

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS FOR PRACTICE TEST 1

Using the answer key below, score your test and determine how many questions you answered correctly and incorrectly. Then look over the answer explanations.

ANSWER KEY FOR MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. E	10. A	19. C	28. C	37. E	46. B
2. A	11. D	20. E	29. D	38. A	47. B
3. B	12. B	21. D	30. B	39. B	48. D
4. C	13. C	22. B	31. A	40. C	49. E
5. E	14. E	23. A	32. A	41. A	50. A
6. A	15. B	24. A	33. C	42. C	51. C
7. B	16. D	25. C	34. D	43. A	52. B
8. B	17. A	26. D	35. B	44. D	53. C
9. E	18. C	27. B	36. E	45. E	54. D

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS FOR MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. **ANSWER: E** Debtors' prisons were used to incarcerate people for the failure to pay a debt. If this law were in force today, there would be a lot of people in jail.

2. **ANSWER: A** Johnson is a master of parallel syntax. He does use vivid language, and here and there is anger in his description, but neither is as dominant as his parallelism.

3. **ANSWER: B** The initial tone of the piece describing his encounter with the outside walls of the prison is very negative, nearly heartrending. Every word here carries a negative connotation except "zealous."

4. **ANSWER: C** Johnson clearly states that this encounter with sorrow was occasioned by a stroll through the streets of London.

5. **ANSWER: E** "Atrophy" means essentially to waste away from disuse. More specifically, it is the loss of muscle through a complete lack of exercise, which is what happens within the prison walls. The sin is not the fault of the debtors but the fault of the system.

6. **ANSWER: A** The sentence essentially condemns the practice because it takes hard-working people off the street and incarcerates them. Later, remember, Johnson does an entire mathematical calculation of the cost to the country as a whole. The creditors do not get their money and the country loses potential employees.
7. **ANSWER: B** All answers except deterrence are found in this paragraph.
8. **ANSWER: B** This is the paragraph where Johnson suggests an altering of the legal system. His suggestion is that the creditor must prove that the debtor is holding out on him with hidden assets. Otherwise, the debtor would be back out on the streets.
9. **ANSWER: E** All the indicators suggest not only a negative connotation, but a strong one. In the list of possible answers there are three negatives, but “loathsome” is by far the most negative.
10. **ANSWER: A** Johnson is making a clear financial analogy comparing the way countries conduct trade and the current local situation of lending money. One country cannot put another in jail, so if creditors did not put debtors in jail the promotion of commerce would improve.
11. **ANSWER: D** By using “we,” Johnson encompasses the entire community: himself, creditors, debtors, government. In so doing, he makes it a community problem that society must address together or suffer the consequences.
12. **ANSWER: B** This was discussed earlier. Johnson’s best solution—at least the one he offers here—is that a trial determines whether the debtor is holding out. If that can be demonstrated, then he is required by the court to pay the debt. Otherwise, he should be freed.
13. **ANSWER: C** The entire article is fundamentally ironic and angry. Johnson finds it utterly paradoxical that if one is engaged in the business of making money, that person would then lock up people who could potentially give him that money. Johnson sees nothing in a debtors’ prison but cruelty and meanness. There are several potential paradoxical statements in the answer, but the one that comes closest to the focus of the essay is C. Trust is the very opposite of criminality, and yet here it is found in union. Johnson considers that deplorable.
14. **ANSWER: E** The passage offers a discussion of several cultural attitudes toward pain not only in modern society, but throughout history. Although there are concrete examples, answer choice C is too vague to be a solid answer. E is the best choice.
15. **ANSWER: B** “Slender” is commonly used as a description of body type. However, here Ackerman employs the term metaphorically. She implies that our entire existence on this earth is brief and perpetually threatened. Pain is a physical reminder of threats to that existence. Hence, B is the best answer.

16. **ANSWER: D** In this line “it” refers to the “I” in the phrase “the slender word ‘I’”. One must sacrifice oneself, one’s entire being, to pain to be considered a martyr.

17. **ANSWER: A** The sentence is cohesive due to parallelism: “the ceremonial violence,” “the psychology,” “the charmed circle,” “the breezy rhetoric,” “the anthropological spectacle.” None of the other answer choices applies to this sentence.

18. **ANSWER: C** The phrase is a simile that uses the requisite “like” to compare screaming pain to a factory whistle.

19. **ANSWER: C** The best way to approach these questions is to look at all the answer choices and eliminate those that *are* true, since the question says “EXCEPT.” The sentence “Often our fear of pain contributes to it” does allude to the speaker’s knowledge about pain, it is the main idea of the second paragraph, it does offer an answer of sorts to the biological riddle of why pain is subjective, and it is one approach to the topic of pain. It does not contradict the final statement of the first paragraph, that soccer players feel pain only after the match is over.

20. **ANSWER: E** The answer that makes sense is that the author is referring to Burton’s writing as authoritative. According to this passage, Burton has written about pain and the historical conceptions of pain in other cultures, an idea that the author is also discussing.

21. **ANSWER: D** The sentence specifically states “what we call ‘happiness’ may be just the absence of pain.” The author is offering a definition of the word.

22. **ANSWER: B** The last paragraph provides a connection to the author’s first statement that pain is subjective and the last statement that it is difficult to define pain. The idea is that something so subjective is difficult to define.

23. **ANSWER: A** The last paragraph is quite scientific, offering descriptions of the kinds of pain people may experience (throbbing, etc.), as well the body’s reaction to pain (histamine and serotonin).

24. **ANSWER: A** Every answer choice here is tied to pain (a negative experience) except “absence,” which is used to define “happiness” as an “absence of pain.”

25. **ANSWER: C** Woolf’s statement tells us that language cannot express such a unique experience as pain. Her references to Hamlet and Lear are merely literary references to characters who are great commentators about human psychology and the human experience, but even they cannot describe pain. In fact, Lear’s inability to express his pain resulted in his madness and subsequent death.

26. **ANSWER: D** Ackerman employs every strategy except D. Nowhere in the piece does she give a hint of what others might argue. She is making her own definition, about which she sees no real critical response. She definitely appeals to authority and both types of

comparison are made. It is more difficult to perceive, but she does make a thesis statement, which she follows with a counterproposal that then results in a finished statement that synthesizes her perspective on pain and the human condition.

27. **ANSWER: B** Twain begins his essay by commenting that once he had learned everything there was to know about the river, he felt he lost something. The end of the essay questions whether the doctor's knowledge keeps him from appreciating a young woman's beauty. Thus, one may infer that the purpose is to examine the ways in which knowledge destroys one's ability to appreciate beauty.

28. **ANSWER: C** Plug in the various answer choices and you will find that the word "character" best suits the meaning of the word "language" in this context. His point is not literally linguistic, but more emotional.

29. **ANSWER: D** Again, put your finger on the word "it" and plug in the answer choices to see which best fits the context of the sentence and paragraph. Here, "scene" is the antecedent to the pronoun "it."

30. **ANSWER: B** In each of the answer choices, the river and riverbank are personified (it is "bloody," it has a flush, it carries a shadow, and it waves), except in answer B. A floating log does not contribute to the environment's humanity.

31. **ANSWER: A** As most will attest, romance and beauty are acutely personal and emotional connections. The speaker capitalizes on the emotional connection with the river as something lost, and it is his sense of nostalgia for that loss that keeps the piece from becoming too rational and logical.

32. **ANSWER: A** This is a tricky question mainly because of today's notions of doctors as professionals rather than tradespeople. However, the end of the piece specifically asks, "And doesn't he [the doctor] sometimes wonder whether he has gained most or lost most by learning his trade?" Since the speaker refers to the doctor as a tradesperson whose knowledge also affects his ability to appreciate beauty, A is the correct answer.

33. **ANSWER: C** You can arrive at the correct answer through the process of elimination. The last sentences include rhetorical questions (looking for question marks is a good place to begin), antithetical statements (his comparison of his view of the river as a novice to his view of that same river, that same moment, as a captain), metaphorical comparisons ("lovely flush" to "a 'break' that ripples"), and an extended analogy (a doctor's knowledge of biology compared to a riverboat captain's knowledge of the river).

34. **ANSWER: D** One of Twain's most endearing features is his ability to relate to the general reader. That aside, however, one can see that his essay appeals to more than just riverboat captains and young women. While his essay is also quite poetic, the purpose of the essay is to convey the beauty of the river and the loss of that beauty through the poetry of language for *all* readers.

35. **ANSWER: B** The second paragraph describes a technical view of the river, which is the antithesis to the first paragraph's description of the beauty of it.

36. **ANSWER: E** Here, the river is personified as having a face.

37. **ANSWER: E** Once again, the process of elimination should remove at least C and D as viable choices. Although the sentence is parallel, it doesn't necessarily give the river energy so much as mimic the slowness of its movement. A is not possible because Twain's purpose and description carry no irony. Thus, we are left with the illustrious semicolon, which, when used appropriately, serves as a connector between ideas, giving pause to each idea separately.

38. **ANSWER: A** The speaker contrasts his two views of the river—one as beautiful, one as ominous and threatening—to show that sometimes knowledge can ruin one's outlook and complicate the ability to see beauty.

39. **ANSWER: B** The text clearly states that learning a trade, gaining extensive knowledge of something, is beneficial, but is also a loss of innocence. Thus, knowledge comes with a price.

40. **ANSWER: C** The passage clearly discusses two theories about how immigrants integrated into American culture.

41. **ANSWER: A** The phrase "ethnic enclaves" is most closely related to the word "oases," as both inspire a sense of refuge or sanctuary. Although "familiar institutions" is a good distractor, it is not the correct answer because the context of the word is not in line with "enclaves," which is a kind of community or closed society.

42. **ANSWER: C** This is the process of elimination again. The sentence includes an appositive ("natural as breathing"), is parallel ("by the later accretion," "by the desire," "by the necessity"), has a parenthetical remark (the phrase "necessarily in miniature" in parentheses), and has loose sentence structure (an independent clause—"Such as development . . . was supported"—followed by several parallel dependent clauses). The only choice left is C, and when you look, you'll see there is only one independent clause followed by several dependent clauses.

43. **ANSWER: A** The speaker defines "Americanization" as "Anglo-conformity," the opposite of cultural pluralism, which allows many cultures to coexist in one society without conforming to any particular culture.

44. **ANSWER: D** Look to the text and you will see that it clearly states that some immigrants who fled Germany "looked forward to the creation of an all-German state within the union, or, even more hopefully, to the eventual formation of a separate German nation, as soon as the expected dissolution of the union under the impact of the slavery controversy should have taken place." Of course, knowing a bit of history helps here as well, since you would have to know that the

“expected dissolution of the union under the impact of the slavery controversy” is a direct reference to the Civil War.

45. **ANSWER: E** As you read through the paragraphs, notice that Gordon progressively identifies the ways in which disparate groups have unified. Being located in the same place, living under the same government, and speaking a common language of commerce ultimately created a common culture.

46. **ANSWER: B** Kallen would see the maintenance of the Jewish identity as positive; hence, he would see the positive in cultural pluralism. However, he also saw that groups did not remain distinct and hostile but rather successfully integrated into an American culture that happened naturally rather than by coercion (Americanization). If you force groups to become “American,” they resist. If you allow them their own space in the larger culture, they will integrate.

47. **ANSWER: B** Do you remember the big fight over the Articles of Confederation and the new Constitution? Americans were afraid of a centralized government even though they needed one. The states maintained their separate identities, and yet they have, over time, created networks of interstate cooperation. The exact same forces that brought states together also coerced separate immigrant groups to seek out fiscal and governmental and, finally, cultural unity.

48. **ANSWER: D** The only possible answer is “repetitive emphasis.” None of the other choices apply at all.

49. **ANSWER: E** The implication of this sentence is that immigrants are effectively adapting to American democracy while still maintaining their own cultural identities.

50. **ANSWER: A** One may infer from the sentence preceding the footnote that each source separately discussed a movement in the United States to create a German state after the Civil War.

51. **ANSWER: C** All of the answer choices are untrue or cannot be inferred except that C. Glazer’s article is reprinted and appears in Berger, Abel, and Page’s book, *Freedom and Control in Modern Society*, which was published in 1954.

52. **ANSWER: B** Footnote 4 states that *Boston’s Immigrants* was published in a revised edition in 1959. The first printed edition is unknown and unstated. Referring to the text will show the other statements as true.

53. **ANSWER: C** Knowing the documentation style of a journal will help, but you are given a specific date of publication in the journal *The Nation*. The author’s views were reprinted in his book *Culture and Democracy in the United States* in 1924.

54. **ANSWER: D** To some extent, the author included the footnotes to appeal to scholarly authorities in the field. He wanted them to know that he was aware of the extent of the debate and was familiar with all sides of it. He wanted to appear dispassionate and firmly aware of the issues involved.

too brief or grammatically unsound, they will also land in the lower half.

ESSAY QUESTION 3: UPPER-HALF PAPERS: SCORES OF 5–9

Upper-half essays clearly understand the argument Barbara Whitehead makes. Writers of these essays will argue coherently and provide examples that help sustain the argument. Any position may be taken: fathers are essential to the raising of children; mothers are essential but fathers are not; both mothers and fathers are equally important in raising successful and healthy children. The crucial element in the upper-half paper is not the argument, but that the writer provides concrete examples from personal experience, current events, current trends, books, and movies to support that position. Upper-half papers are not always without grammatical error, but they are generally clearly written, and the relationship between the examples and the argument is well-defined.

ESSAY QUESTION 3: LOWER-HALF PAPERS: SCORES OF 1–4

Lower-half paper writers may have misunderstood Whitehead's claim and argue that she sees fathers as unnecessary and/or that she thinks marriage is a hopeless institution. However, most of the weaker papers earn low scores because their writers fail to provide evidence. They generalize about the topic and give little support to their arguments. Lower-half papers are often unacceptably brief and/or have grammatical and mechanical errors throughout.