

SECTION 2

Time: 40 mins.

40 questions

Read each passage carefully then answer the questions that follow.

Many historians believe that that Trojan War was the first war to be properly documented. The battle is believed to have lasted for 10 years, from 1194 to 1184 B.C. For hundreds of centuries, the romance, the epic battles and the heroic figures of the Trojan War have intrigued and inspired the minds of writers, poets and painters alike.

Although there are many stories and myths surrounding the origin of this battle, the most commonly held belief is that the war had its roots in vanity and pride. According to mythology, a wedding was held and all the gods and goddesses were invited to attend with the exception of Eris, the Goddess of Discord. Bitter for having been ostracized, Eris threw a golden apple with the inscription "For the Fairest" in the midst of the wedding ceremony. Hera, Athena and Aphrodite, the three most beautiful goddesses, fought over who would take possession of the apple and, when they were not able to decide, called on Zeus to settle the dispute.

Unwilling and uninterested in the matter, Zeus appointed Prince Paris to choose the "fairest" goddess. Each goddess tempted Paris with a special reward in hope of being granted the winner: Hera offered him a rich and powerful kingdom; Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman on earth; and Athena offered to make him a leader and fighter amongst many men. As history tells us, Paris chose beauty and desire over power and property. He then traveled to Greece, where his promise was fulfilled: Helen of Sparta - the most beautiful woman on earth - fell in love with him. For having upset the goddesses, Hera and Athena, and for having stolen Helen's heart from her husband, Menelaus, so began the battle between the Trojans and the Spartans.

- 1.) According to the passage, the Trojan War is rooted in:
 - a.) the golden apple
 - b.) poor decisions
 - c.) wealth and power
 - d.) vanity and pride
 - e.) unfulfilled promises

- 2.) The author's primary purpose is to:
 - a.) reveal the underlying causes of the goddess' dispute
 - b.) summarize the events most believed to have led to the Trojan War
 - c.) justify Paris' decision to choose Aphrodite as 'the Fairest'
 - d.) suggest that Paris wished to be the ruler of Troy
 - e.) honour the soldiers that lost their lives in the ten year battle



- 3.) Eris, the Goddess of Discord, can best be described as:
- a.) clever
 - b.) benevolent
 - c.) altruistic
 - d.) arrogant
 - e.) vain
- 4.) According to the passage, the Trojan War had all of the following EXCEPT:
- a.) romance
 - b.) epic battles
 - c.) heroic figures
 - d.) proper documentation
 - e.) prisoners of war
- 5.) It can be inferred from the passage that:
- a.) the Spartans won the battle of Troy
 - b.) the Trojans won the war
 - c.) Prince Paris should have chosen Athena as the fairest goddess
 - d.) people are fascinated by the fictional elements of the Trojan War
 - e.) Helen of Sparta's beauty was a curse and not a blessing to her
- 6.) As used in line 8, the word "ostracized" most closely means:
- a.) idolized
 - b.) excluded
 - c.) selected
 - d.) welcomed
 - e.) familiarized
- 7.) The author's tone can best be described as:
- a.) condescending
 - b.) remorseful
 - c.) objective
 - d.) humorous
 - e.) skeptical

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Perhaps the most striking feature of the American newspaper, especially of the country weekly, is its enormous development of local and neighborhood news. It is of recent date. Horace Greeley used to advise the country editors to give small space to the general news of the world, but to cultivate assiduously the home field, to glean every possible detail of private life in the circuit of the county, and print it.

The advice was shrewd for a metropolitan editor, and it was not without its profit to the country editor. It was founded on a deep knowledge of human nature; namely, upon the fact that people read most eagerly that which they already know, if it is about themselves or their neighbors, if it is a report of something they have been concerned in, a lecture they have heard, a fair, or festival, or wedding, or funeral, or barn-raising they have attended. The result is column after column of short paragraphs of gossip and trivialities, chips, chips, chips. Mr. Sales is contemplating erecting a new counter in his store; his rival opposite has a new sign; Miss Bumps of Gath is visiting her cousin, Miss Smith of Bozrah; the sheriff has painted his fence; Farmer Brown has lost his cow; the eminent member from Neopolis has put an ell on one end of his mansion, and a mortgage on the other.

8.) The main idea of the passage is to:

- a.) acknowledge the popularity of local news in small town newspapers
- b.) account for the dangers of newspapers neglecting to report on global issues
- c.) ridicule the press for presenting biased and inaccurate information
- d.) persuade editors to thoroughly research local community events and social functions
- e.) criticize newspapers for its misrepresentation of small town life

9.) As used in line 4, the word "assiduously" most closely means:

- a.) carefully
- b.) secretly
- c.) proudly
- d.) partially
- e.) immediately

10.) Which of the following articles would the author agree is most likely to be read in a country newspaper?

- a.) Global Warming: A Heated Problem
- b.) Lose Weight, Gain Energy
- c.) Television Networks Face-Off for Ratings
- d.) Start Sweating, Stop Stressing
- e.) Sara's Bedding Store in a State of Bed-lam!

11.) This passage is most likely to appear in a(n):

- a.) psychology journal
- b.) travel brochure
- c.) marketing textbook
- d.) memoir
- e.) short story anthology



- 12.) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- a.) The American newspaper has revolutionized the flow of information in the twentieth century.
 - b.) Small town newspapers should differ in content from newspapers with a mass distribution.
 - c.) The more gossip columns there are in a newspaper, the more revenue the newspaper generates.
 - d.) It is unfortunate that people are more concerned with their neighbours than with world issues.
 - e.) It is the responsibility of the press to prevent the spread of gossip and rumors.

Sometimes I went to the old school house up the road, sometimes to the one in an opposite direction. The latter was larger, and there was generally a better teacher, but it was much farther, and I had to set off early in the cold frosty mornings with my books and dinner basket, often through deep snow and drifts. At night I had to get home in time to help to feed the cattle and get in the wood for the fires. The schoolhouses then were generally small and uncomfortable, and the teachers were often of a very inferior order.

The school system of Canada, which has since been moulded by the skilful hand of Dr. Ryerson into one of the best in the world, and which will give to his industry and genius a more enduring record than stone or brass, was in my day very imperfect indeed. It was, perhaps, up with the times. But when the advantages, which the youth of this country now possess, are compared with the small facilities we had of picking up a little knowledge, it seems almost a marvel that we learned anything.

Spelling matches came at this time into vogue, and were continued for several years. They occasioned a friendly rivalry between schools, and were productive of good. The meetings took place during the long winter nights, either weekly or fortnightly. Every school had one or more prize spellers, and these were selected to lead the match; or if the school was large, a contest between the girls and boys came off first.

- 13.) It can be inferred from the passage that the speaker's childhood house:
- a.) was very grand
 - b.) looked like a schoolhouse
 - c.) was in a remote location
 - d.) overlooked a lake
 - e.) had no electricity

- 14.) As used in line 6, the word "inferior" most closely means:

- a.) substandard
- b.) paramount
- c.) educated
- d.) antiquated
- e.) specific



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- 15.) The speaker credits Dr. Ryerson for having:
- a.) single-handedly built a great schoolhouse
 - b.) encouraged him to stay in school
 - c.) renewed his faith in humanity
 - d.) skillfully amended the Canadian school system
 - e.) reformed the curriculum to meet the needs of all types of learners
- 16.) Which of the following statement(s) is true of the narrator?
- I. He excelled in spelling matches.
 - II. He had daily chores.
 - III. He preferred the schoolhouse that was larger and farther away.
- a.) II only
 - b.) III only
 - c.) I and II
 - d.) II and III
 - e.) I, II and III
- 17.) The speaker's primary purpose is to:
- a.) lash out against the previous Canadian school system
 - b.) discuss the advantages and disadvantages of an education
 - c.) sketch a picture of early school days
 - d.) give a detailed description of life in the late nineteenth century
 - e.) applaud Dr. Ryerson for his superior work in the educational field
- 18.) Based on the passage, which of the following is true of spelling matches?
- a.) Some schools were banned from participating in them.
 - b.) The meetings occurred on a weekly or biweekly basis.
 - c.) They were unpopular among female students.
 - d.) Every student won a prize.
 - e.) The meetings were held year round.

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Astronomy is the science that deals with celestial objects, like stars, planets, galaxies and comets. It is derived from the Greek words “*astro*” meaning “*star*” and “*nomos*” meaning “*law*.” Astronomy should not be confused with Astrology, which is the belief that the arrangement of the celestial objects can predict future events.

Astronomy, as science, has ancient roots that can be traced to the Greeks and Babylonians who would look at the night sky and document their observations. Today, astronomers use telescopes to peer into galaxies and computers are used to record their findings. Some of these modern observations teach us that there are stars that are almost 600,000 times brighter than the sun; and that the sun has sunspots that vary in temperature – some of these sunspots are as much as 3000° C cooler than others! Other findings reveal that the sun is 4.5 billion years old, that sunlight takes 8 minutes to reach the Earth and that lightning is nearly 3 times hotter than the sun.

This celestial science also has a great interest in the moon - the only non-Earth object that people have walked on. Studies of the moon reveal that each year the moon travels three centimetres further away from the Earth.

While Astronomy has made many discoveries that interest the scientific community, these same observations hold great fascination by the layman, woman and child. It is a pastime of many families to get out their telescope and search the night sky in hopes of catching a glimpse of a shooting star, witnessing a glowing red ring or locating the special star their grandparents named and purchased for them many years ago.

19.) The purpose of the first paragraph is to:

- a.) give a definition of astronomy
- b.) comment on the importance of astrology
- c.) show the relationship between English and Greek
- d.) argue that astrology is not a science
- e.) illustrate how words can be deconstructed

20.) It can be inferred from the passage that a science is something that:

- a.) cannot be seen
- b.) interests people of all ages
- c.) is believed by many people
- d.) is observed, recorded and proven
- e.) was once considered to be a myth

21.) The author implies that Astronomy is unique because:

- a.) astronomers need very little education
- b.) researchers work long hours
- c.) anyone can practice it
- d.) it requires little patience
- e.) it uses cutting-edge technology



- 22.) Based on the passage, which of the following is true of stars?
- a.) New stars are constantly being formed.
 - b.) They are easiest to see during summer months.
 - c.) They can be purchased.
 - d.) They have a lifespan of only a few years.
 - e.) Every star has at least one moon.
- 23.) According to the passage, the sun:
- a.) is approximately a million years old
 - b.) has spots that vary in temperature
 - c.) holds enough energy to heat thousands of planets
 - d.) travels further away from the earth every year
 - e.) was once significantly larger
- 24.) This passage would most likely be found in a(n):
- a.) almanac
 - b.) atlas
 - c.) pseudo-science book
 - d.) general science book
 - e.) scholarly journal
- 25.) The author implies that an astronomer's primary tool is:
- a.) a computer
 - b.) written records
 - c.) celestial objects
 - d.) the scientific community
 - e.) the telescope
- 26.) When discussing sunspots, the author's tone can best be described as:
- a.) amazed
 - b.) recalcitrant
 - c.) grateful
 - d.) apologetic
 - e.) apathetic

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The cumulus is a day cloud; it usually has a dense, compact appearance, and moves with the wind. In the latter part of a clear morning a small irregular spot appears suddenly at a moderate elevation. This is the nucleus or commencement of the cloud, the upper part of which soon becomes rounded and well defined, while the lower forms an irregular straight line.

When several cumuli are present, they are separated by distances proportioned to their size: the smaller cumuli crowding the sky, while the larger ones are further apart. But the bases always range in the same line; and the increase of each cloud keeps pace with that of its neighbour, the intervening spaces remaining clear.

The cumulus often attains its greatest size early in the afternoon, when the heat of the day is most felt. As the sun declines, this cloud gradually decreases, retaining, however, its characteristic form till towards sunset, when it is, more or less, hastily broken up and disappears, leaving the sky clear as in the early part of the morning. Its tints are often vivid, and pass one into the other in a most pleasing manner, during this last hour of its existence.

27.) All of the following are true of cumulus clouds EXCEPT:

- a.) They look thick and round.
- b.) They have an indefinite and ambiguous shape.
- c.) They expand in size when heated.
- d.) They appear during the day.
- e.) They travel at the same pace.

28.) As used in line 3, the word "commencement" most closely means:

- a.) departure
- b.) finale
- c.) reduction
- d.) centre
- e.) beginning

29.) The author states that the disappearance of a cumulus cloud is:

- a.) unlikely to be seen.
- b.) best witnessed through a telescope.
- c.) quick and boring.
- d.) enjoyable to watch.
- e.) like watching a balloon deflate.

30.) Based on the description in the passage, the appearance of a cumulus cloud can best be compared to a(n):

- a.) bale of hay
- b.) tennis ball
- c.) white powder
- d.) deflated balloon
- e.) fluffy cotton ball

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- 31.) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- a.) Clouds often merge with one another to create a much larger cloud.
 - b.) Heat is the single greatest factor that affects the brightness of a cloud.
 - c.) All clouds are the same in size.
 - d.) Cumulus clouds are smaller in winter than in warmer months.
 - e.) A cumulus cloud is most bright at night.
- 32.) This passage would most like be found in a(n):
- a.) personal epistle
 - b.) geography book
 - c.) almanac
 - d.) psychology journal
 - e.) history text book
- 33.) According to the passage, you are most likely to see a cumulus cloud on a(n):
- a.) rainy day
 - b.) wintry day
 - c.) clear day
 - d.) windy day
 - e.) spring day

Let not my readers suppose that in writing *The Rambles of a Rat* I have simply been blowing bubbles of fancy for their amusement, to divert them during an idle hour. Like the hollow glass balls which children delight in, my bubbles of fancy have something solid within them - facts are enclosed in my fiction.

I have indeed made rats talk, feel, and reflect, as those little creatures certainly never did; but the courage, presence of mind, fidelity, and kindness, which I have attributed to my heroes, have been shown by real rats. Such adventures as I have described have actually happened to them, unless they be those recorded in the 19th chapter, for which I have no authority. For my anecdotes of this much-despised race I am principally indebted to an interesting article on the subject, which appeared in the "Quarterly Review."

I would suggest to my readers how wide and delightful a field of knowledge natural history must open to all, when there is so much to interest and admire even in those animals which we usually regard with contempt and disgust. The examination of the wondrous works of nature is a study elevating as well as delightful; for the more deeply we search into the wonders around us, the more clearly we discover the wisdom which is displayed even in the lowest forms of creation!

- 34.) According to the passage, the speaker's is a(n):
- a.) researcher
 - b.) author
 - c.) editor
 - d.) naturopath
 - e.) professor



35.) Which of the following statements is/are true of the narrator?

- I. He is fascinated by rodents.
- II. He has a sense of humour.
- III. He is inspired by nature.

- a.) I only
- b.) II only
- c.) I and II
- d.) II and III
- e.) I, II and III

36.) It can be inferred from the passage that the author:

- a.) researches his subjects before beginning his work.
- b.) believes rats are grotesque yet incredibly deceptive creatures.
- c.) is more concerned with informing his readers than with amusing them.
- d.) resents those who do not take his work seriously.
- e.) shuns anyone who does not see the beauty and wonder of a rat.

37.) When discussing rats, the author's tone can best be described as:

- a.) ironic
- b.) fatalistic
- c.) monotonous
- d.) pedantic
- e.) light-hearted

38.) Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?

- a.) Nature is comparable to a wise and inspiring teacher.
- b.) Imagination is more important than knowledge.
- c.) The lowliest and most wretched creature in the world is the rat.
- d.) Children do not critique works of art as harshly as adults.
- e.) More people should subscribe to the Quarterly Review.

39.) As used in line 2, the word "idle" most closely means:

- a.) motionless
- b.) frantic
- c.) quiet
- d.) early
- e.) potent

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40.) This passage is most likely taken from a(n) teacher

- a.) scientific journal
- b.) historical novel
- c.) sacred text
- d.) preface to a book
- e.) teacher's manual

