

Sample Examination IV

Section I

Questions 1-12. Refer to the following passage.

We are met to commemorate the anniversary of one of the most dreadful crimes in history—not for the purpose of condemning it, but to repent of our share in it. I understand that an attempt to prosecute the chief criminals has been made, and has entirely failed; because the whole community, and in a sense our whole people, are really involved in the guilt. The failure of the prosecution in this case, in all such cases, is only a proof of the magnitude of the guilt, and of the awful fact that everyone shares in it.

I will tell you why I am here; I will tell you what happened to me. When I read in the newspapers of August 14, a year ago, about the burning alive of a human being, and of how a few desperate, fiend-minded men had been permitted to torture a man chained to an iron bedstead, burning alive, thrust back by pitchforks when he struggled out of it, while around about stood hundreds of well-dressed American citizens, both from the vicinity and from afar, coming on foot and in wagons, assembling on telephone call, as if by magic, silent, whether from terror or indifference, fascinated and impotent, hundreds of persons watching this awful sight and making no attempt to stay the wickedness, and no one man among them all who was inspired to risk his life in an attempt to stop it, no one man to name the name of Christ, of humanity, of government! As I read the newspaper accounts of the scene enacted here in Coatesville a year ago, I seemed to get a glimpse into the unconscious soul of the country. I saw a seldom revealed picture of the American heart and of the American nature. I seemed to be looking into the heart of a criminal—a cold thing, an awful thing.

I said to myself, "I shall forget this, we shall all forget it; but it will be there. What I have seen is not an illusion. It is the truth. I have seen death in the heart of this people." For to look at the agony of a fellow-being and remain aloof means death in the heart of the onlooker. Religious fanaticism has sometimes lifted men to the frenzy of such cruelty, political passion has sometimes done it, personal hatred might do it, the excitement of the amphitheater in the degenerate days of Roman luxury could do it. But here an audience chosen by chance in America has stood spellbound through an improvised *auto-de-fe*¹, irregular, illegal, having no religious significance, not sanctioned by custom,

(50) having no immediate provocation, the audience standing by merely in cold dislike.

I saw during one moment something beyond all argument in the depth of its significance. You might call it the paralysis of the nerves about the heart in a people habitually and unconsciously given over to selfish aims, an ignorant people who knew not what spectacle they were providing, or what part they were playing in a judgment-play which history was exhibiting on that day.

(60) No theories about the race problem, no statistics, legislation, or mere educational endeavor, can quite meet the lack which that day revealed in the American people. For what we saw was death. The people stood like blighted things, like ghosts about Acheron, waiting for someone or something to determine their destiny for them...

(65) about Acheron, waiting for someone or something to determine their destiny for them...

¹ The ceremony accompanying the pronouncement of guilt during the Inquisition and preceding the execution of sentence.

1. In the opening paragraph, the speaker does all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) state the occasion of the convocation
- (B) disavow any militant agenda
- (C) provide a rationale for the prosecution's failure
- (D) assume the collective "we"
- (E) identify the nature of the heinous crime

2. The author most likely employs a fragment in lines 13-29 to do which of the following?

- I. Convey his speechlessness at the event's horror.
- II. Mimic the journalistic style of the earlier account.
- III. Symbolize the disparity between the vigilante action and his own sentiments.

- (A) I only
- (B) III only
- (C) I and II
- (D) II and III
- (E) I, II and III

3. The power of the lengthy fragment that comprises most of the second paragraph is stylistically abetted by the author's
- (A) pejorative diction
 - (B) imaginative re-creation
 - (C) chronological order
 - (D) religious allusion
 - (E) dramatic punctuation
4. The author accents the singular nature of the Coatesville crowd's indifference by all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) contrasting its evil with other ignominious episodes
 - (B) comparing its callousness to an acute medical condition
 - (C) noting its total absence of human compassion
 - (D) likening its impassiveness to the heart of a criminal
 - (E) noting the deliberate aversion of the gathering's eyes
5. The author's description of the congregation is NOT abetted by
- (A) parallelism
 - (B) descriptive adjectives
 - (C) simile
 - (D) hyperbole
 - (E) reiteration
6. Which of the following words does NOT contribute to the description of the onlookers?
- (A) "impotent" (line 24)
 - (B) "aloof" (line 40)
 - (C) "degenerate" (line 45)
 - (D) "spellbound" (line 47)
 - (E) "paralysis" (line 54)
7. In the third paragraph, the author is primarily attempting to
- (A) defend the vigilante action
 - (B) indict his own failure to remember
 - (C) apologize for the incident's shameful violence
 - (D) challenge the veracity of the Coatesville episode
 - (E) comprehend the crowd's failure to intervene
8. In the third paragraph, the author stylistically emphasizes the illicit and immoral nature of the Coatesville vigilantes' actions MOST powerfully through
- (A) a series of powerful negations
 - (B) declamatory statements that condemn it
 - (C) repetition of a key phrase
 - (D) diction associated with sin and wrongdoing
 - (E) rich figurative language
9. The "lack" to which the speaker is referring in line 62 could be a deficiency in all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) courage
 - (B) compassion
 - (C) ethics
 - (D) knowledge
 - (E) interest
10. The similes in the concluding paragraph accent the crowd's deplorable
- (A) poverty
 - (B) stasis
 - (C) racism
 - (D) rowdiness
 - (E) illiteracy
11. Clearly, what troubles the speaker most is the
- (A) violence of the "fiend-minded men"
 - (B) passivity of the victim
 - (C) apathy of the witnesses
 - (D) objectivity of the journalists
 - (E) impotence of local law enforcement
12. Ultimately, the author's commemorative address reveals which of the following?
- I. The indelible impression that can be forged by a scene of violence.
 - II. The power of the media to promote social activism.
 - III. The ultimate triumph of justice over evil.
- (A) I only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and II
 - (D) I and III
 - (E) I, II and III

Questions 13-20. Refer to the following passage.

The method of scientific investigation is nothing but the expression of the necessary mode of working of the human mind. It is simply the mode at which all phenomena are reasoned about, rendered precise and exact. There is no more difference, between the mental observations of a man of science and those of an ordinary person, than there is between the operations and methods of a baker or a butcher weighing out his goods in common scales; and the operations of a chemist in performing a difficult and complex analysis by means of his balance and finely graduated weights....

- (5) You will understand this better, perhaps, if I give you some familiar example. You have all heard it repeated, I dare say, that men of science work by means of induction and deduction, and that by the help of these operations, they, in a sort of sense, wring from Nature certain other things, which are called natural laws, and causes, and that out of these, by some cunning skill of their own, they build up hypotheses and theories. And it is imagined by many that the operations of the common mind can be by no means compared with these processes, and that they have to be acquired by a sort of special apprenticeship to the craft. To hear all these large words, you would think that the mind of a man of science must be constituted differently from that of his fellow men; but if you will not be frightened by terms, you will discover that you are quite wrong, and that all these terrible apparatus are being used by yourselves every day and every hour of your lives.

- (15) There is a well-known incident in one of Moliere's plays, when the author makes the hero express unbounded delight on being told that he had been talking prose during the whole of his life. In the same way I trust you will take comfort, and be delighted with yourselves, on the discovery that you have been acting on the principles of inductive and deductive philosophy during the same period. Probably there is not one here who has not in the course of the day had occasion to set in motion a complex train of reasoning, of the very same kind, though differing of course in degree, as that which a scientific man goes through in tracing the causes of natural phenomena.

- (20) A very trivial circumstance will serve to exemplify this. Suppose you go into a fruiterer's shop, wanting an apple—you take up one, and on biting it, you find it sour; you look at it, and see

that it is hard and green. You take up another one, and that too is hard, green and sour. The shopman offers you a third; but, before biting it, you examine it, and find that it is hard and green, and you immediately say that you will not have it as it must be sour, like that you have already tried.

- (55) Nothing can be more simple than that, you think; but if you will take the trouble to analyze and trace out into its logical elements what has been done by the mind, you will be greatly surprised....you have performed the operation of induction....
- (60)

13. In the course of the passage, the author attempts to do which of the following in regard to scientific investigation?
- (A) define it
 - (B) defend it
 - (C) demystify it
 - (D) disparage it
 - (E) debunk it
14. The author's use of phrases such as "in a sort of sense" (line 18) and "certain other things" (line 19) is prompted by his
- (A) limited knowledge of natural laws
 - (B) attempt to avoid being arcane
 - (C) severely limited vocabulary
 - (D) desire to be "familiar"
 - (E) inability to articulate the thought processes of these men
15. By the phrase "terrible apparatus" (lines 31-32), the speaker is referring to which of the following?
- (A) laboratory instruments
 - (B) modes of reasoning
 - (C) natural laws
 - (D) scales and weights
 - (E) scientific phenomena
16. The speaker advances his argument about scientific reasoning by means of
- (A) rhetorical questions
 - (B) analogous situations
 - (C) emotional appeals
 - (D) comparison/contrast
 - (E) ironical understatement
17. In speaking to his audience, the author does all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) employ a familiar and didactic tone
 - (B) equate the business of tradesmen with the actions of scientists
 - (C) offend his listeners with an overly condescending attitude
 - (D) exemplify in simple terms the process of induction
 - (E) attempt to alleviate his audience's fear of scientific investigation
18. The BEST interpretation of the word "trivial" in line 48 is
- (A) minor
 - (B) inconsequential
 - (C) commonplace
 - (D) fortuitous
 - (E) unpleasant
19. The author's tone and diction are clearly affected by his
- (A) disdain for scientific methodology
 - (B) superficial grasp of natural laws
 - (C) tendency to be pedantic
 - (D) consciousness of his proletarian audience
 - (E) disinterested delivery
20. All of the following help reinforce the illusion that scientific methodology is a mysterious and unfathomable process EXCEPT
- (A) "cunning skill" (line 21)
 - (B) "special apprenticeship" (line 26)
 - (C) "large words" (line 27)
 - (D) "terrible apparatus" (lines 31-32)
 - (E) "complex train" (line 44)