

ADDITIONAL DRILLS

Here are two more passages for you to try. Remember to focus on the text!

Additional Drill 1

Questions 1–9 are based on the following passage.

The following passage was adapted from Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery: An Autobiography*. Published in 1901.

I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia. I am not quite sure of the exact place or exact date of my birth, but at any rate I suspect I must have
 5 been born somewhere and at some time. As nearly as I have been able to learn, I was born near a cross-roads post-office called Hale's Ford, and the year was 1858 or 1859. I do not know the month or the day. The
 10 earliest impressions I can now recall are of the plantation and the slave quarters—the latter being the part of the plantation where the slaves had their cabins.

The first pair of shoes that I recall
 15 wearing were wooden ones. They had rough leather on the top, but the bottoms, which were about an inch thick, were of wood. When I walked they made a fearful noise, and besides this they were
 20 very inconvenient since there was no yielding to the natural pressure of the foot. In wearing them one presented an exceedingly awkward appearance. The most trying ordeal that I was forced to
 25 endure as a slave boy, however, was the wearing of a flax shirt. In the portion of Virginia where I lived it was common to use flax as part of the clothing for the slaves. That part of the flax from which
 30 our clothing was made was largely the refuse, which of course was the cheapest and roughest part. I can scarcely imagine any torture, except, perhaps, the pulling of a tooth, that is equal to that caused by

35 putting on a new flax shirt for the first time. It is almost equal to the feeling that one would experience if he had a dozen or more chestnut burrs, or a hundred small pin-points, in contact with his flesh.
 40 Even to this day I can recall accurately the tortures that I underwent when putting on one of these garments. The fact that my flesh was soft and tender added to the pain. But I had no choice. I had to wear the flax shirt or none; and had it been left to me to choose, I should have chosen to wear no covering. In connection with the flax shirt, my brother John, who is several years older than I am, performed one of
 50 the most generous acts that I ever heard of one slave relative doing for another. On several occasions when I was being forced to wear a new flax shirt, he generously agreed to put it on in my stead and wear
 55 it for several days, till it was "broken in." Until I had grown to be quite a youth this single garment was all that I wore.

I pity from the bottom of my heart any nation or body of people that is so
 60 unfortunate as to get entangled in the net of slavery. I have long since ceased to cherish any spirit of bitterness against the Southern white people on account of the enslavement of my race. No one section
 65 of our country was wholly responsible for its introduction, and, besides, it was recognized and protected for years by the General Government. Having once got its tentacles fastened on to the economic
 70 and social life of the Republic, it was no easy matter for the country to relieve itself of the institution. When persons ask me in these days how, in the midst of what sometimes seem hopelessly discouraging

75 conditions, I can have such faith in the future of my race in this country, I remind them of the wilderness through which and out of which, a good Providence has already led us.

1

The author's attitude can be best described as

- A) amused.
- B) bitter.
- C) determined.
- D) tempered.

2

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A) detail the author's life and current situation.
- B) illustrate an optimism gained through trials.
- C) describe a particular suffering endured by the author.
- D) seek sympathy for a group of people.

3

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 1–2 (“I was . . . Virginia”)
- B) Lines 23–26 (“The most . . . shirt”)
- C) Lines 58–61 (“I pity . . . slavery”)
- D) Lines 72–79 (“When persons . . . us”)

4

In the context of the passage as a whole, the principal rhetorical effect of the first paragraph, lines 1–13, is to

- A) demonstrate that the author has a sense of humor within a serious subject.
- B) engage the reader with a universal uncertainty about the exact circumstances of a person's birth.
- C) hint at the author's main point through an extended analogy that relates “birth” with a deeper concept.
- D) provide context for the events recounted in the passage.

5

The author uses the word “accurately” (line 40) primarily in order to

- A) emphasize the intensity of an experience.
- B) provide evidence for the clarity of the author's memory.
- C) give support for the following sentence.
- D) show the author's gratitude towards his brother.

6

The sentence in lines 44–47 (“I had . . . covering”) most directly suggests that

- A) the author had been ordered by the plantation owners to wear a shirt.
- B) no other forms of clothing were available.
- C) some choices were not left to the author’s discretion.
- D) the author would have enjoyed not wearing clothing.

7

As used in line 62, “cherish” most nearly means to

- A) prefer.
- B) keep secret.
- C) love.
- D) hold resolutely.

8

Based on the passage, which of the following best describes the author’s position regarding responsibility for the institution of slavery?

- A) The slave owners bear full responsibility for their actions.
- B) No one is responsible for the institution of slavery.
- C) The responsibility rests most strongly on the government.
- D) Responsibility is shared among many parties.

9

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 58–61 (“I pity . . . slavery”)
- B) Lines 61–64 (“I have . . . race”)
- C) Lines 64–68 (“No one . . . Government”)
- D) Lines 75–79 (“I can . . . us”)

10

As used in line 77, “wilderness” most nearly means

- A) an uncultivated terrain.
- B) difficult circumstances.
- C) a desert.
- D) slavery.

Additional Drill 2

Questions 32–41 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from H.G. Wells, *A Short History of the World*. Published in 1922. The excerpt begins with the aftermath of the French Revolution and describes the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte.

For some time the French thrust towards Italy was hung up, and it was only in 1796 that a new general, Napoleon Bonaparte, led the ragged and hungry republican armies in triumph across Piedmont to Mantua and Verona. Says C. F. Atkinson, “What astonished the Allies most of all was the number and the velocity of the Republicans. These improvised armies had in fact nothing to delay them. Tents were unprocurable for want of money, untransportable for want of the enormous number of wagons that would have been required, and also unnecessary, for the discomfort that would have caused wholesale desertion in professional armies was cheerfully borne by the men of 1793–94. Supplies for armies of then unheard-of size could not be carried in convoys, and the French soon became familiar with ‘living on the country.’ Thus 1793 saw the birth of the modern system of war—rapidity of movement, full development of national strength, bivouacs, requisitions and force as against cautious manœuvring, small professional armies, tents and full rations, and chicane. The first represented the decision-compelling spirit, the second the spirit of risking little to gain a little.”

And while these ragged hosts of enthusiasts were chanting the Marseillaise and fighting for *la France*, manifestly never quite clear in their minds whether they were looting or liberating the countries

into which they poured, the republican enthusiasm in Paris was spending itself in a far less glorious fashion.

Unhappily for France and the world a man arose who embodied in its intensest form this national egotism of the French. He gave that country ten years of glory and the humiliation of a final defeat. This was that same Napoleon Bonaparte who had led the armies of the Directory to victory in Italy.

Throughout the five years of the Directorate he had been scheming and working for self-advancement. Gradually he clambered to supreme power. He was a man of severely limited understanding but of ruthless directness and great energy. He had begun life as an extremist of the school of Robespierre; he owed his first promotion to that side; but he had no real grasp of the new forces that were working in Europe. His utmost political imagination carried him to a belated and tawdry attempt to restore the Western Empire. He tried to destroy the remains of the old Holy Roman Empire, intending to replace it by a new one centring upon Paris. The Emperor in Vienna ceased to be the Holy Roman Emperor and became simply Emperor of Austria. Napoleon divorced his French wife in order to marry an Austrian princess.

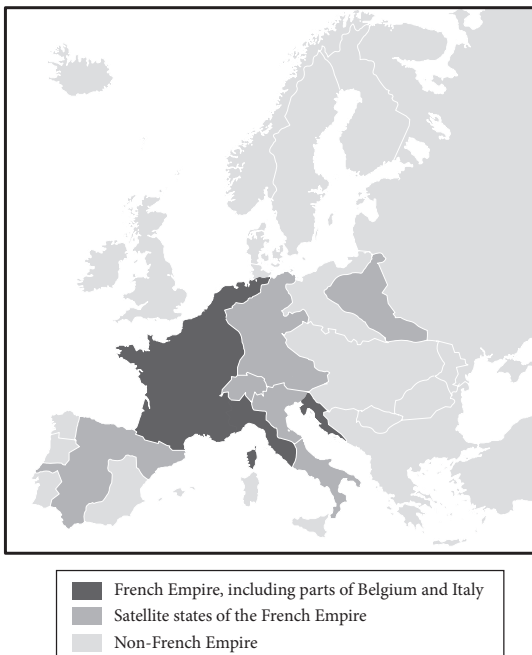
He became practically monarch of France as First Consul in 1799, and he made himself Emperor of France in 1804 in direct imitation of Charlemagne. He was crowned by the Pope in Paris, taking the crown from the Pope and putting it upon his own head himself as Charlemagne had directed. His son was

crowned King of Rome.

For some years Napoleon's reign was a career of victory. He conquered most of Italy and Spain, defeated Prussia and Austria, and dominated all Europe west of Russia. But he never won the command of the sea from the British and his fleets sustained a conclusive defeat inflicted by the British Admiral Nelson at Trafalgar (1805). Spain rose against him in 1808 and a British army under Wellington thrust the French armies slowly northward out of the peninsula. In 1811 Napoleon came into conflict with the Tsar Alexander I, and in 1812 he invaded Russia with a great conglomerate army of 600,000 men, that was defeated and largely destroyed by the Russians and the Russian winter. Germany rose against him, Sweden turned against him. The French armies were beaten back and at Fontainebleau Napoleon abdicated (1814). He was exiled to Elba, returned to France for one last effort in 1815 and was defeated by the allied British, Belgians and Prussians at Waterloo. He died a British prisoner at St. Helena in 1821.

The forces released by the French revolution were wasted and finished. A great Congress of the victorious allies met at Vienna to restore as far as possible the state of affairs that the great storm had rent to pieces. For nearly forty years a sort of peace, a peace of exhausted effort, was maintained in Europe.

Map of Napoleon's French Empire and satellite states, in 1811



32

The author's rhetorical style can be described as a

- meticulous examination of minute particulars.
- rapid overview interspersed with specific detail.
- reverential regard for objective depictions of historical events.
- callous nonchalance towards all depicted parties.

33

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 18–22 (“Supplies for . . . country”)
- B) Lines 43–46 (“This was . . . Italy”)
- C) Lines 97–100 (“He was . . . Waterloo”)
- D) Lines 103–107 (“A great . . . pieces”)

34

The author’s attitude towards the French armies is best characterized as

- A) contemptuous.
- B) ambivalent.
- C) approving.
- D) apathetic.

35

As used in line 13, “want” most nearly means

- A) lack.
- B) desire.
- C) requirement.
- D) gain.

36

The author supports his description of Napoleon as “a man of severely limited understanding” primarily by

- A) providing an example in which Napoleon made a decision that alienated his French compatriots.
- B) indirectly referencing a state of affairs that is implied to have had an impact on Napoleon’s success.
- C) refuting claims that Napoleon had no real grasp of matters beyond his own extremist background.
- D) demonstrating Napoleon’s lack of response to overtures from other heads of state which could have altered the course of events.

37

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 39–41 (“Unhappily for . . . French”)
- B) Lines 42–43 (“He gave . . . defeat”)
- C) Lines 55–57 (“but he . . . Europe”)
- D) Lines 65–67 (“Napoleon divorced . . . princess”)

38

In the sixth paragraph, lines 77–101, the author primarily contrasts

- A) Napoleon's defeat of Austria with his last effort to return to power.
- B) types of victories won by Napoleon.
- C) the responses of different nations.
- D) multiple outcomes of an extended endeavor.

39

As used in line 103, “wasted” most nearly means

- A) spoiled.
- B) lost.
- C) used up.
- D) thrown away.

40

The passage suggests that Napoleon did not have significant success in which of the following regions?

- A) Russia
- B) Belgium
- C) Prussia
- D) Spain

41

Based on the map and the passage, it can be inferred that

- A) Napoleon's armies were separated by hostile territory.
- B) Napoleon had no interest in Britain or Portugal.
- C) Napoleon never attacked Greece.
- D) Napoleon held some influence in areas he did not directly rule.