LITERATURE TEST 1

Directions: This test consists of selections from literary works and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage or poem, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

Note: Pay particular attention to questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-9. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Maman-Nainaine said that when the figs were ripe Babette might go to visit her cousins down on the Bayou-Lafourche where the sugar cane grows. Not that the ripening of figs had the least thing to

Line Not that the ripening of figs had the least thing to(5) do with it, but that is the way Maman-Nainaine was.

It seemed to Babette a very long time to wait; for the leaves upon the trees were tender yet, and the figs were like little hard green marbles.

- (10) But warm rains came along and plenty of strong sunshine, and though Maman-Nainaine was as patient as the statue of la Madone, and Babette as restless as a hummingbird, the first thing they both knew it was hot summertime. Every day
- (15) Babette danced out to where the fig-trees were in a long line against the fence. She walked slowly beneath them, carefully peering between the gnarled, spreading branches. But each time she came disconsolate away again. What she saw
- (20) there finally was something that made her sing and dance the whole long day.

When Maman-Nainaine sat down in her stately way to breakfast the following morning, her muslin cap standing like an aureole about her

- (25) white, placid face, Babette approached. She bore a dainty porcelain platter, which she set down before her godmother. It contained a dozen purple figs, fringed around with their rich green leaves. "Ah," said Maman-Nainaine arching her
- (30) eyebrows, "how early the figs have ripened this year!"

"Oh," said Babette. "I think they have ripened very late."

⁽⁷Babette," continued Maman-Nainaine, as she
peeled the very plumpest figs with her pointed
silver fruit-knife, "you will carry my love to them
all down on Bayou-Lafourche. And tell your Tante
Frosine I shall look for her at Toussaint—when the
chrysanthemums are in bloom."

(1893)

- 1. In the passage, the ripening figs are symbolic of
 - (A) the fruits of labor
 - (B) the maturation of Babette
 - (C) the difficulty of life
 - (D) the enigma of nature
 - (E) the battle between Maman-Nainaine and Babette
- 2. The phrase "but that is the way Maman-Nainaine was" suggests which of the following about Maman-Nainaine?
 - (A) She was not aware of the seriousness of the situation.
 - (B) She was an overly strict woman.
 - (C) Her actions had their own logic.
 - (D) She doled out punishment for no reason.
 - (E) Figs were her favorite fruit.
- 3. What is the effect of the disagreement (lines 1-9)?
 - (A) It illustrates Maman-Nainaine's bad judgment.
 - (B) It serves to illustrate the patience of Maman-Nainaine and the impatience of Babette.
 - (C) It demonstrates a passage of time.
 - (D) It makes Babette appear spoiled and insolent.
 - (E) It shows how argumentative Babette can be.



- 4. In the passage, Maman-Nainaine's attitude toward Babette can best be characterized as
 - (A) contemptuous
 - (B) flippant
 - (C) reluctantly accepting
 - (D) joyously optimistic
 - (E) wisely patient
- 5. All of the following pairs of words illustrate the difference between Maman-Nainaine and Babette EXCEPT
 - (A) "patient" (line 12) and "restless" (line 13)
 - (B) "early" (line 30) and "late" (line 33)
 - (C) "purple" (line 27) and "green" (line 28)
 - (D) "danced" (line 15) and "sat" (line 22)
 - (E) "ripe" (line 2) and "bloom" (line 39)
- 6. Which is the effect of the last sentence of the passage?
 - (A) It shows that Maman-Nainaine is clearly illogical.
 - (B) It serves as ironic counterpoint to the rest of the story.
 - (C) It advances the symbolism introduced with the ripened figs.
 - (D) It introduces a literary allusion.
 - (E) It advances the story beyond its scope.
- 7. Maman-Nainaine's peeling of "the very plumpest figs" (line 35) illustrates that Maman-Nainaine
 - (A) is testing their ripeness
 - (B) prefers to cook her own food
 - (C) is superstitious
 - (D) is a refined woman
 - (E) enjoys making fun of Babette

- 8. The word "though" (line 11) implies which of the following in the context of the sentence?
 - (A) The two women were in disagreement.
 - (B) Patience is a virtue when waiting for something.
 - (C) Figs were not really important.
 - (D) Their patience and impatience had no effect on nature.
 - (E) Maman-Nainaine's patience was annoying to Babette.
- 9. The narrative point of view of the passage as a whole is that of
 - (A) a disapproving observer
 - (B) a first-person impartial observer
 - (C) the protagonist
 - (D) an unreliable narrator
 - (E) a third-person objective observer



Ouestions 10-18. Read the following noem carefully before you choose your answers

estions 10-1	18. Read the following poem carefull	y before you choose your answers.
	"On His	Deceased Wife"
	Brought to me like Whom Jove's great Rescu'd from deat (5) Mine as whom wash Purification in the And such, as yet of Full sight of her in Came vested all in w (10) Her face was vail ² Love, sweetness, g So clear, as in no fa But O, as to embr	y late espoused Saint e Alcestis from the grave, at son to her glad husband gave, th by force though pale and faint. h't from spot of childbed taint, old law did save, once more I trust to have n Heaven without restraint, white, pure as her mind: 'd, yet to my fancied sight, goodness, in her person shin'd ce with more delight. ace me she inclined and day brought back my night. (1658)
the follow(A) A pla(B) A cor(C) Hype	y on words ntradiction prole nological allusion	of 13. The purpose of the last line is to sug (A) a contrast between dreaming an states (B) the poet's depression (C) an allusion to the sonnet form (D) a parallel to the opening quatrat (E) that the writer is optimistic abo
I. "my II. "Alce	fers to which of the following? late espoused Saint" (line 1) estis" (line 2) glad husband" (line 3)	14. In context, "my fancied sight" (line that the author is(A) imbuing his deceased wife with did not have(B) unable to separate reality from

(B) II only

10.

11.

- (C) I and II only
- (D) I and III only
- (E) II and III only
- 12. In context, the word "save" (line 6) means which of the following?
 - (A) Preserve
 - (B) Keep in health
 - (C) Deliver from sin and punishment
 - (D) Rescue from harm
 - (E) Maintain

- iggest
 - and waking
 - ain
 - out the future
- e 10) suggests
 - th qualities she
 - dreams
 - (C) capriciously conjuring up his wife's image
 - (D) dreaming
 - (E) suffering from delusions



- 15. The author's attitude toward his wife can best be described as
 - (A) inconsolable
 - (B) reverential
 - (C) hopeful
 - (D) incongruous
 - (E) obsequious
- 16. The poem is primarily concerned with
 - (A) the mourning process
 - (B) the struggle against dying
 - (C) the injustice of death
 - (D) the nature of immortality
 - (E) a belief in heaven

- 17. What is the effect of using the word "glad" (line3) instead of "happy" or "joyous"?
 - (A) It suggests that the husband is overwhelmed.
 - (B) It links to "great" and "gave" by alliteration.
 - (C) It stresses that the husband is a particular person.
 - (D) It distinguishes between "Jove's great son" and the husband.
 - (E) It alludes to "I" in line 1.
- 18. Which of the following are terms of opposition in the poem?
 - (A) "embrace" and "inclined" (line 13)
 - (B) "day" and "night" (line 14)
 - (C) "Full sight" and "without restraint" (line 8)
 - (D) "wash't" (line 5) and "Purification" (line 6)
 - (E) "sight" (line 10) and "shin'd" (line 11)



Questions 19-27. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Keenly alive to this prejudice of hers, Mr. Keeble stopped after making his announcement, and had to rattle the keys in his pocket in order to acquire the necessary courage to continue.

- Line
- He was not looking at his wife, but knew (5) just how forbidding her expression must be. This task of his was no easy, congenial task for
- a pleasant summer morning. "She says in her letter," proceeded Mr. Keeble, his eyes on the carpet and his cheeks a deeper pink, "that young Jackson has got the (10)chance of buying a big farm . . . in Lincolnshire, I think she said . . . if he can raise three thousand pounds.'
- He paused, and stole a glance at his wife. It was as he had feared. She had congealed. Like (15)some spell, the name had apparently turned her to marble. It was like the Pygmalion and Galatea business working the wrong way round. She
- was presumably breathing, but there was no (20) sign of it. "So I was just thinking," said Mr. Keeble,

producing another obbligato on the keys, "it just crossed my mind . . . it isn't as if the thing

- were speculation . . . the place is apparently (25)coining money . . . present owner only selling because he wants to go abroad . . . it occurred to me . . . and they would pay good interest on the loan . . .
- "What loan?" enquired the statue icily, (30)coming to life.

(1924)

- 19. Which of the following is the intended effect of the pauses in Mr. Keeble's conversation?
 - (A) It demonstrates that he is a feeble man.
 - (B) It makes his speech disjointed.
 - (C) It shows his hesitancy in approaching his wife.
 - (D) It slows the rhythm of the conversation.
 - (E) It elucidates his main point.

- 20. Which of the following expresses a mythological allusion made in the passage?
 - (A) "interest on the loan" (lines 28-29)
 - (B) "no sign of it" (lines 20-21)
 - (C) "turned her to marble" (lines 17-18)
 - (D) "in Lincolnshire" (line 12)
 - (E) "the Pygmalion and Galatea business" (lines 18-19)
- 21. All of the following represent metaphors or similes used by the authors EXCEPT
 - (A) "She had congealed" (line 16)
 - (B) "enquired the statue icily" (line 30)
 - (C) "coming to life" (line 31)
 - (D) "presumably breathing" (line 20)
 - (E) "Like some spell" (lines 16-17)
- 22. The phrase "the place is apparently coining money" (lines 25-26) is meant to imply
 - (A) the farm is presently engaged in illegal activities
 - (B) the farm is profitable
 - (C) the investment is unnecessary
 - (D) the farm serves as a bank for the local people
 - (E) Lincolnshire is a profitable place to live
- 23. Which of the following expresses Mr. Keeble's wife's feeling toward the loan?
 - (A) Amused detachment
 - (B) Utter disgust
 - (C) Preformed opposition
 - (D) Blatant apathy
 - (E) Neutrality



- 24. All of the following are physical manifestations of Mr. Keeble's anticipation of his wife's response EXCEPT
 - (A) "Keenly alive" (line 1)
 - (B) "had to rattle the keys" (line 3)
 - (C) "was not looking at his wife" (line 5)
 - (D) "his eyes on the carpet" (line 10)
 - (E) "producing another *obbligato*" (line 23)
- 25. The phrase "in Lincolnshire, I think she said" (lines 12-13) implies that which of the following is true of Keeble?
 - (A) Keeble is unaware of the location of the farm.
 - (B) Keeble thinks the location is unimportant.
 - (C) Keeble's memory is failing.
 - (D) Keeble is attempting to appear casual.
 - (E) Keeble wants to conceal the location from his wife.

- 26. Keeble's relationship with his wife is such that
 - I. he needs her approval
 - II. he is disgusted by her
 - III. he is intimidated by her
 - (A) II only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
- 27. The last line implies which of the following?
 - (A) Mr. Keeble's wife is not interested in lending money.
 - (B) Mr. Keeble's wife is interested in the proposition.
 - (C) Mr. Keeble has succeeded in his mission.
 - (D) Mr. Keeble's wife is keeping an open mind about the loan.
 - (E) Mr. Keeble's wife wants to hear more about the loan.



(45)

Questions 28-37. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

[A street in London]

Enter LORD MAYOR (Sir Roger Otley) and EARL OF LINCOLN

LINC: My Lord Mayor, you have sundry times Feasted myself, and many courtiers more; Seldom or never can we be so kind To make requital of your courtesy.

Line (5)

- But, leaving this, I hear my cousin Lacy Is much affected to your daughter Rose.
- L. MAYOR: True, my good Lord, and she loves him so well That I mislike her boldness in the chase.

- (10) LINC: Why, my Lord Mayor, think you it then a shame To join a Lacy with an Otley's name?
 - L. MAYOR: Too mean is my poor girl for his high birth;
- (15) Poor citizens must not with courtiers wed, Who will in silks and gay apparel spend More in one year than I am worth by far; Therefore your honour need not doubt my girl.
- LINC: Take heed, my Lord, advise you what you do; A verier unthrift lives not in the world (20) Than is my cousin; for I'll tell you what, 'Tis now almost a year since he requested To travel countries for experience; I furnish'd him with coin, bills of exchange, Letters of credit, men to wait on him, (25)Solicited my friends in Italy Well to respect him; but to see the end: Scant had he journey'd through half Germany, But all his coin was spent, his men cast off, His bills embezzl'd, and my jolly coz, (30)Asham'd to show his bankrupt presence here, Became a shoemaker in Wittenberg. A goodly science for a gentleman Of such descent! Now judge the rest by this: Suppose your daughter have a thousand pound, (35) He did consume me more in one half-year; And make him heir to all the wealth you have, One twelvemonth's rioting will waste it all. Then seek, my Lord, some honest citizen To wed your daughter to. (40)

L. MAYOR: I thank your lordship.

(Aside.) Well, fox, I understand your subtlety.—
As for your nephew, let your lordship's eye
But watch his actions, and you need not fear,
For I have sent my daughter far enough.
And yet your cousin Rowland might do well
Now he hath learn'd an occupation;
(Aside.) And yet I scorn to call him son-in-law.

LINC: Ay, but I have a better trade for him; I thank His Grace he hath appointed him Chief colonel of all those companies Muster'd in London and the shires about To serve His Highness in those wars of France. See where he comes.

(1599)

- 28. The word "sundry" (line 1) most nearly means
 - (A) groceries(B) numerous(C) provisions(D) infrequent
 - (E) few
- 29. The main effect of the Earl of Lincoln's first four lines is to
 - (A) return the Lord Mayor's generosity
 - (B) acknowledge his indebtedness to the Lord Mayor
 - (C) emphasize the differences between the men
 - (D) flatter the Lord Mayor's vanity
 - (E) get the Lord Mayor to agree to the marriage of Lacy and Rose
- 30. What reason does the Earl of Lincoln give for his opposition to Lacy and Rose's marriage?
 - (A) Rose is not a pleasant person.
 - (B) Courtiers cannot marry.
 - (C) The wedding will be too expensive.
 - (D) Lacy does not love Rose.
 - (E) Lacy will not be able to provide for Rose.



- 31. The Earl of Lincoln's attitude toward his cousin can best be described as
 - (A) censoriousness
 - (B) apathy
 - (C) romantic love
 - (D) dislike
 - (E) affection
- 32. It can be inferred from the sentence "A goodly science for a gentleman/Of such descent!" (lines 33-34) that
 - (A) the profession of shoemaker is not appropriate for someone of high birth
 - (B) shoemakers often declare bankruptcy
 - (C) the Earl of Lincoln admires the profession of shoemaker
 - (D) as a shoemaker, the Earl of Lincoln's cousin will make a thousand pounds a year
 - (E) shoemaking is a scientific occupation
- 33. The Lord Mayor's attitude toward Lacy can best be described as
 - (A) reluctant affection
 - (B) avuncular indulgence
 - (C) cautious approval
 - (D) undeserved respect
 - (E) disguised disapproval
- 34. The line "Well, fox, I understand your subtlety" (line 42)
 - (A) allows the Lord Mayor to speak to the Earl of Lincoln without others hearing them
 - (B) entices the audience by revealing a secret
 - (C) alienates the audience by prevarication
 - (D) creates an atmosphere of unease in the play
 - (E) insults the Earl of Lincoln

- 35. All of the following words are used to describe Lacy EXCEPT
 - (A) "affected" (line 6)
 - (B) "high" (line 13)
 - (C) "poor" (line 13)
 - (D) "unthrift" (line 20)
 - (E) "jolly" (line 30)
- 36. This scene reveals a conflict between
 - (A) generosity and frugality
 - (B) prodigality and profligacy
 - (C) youth and age
 - (D) joy and melancholy
 - (E) expression and emotions
- 37. The author has the Earl of Lincoln mention the French wars (line 53) in order to
 - (A) reveal Lacy's new profession
 - (B) foreshadow a military death
 - (C) elucidate the causes of the conflict
 - (D) explain a system of privilege
 - (E) home in on a national debate



Questions 38-45. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

"Fable"

	In heaven
	Some little blades of grass
	Stood before God.
Line	"What did you do?"
(5)	Then all save one of the little blades
	Began eagerly to relate
	The merits of their lives.
	This one stayed a small way behind,
	Ashamed.
(10)	Presently, God said,
	"And what did you do?"
	The little blade answered, "O my Lord,
	Memory is bitter to me,
	For if I did good deeds
(15)	I know not of them."
	Then God, in all his splendor,
	A ross from his throng

Arose from his throne.

"O best little blade of grass!" he said.

(1899)

38. It can be inferred that the speaker(s) in line 4 is/ are

- (A) an angel
- (B) St. Peter
- (C) the blades of grass
- (D) God
- (E) the one little blade of grass
- 39. God's attitude toward the last little blade of grass may best be described as
 - (A) condescending
 - (B) neutral
 - (C) admiring
 - (D) disdainful
 - (E) morally superior

- 40. The main idea of the poem is that
 - (A) it is better to do nothing than too much
 - (B) it is better to forget if you have done something wrong
 - (C) it is better to be modest than to be boastful
 - (D) it is better to keep your problems to yourself
 - (E) if you need to tell your bad deeds to someone, you are not worthy of respect



- 41. The word "presently" (line 10) means which of the following in the context of the poem?
 - I. As a gift
 - II. After a while
 - III. Changing the topic
 - (A) I only
 - (B) II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
- 42. It can be inferred that the small blade was "ashamed" (line 9) because
 - (A) it was smaller than the others
 - (B) it was disgusted with the other blades of grass
 - (C) it didn't feel worthy of God's attention
 - (D) it was bitter and lonely
 - (E) it thought its acts greater than the others' acts
- 43. The fact that God called the one blade "'O best'" (line 18) can best be characterized as
 - (A) unexpected
 - (B) satiric
 - (C) tragic
 - (D) comic
 - (E) unfortunate

- 44. Which is the effect of lines 16-17 in relation to the rest of the poem?
 - (A) They reveal God's egotism.
 - (B) They heighten anticipation for the last line.
 - (C) They shift the narrative voice.
 - (D) They echo the last lines of the first stanza.
 - (E) They reveal the poet's true feelings.
- 45. God's attitude toward the blades of grass as a group is
 - (A) shameful
 - (B) unstated
 - (C) disgusted
 - (D) disapproving
 - (E) melancholy



Questions 46-54. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Everybody at all addicted to letter writing, without having much to say, which will include a large proportion of the female world at least, must feel with Lady Bertram, that she was out of

- Line luck in having such a capital piece of Mansfield (5)news, as the certainty of the Grants going to Bath, occur at a time when she could make no advantage of it, and will admit that it must have been very mortifying to her to see it fall to the share of
- their thankless son, and treated as concisely (10) possible at the end of a long letter, instead of having it to spread over the largest part of a page of her own-For though Lady Bertram, rather at home in the epistolary line, having early in her marriage, from the want of other employment,
- (15)and the circumstance of Sir Thomas's being in Parliament, got into the way of making and keeping correspondents, and formed for herself a very creditable, commonplace, amplifying style,
- so that a very little matter was enough for her; she (20)could not do entirely without any; she must have something to write about, even to her niece, and being so soon to lose all the benefit of Dr. Grant's gouty symptoms and Mrs. Grant's morning calls,

it was very hard upon her to be deprived of one of (25)the last epistolary uses she could put them to. There was a rich amends, however, preparing for her. Lady Bertram's hour of good luck came. Within a few days from the receipt of

Edmund's letter, Fanny had one from her aunt, (30)beginning thus: "My dear Fanny,

I take up my pen to communicate some very alarming intelligence, which I make no doubt will give you much concern."

(1814)

- 46. The narrative tone in the above piece can best be described as
 - (A) wry

(35)

- (B) bitterly ironic
- (C) detached
- (D) melodramatic
- (E) secretive

- 47. What is implied by the phrase "could make no advantage of it" (lines 7-8)?
 - (A) Lady Bertram could use the news to suit her best interest.
 - (B) Lady Bertram was unable to write about the news.
 - (C) Lady Bertram could not relay the news in a pleasant light.
 - (D) Lady Bertram could convey only part of the news.
 - (E) Lady Bertram was bound to secrecy.
- 48. In context, the word "want" (line 15) means
 - (A) requirement
 - (B) desire
 - (C) poverty
 - (D) lack
 - (E) defect
- 49. What is the "benefit" referred to in line 23?
 - (A) Friends with whom to visit
 - (B) The ability to assist others
 - (C) A house full of visitors
 - (D) People willing to write letters
 - (E) News to write about
- 50. The "amplifying style" (line 19) is one in which
 - (A) things sound more important than they are
 - (B) small bits of news are stretched in importance
 - (C) the speaker's voice is very loud
 - (D) people are made to sound grand
 - (E) one writes in a large, bold print



- 51. It can be inferred that Sir Thomas is
 - (A) Lady Bertram's son
 - (B) Lady Bertram's husband
 - (C) a boarder at Mansfield
 - (D) a relative of the Grants
 - (E) a friend of Lady Bertram
- 52. The last three lines serve to illustrate which of the following about Lady Bertram?
 - (A) She has found something to write about.
 - (B) She is spreading malicious rumors.
 - (C) She is concerned about the news she is sending.
 - (D) She is unaware of Fanny's feelings.
 - (E) She is worried about her niece.

- 53. Lady Bertram is best described as
 - (A) a social pariah
 - (B) an unwanted family member
 - (C) a disenfranchised member of society
 - (D) a gossipy aristocrat
 - (E) a disillusioned elderly woman
- 54. The phrase "even to her niece" (line 22) shows that Lady Bertram
 - (A) doesn't much care for her niece
 - (B) is unhappy with her niece
 - (C) is uncomfortable around her niece
 - (D) doesn't need to have much to say to her niece
 - (E) dislikes the prospect of writing to her niece



Questions 55-61. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

"Blue Girls"

Twirling your blue skirts, travelling the sward Under the towers of your seminary, Go listen to your teachers old and contrary Without believing a word.

- Line
- (5) Tie the white fillets then about your hair And think no more of what will come to pass Than bluebirds that go walking on the grass And chattering on the air.

Practice your beauty, blue girls, before it fail;

(10) And I will cry with my loud lips and publish Beauty which all our power shall never establish, It is so frail.

For I could tell you a story which is true; I know a woman with a terrible tongue,

(15) Blear eyes fallen from blue,All her perfections tarnished—yet it is not longSince she was lovelier than any of you.

(1927)

- 55. The tone of the poem can best be described as
 - (A) cautionary
 - (B) mythic
 - (C) sarcastic
 - (D) optimistic
 - (E) hopeful
- 56. The poem is primarily concerned with
 - (A) the importance of beauty
 - (B) the lesson to be learned from the past
 - (C) the fleeting nature of youth
 - (D) telling a story for the girls' benefit
 - (E) the permanence of death

- 57. "Blear eyes fallen from blue" (line 15) is most probably meant to suggest that
 - (A) the woman's beauty has deteriorated
 - (B) the woman is tired
 - (C) the woman is going blind
 - (D) disease can happen suddenly
 - (E) the girls are responsible for the woman's loss of beauty



- 58. "And chattering on the air" (line 8) refers to
 - I. the girls
 - II. the bluebirds
 - III. the teachers
 - (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
- 59. The author's characterization of the woman in the last stanza can best be described as
 - (A) a description of decay
 - (B) unyielding and hurtful
 - (C) disdainful and disgusted
 - (D) pleasant and nostalgic
 - (E) full of unhidden emotion

- 60. The phrases "Without believing a word" (line 4) and "think no more" (line 6) illustrate the girls'
 - (A) innate sense of suspicion
 - (B) inherent difficulty with understanding subjects
 - (C) lack of concern about weighty subjects
 - (D) frail nature
 - (E) disregard for the feelings of others
- 61. The poem's theme could best be described as
 - (A) she who hesitates is lost
 - (B) beauty is a fading flower
 - (C) all that glitters is not gold
 - (D) beauty is truth, truth beauty
 - (E) a penny saved is a penny earned

STOP

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY. DO NOT TURN TO ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.