onomatopoeia**,” Nolan said, in his usual, supercilious, manner. “It is impossible to write words that truly sound like a thunderstorm, a jar opening or a falling tree, yes? But, do continue.”

Rowan sucked her teeth. “That’s why I can’t stand doing this in front of you, Nollie. You are no help at all. Haven’t you something better to do?”

“Ha! Better than to annoy you before your **moment of reckoning**? I don’t think so.” Rowan’s enjoyment of getting under his big sister’s skin was fully conspicuous.

“Nollie, please keep quiet!” Mother broke in. “This is important. Rowan presents in less than an hour. She needs to focus. Row, sweetheart, please continue.”

Mother’s comments seemed to assuage Rowan’s irritation. She cleared her throat and continued where she had left off. “Farmer John knew this was a storm of epic proportion. Even the cows retreated to their hutches. Not one person in the...”

“The cows *retreated*? The cows *retreated*?” Nolan chortled upon hearing the repetition of this

line in his own voice. “That’s great. Even the stupid cows retreated! Oh, man. That must have been one heck of a storm-a-brewin. Mama, I’m scared!” Nolan howled at the ceiling and curled up into a tight little ball of laughter.

“Nolli!” Mother Ann turned and shouted. The loudness of her voice was tantamount to the rumbling storm Rowan was trying to capture in her reading.

Mother began laying into the boy, castigating him most thoroughly about his rudeness and lack of respect for Rowan’s preparations. After her outburst, Mother sighed rather contentedly; she felt as though she had achieved the intended effect. Sometimes she even surprised herself at the fury by which, if completely necessary, she could quell any quarrel.

Nolan had fallen silent. He actually appeared remorseful. “Oh, Mother.” Rowan sighed, crumpling to the floor, **despondent**. “It’s no use. ‘The Storm’ shall be the end of me.” “Ahh, but Rowan, my dear,” Mother rejoined, “this is but a mere shower!”

Questions:

(41) Given what Nolan says in the passage, which best describes **onomatopoeia**?

- A. a story that is told orally
- B. the vocal imitation of a sound
- C. repetition of the initial letter sound
- D. the repetition of similar vowel sounds

(42) What might Nolan be referring to when he talks about Rowan's "**moment of reckoning**"?

- A. the end of her life
- B. an upcoming presentation
- C. a time when Mother will yell at Rowan
- D. a time when Nolan will annoy Rowan even more

(43) Why might Rowan feel **despondent** ?

- A. She is totally angry with her brother.
- B. She feels her mother is babying her.
- C. She feels practicing is hopeless.
- D. She is ready to leave for the presentation.

(44) Rewrite the following sentence: Mother’s comments seemed to assuage Rowan’s irritation.

- A. Mother’s comments make Rowan feel worse.
- B. Mother’s comments do nothing to help Rowan.
- C. Mother’s comments help to ease Rowan’s irritation.
- D. Mother’s comments prove that Rowan is rightfully irritated.

(45) What might Mother mean when she tells Rowan, “This is but a mere shower.”?

- A. It has started to rain outside.

- B. The piece Rowan is to read is juvenile
- C. Mother's anger with Nolan was just for show.
- D. This is nothing compared to what Rowan will go through later.

American city life is now torn by two violently opposed doctrines of social conduct. One is machismo. Its adherents pride themselves on being "machos." The opposing dogma is quichismo, and its practitioners call themselves quiche-o's.

A good study of quichismo victory over machismo in an urban war zone can be found in Philip Lopate's "Quiche Blitz on Columbus Avenue," included in his recent book, "Bachelorhood." Curiously, however, Mr. Lopate refers to the quichismo doctrine by its French name, *quichisme*.

In doing so he unwittingly reveals that he is himself a quiche-o of the highest order, for no macho would dream of using a French word when discussing philosophy, and even the average quiche-o would avoid a word as difficult to pronounce as *quichisme* for fear of getting it wrong and being sneered at as unquiche-o.

For practitioners of quichismo there is no defense against being sneered at, and they live in dread of it. The machismo adherent, on the other hand, positively enjoys being sneered at since it entitles him to punch the sneerer in the nose, a ritual act ceremonially confirming that he is truly macho.

When a quiche-o is sneered at, his only recourse is to jog until he achieves a higher sense of total fulfillment. This is one reason behind the machismo slogan, "Machos have more fun."

Maybe so, quiche-o's say, but machos don't have French dry cleaning or white bucks. Machos prefer no dry cleaning at all though they sometimes get their clothes pressed if they've slept in them all week and want to impress females during the weekend.

Machos impress females by taking them to bars after opening the top four buttons on their shirts to show off the hair on their chests. Quiche-o women impress males by inviting them to dinner and serving salad from the carry-out gourmet shop, followed by a kiwi fruit. There are no macho women. If there were they would serve pigs' feet and beer because machos believe that real people don't eat salad, kiwi fruit or anything else that comes from gourmet shops.

Quiche-o people buy Swedish toothpaste at gourmet drugstores, Italian loafers at gourmet shoe shops, newspapers at gourmet newsstands and dogs at gourmet pet centers. Afterwards they have them wormed by gourmet veterinarians. They also go to the islands for a month or two, especially Bermuda, St. Bart's, Barbados and Trinidad. Machos also go to the islands—Coney and Long—usually for a Sunday afternoon. To primp for these vacations, machos first go to the barber.

Machos don't see anything funny about New Jersey. Quiche-o's never laugh at people who drive Volvos, people who pay \$5.50 for a hamburger or quiche jokes, unless they're told by another quiche-o. Quiche-o's like a lot of butcher block and stainless steel. Machos like a lot of children.

Machos never bake carrot cake and don't go out with women who do. Quiche-o's are proud of their cholesterol levels and never belch in public and never go out with women who do since they recognize them instantly as unquiche-o and unlikely ever to serve them a salad dinner that

concludes with a kiwi fruit.

46. What does **recourse** in paragraph 5 mean?
- (A) succor (B) fanfare (C) deviation (D) futility
47. What is the major writing method or strategy the author uses in the essay?
- (A) The block method.
(B) The alternating method.
(C) The causal analysis.
(D) The flashback method.
48. What is the main transitional device used between and within paragraphs?
- (A) Parallelism.
(B) Chronological order.
(C) Coherent context clues.
(D) Repetition with a difference.
49. What is the primary function of the term “islands” used in paragraph 8?
- (A) To generalize a common concept.
(B) To evaluate a possible affinity.
(C) To criticize an objective argument.
(D) To achieve a humorous effect.
50. What is the essay most likely to be?
- (A) A farce.
(B) A satire.
(C) A narration.
(D) An argumentation.