

# GRE-TEST<sup>Q&As</sup>

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**QUESTION 1**

The relevance of the literary personality--a writer's distinctive attitudes, concerns, and artistic choices--to the analysis of a literary work is being scrutinized by various schools of contemporary criticism. Deconstructionists view the literary personality, like the writer's biographical personality, as irrelevant. The proper focus of literary analysis, they argue, is a work's intertextuality (interrelationship with other texts), subtexts (unspoken, concealed, or repressed discourses), and metatexts (self-referential aspects), not a perception of a writer's verbal and aesthetic "fingerprints." New historicists also devalue the literary personality, since, in their emphasis on a work's historical context, they credit a writer with only those insights and ideas that were generally available when the writer lived. However, to readers interested in literary detective work--say scholars of classical (Greek and Roman) literature who wish to reconstruct damaged texts or deduce a work's authorship-- the literary personality sometimes provides vital clues.

It can be inferred from the passage that on the issue of how to analyze a literary work, the new historicists would most likely agree with the deconstructionists that

- A. the writer's insights and ideas should be understood in terms of the writer's historical context
- B. the writer's literary personality has little or no relevance
- C. the critic should primarily focus on intertextuality, subtexts, and metatexts

Correct Answer: B

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**QUESTION 2**

Exhibit.

Quantity A

$$(-87)^8$$

Quantity B

$$\left(\frac{1}{87}\right)^{-8}$$

- A. Quantity A is greater.
- B. Quantity B is greater.
- C. The two quantities are equal.
- D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Correct Answer: C

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**QUESTION 3**

Of the 53 members of a certain club, 48 members enjoy boating and 33 members enjoy fishing. If all except 10 of the members of the club enjoy boating or fishing or both, how many members enjoy boating but not fishing?

- A. 15

B. 25

C. 38

D. 40

E. 48

Correct Answer: D

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**QUESTION 4**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of biographies of antebellum capitalists is particularly striking in contrast with the abundance of life stones of industrialists in later eras.

A. brevity

B. banality

C. utility

D. paucity

E. triteness

F. dearth

Correct Answer: DF

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**QUESTION 5**

The probabilities assigned to the four possible outcomes of an experiment are  $p_1$ ,  $p_2$ ,  $p_3$ , and  $p_4$ . If these outcomes are mutually exclusive, which of the following could be  $P_1, p_2, p_3$  and  $p_4$  ?

A. 0.10, 0.05, 0.50, 0.30

B. 0.10, 0.50, 0.05, 0.60

C. 0.25, 0.25, 0.50, 0.30

D. 0.25, 0.05, 0.10, 0.60

E. 0.50, 0.25, 0.50, 0.30

Correct Answer: C

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**QUESTION 6**

How many noncongruent triangles are there such that the length of each side of each triangle is an integer and the perimeter of each triangle is 15 ?

- A. Five
- B. Six
- C. Seven
- D. Eight
- E. Nine

Correct Answer: C

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#### QUESTION 7

Discussions of the collapse of the lowland Maya are not new. However, it might be better to say that Maya civilization as a whole did not collapse, although many zones did experience profound change. Because societies are not bounded, unitary entities, collapses are rarely total, and continuity is a normal part of collapse. At the end of the Classic period [200-900 C.E.], the institution of divine kingship and many of the well-known markers of elite culture such as carved stelae [slabs erected for funerals or commemorative purposes] and hieroglyphic polychromes [multicolored artistic pottery] ended, but Maya civilization continued in modified form with many important features intact (e.g., literacy, war, art, the production of fine ceramics). In some cases large buildings were constructed in the Postclassic period [900-1512 C.E.], but the transition to the Early Postclassic [900-1200 C.E.] era is distinctive for a decrease in elite goods and contexts. The variability in artifact changes during the Terminal Classic [800-900 C.E.] and into the Postclassic, even within artifact classes (e.g., fine versus unslipped ceramics), suggests weaker centralized control than during the Classic period. Site abandonments in the Terminal Classic indicate the collapse of the functional ability of Maya states, but sites that survived show that Maya civilization continued albeit without divine kingship and much of the spectacle around it. The passage suggests which of the following about Maya living after the Terminal Classic in "sites that survived"?

- A. Their customs were identical to those of their ancestors.
- B. Their pottery was totally utilitarian in nature.
- C. They no longer created carved stelae.
- D. They stopped erecting large buildings.
- E. They did not use written language.

Correct Answer: C

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#### QUESTION 8

In 1995 the United States National Park Service reintroduced wolves into Yellowstone National Park, from which they had been eliminated decades before by overhunting. Biologists hoped the reintroduction would return the park's mix of animals to a more natural state. After the wolves' disappearance, the population of their onetime prey, the elk, had burgeoned. Subsequently, new tree growth declined as multiplying elk browsed young trees, denuding certain areas of the park. Following the wolves' return, the elk population declined and young trees rebounded. Most scientists attribute the vegetation changes to the wolves' return. However, Patton observes that Yellowstone has not had a harsh winter since wolf numbers reached high levels and suggests that elk may not have needed to resort to trees for food.

If the view attributed to the majority of scientists is correct, which of the following must be true?

- A. The elk population in Yellowstone had probably begun to decline prior to the reintroduction of wolves to the park.
- B. Browsing by species other than elk probably had a significant impact on young trees in Yellowstone.
- C. Human activity contributed both to the decline and to the resurgence of new tree growth in Yellowstone.
- D. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone has had negative as well as positive effects on vegetation in the park.
- E. The rate at which young trees rebounded in Yellowstone following the reintroduction of wolves was in part due to weather patterns.

Correct Answer: C

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### QUESTION 9

There is a long-standing historical presumption that social custom during the early years of the United States forbade women from public speaking. In fact, though, the standard mode of education of the 1790s and early 1800s, which emphasized oral recitation and performance, taught girls that educated and well-spoken women had an important role to play in American society. By depicting skilled speech as a necessary talent for women in a civilized society, elocutionary education encouraged a certain degree of female ambition and even political involvement. Transmitted via standard, inexpensive schoolbooks, this message reached virtually all who read schoolbooks or attended schools. This environment did not last long, however: even by the 1810s, attitudes about women's education had changed considerably.

The passage suggests that women's education during the 1810s differed from women's education during the 1790s and early 1800s in that women's education during the 1810s

- A. placed less emphasis on public speaking
- B. emphasized the relationship between rhetorical skills and civic virtue
- C. assumed that women could become politically active
- D. was based on a more modern vision of what constituted civilized society
- E. suffered from the reduced availability of inexpensive textbooks

Correct Answer: A

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### QUESTION 10

When Flemish painter Anthony Van Dyck moved to England in 1632 to become court painter to Charles II, he introduced an entirely new way of representing dress in portraiture. In women's portraits, he left off fashionable accessories, depicted subjects in unbuttoned sleeves and collars, and added lavish drapery and jewels. For the first time an artist actively participated in dressing his subjects, creating an amalgam of fantasy and reality. While Van Dyck was most innovative when representing women, he used similar elements in portraits of men.

Van Dyck's Portrait of Thomas Killigrew and William Lord Crofts (1638) demonstrates how the artist relaxed and unbuttoned men's dress to accord with an underlying theme. The double portrait may be seen as an essay in grief: Killigrew, a poet and playwright, had lost his wife Cecelia to the plague shortly before the sitting, and Crofts was her nephew. The painting contains clear references to the situation at hand. The background features a broken column, a traditional emblem of earthly transience. A drawing in Killigrew's right hand depicts two Itinerary monuments. Crofts holds a blank sheet of paper, seen by some scholars as an analog to the drawing Killigrew holds: a symbol of what is

gone.

At historians have interpreted the clothing depicted in this portrait, particularly Crofts\' doublet which is worn unbuttoned in back, as an allusion to the subjects\' grief-stricken distraction. It is true that Killigrew\'s dress includes references to his loss--he wears a cross inscribed with his wife\'s initials. There is an intimate nature to this painting, which seems underscored by the loose clothing worn by both subjects. However, diis reading of the costumes as signs of grief does not take account of seventeenth-century fashion conventions. Only Killigrew appears in noticeably disheveled attire;

Crofts\' dress would be quite appropriate for a formal portrait. Though black clothing, such as that won by Crofil, was common for mourning, it was also ordinary on other occasions. Furthermore, during the first stage of mounting no shiny surfaces, such as Crofts\' satin doublet, would be permitted. The unbuttoned slit on Crofts\' doublet was probably a matter of style: a French courtier in a 1635 fashion print by Bosse. who is gallivanting rather than grieving, wears a similarly undone doublet. Evidence suggests that by the late 1630s a certain calculated looseness was conventional in men\'s formal dress. Ribeiro. for example, cites the writings of moralists objecting to this style.

Killigrew\'s attire, though even looser than Crofts', should not necessarily be associated with grief. Other seventeenth-century subjects depicted in melancholic states do not dress this way. Although Killigrew\'s "undress" lends this portrait a distinctive intimacy, it might also refer to Killigrew\'s literary career. Many of Van Dyck\'s other subjects who engaged in literary pursuits are depicted in loose clothing. The blank sheet held by Crofts may be a reminder not only of Killigrew\'s loss but also of his solace: he had but to express his grief in writing.

The passage suggests which of the following about Van Dyck\'s portraits of men?

- A. They included fewer fashionable accessories than did his portraits of women.
- B. They frequently depicted subjects in states of melancholy or mounting.
- C. They gave less attention to men\'s clothing than did most paintings of the time.
- D. They did not usually include loose or disheveled clothing
- E. They were less innovative than were his portraits of women.

Correct Answer: E

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#### QUESTION 11

In contrast to today, when many readers consider the moral sentiments expressed in the ancient writer\'s work to be quite sophomoric. in the writer\'! own tune these sentiments were regarded as remarkably\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. arcane
- B. brash
- C. melancholy
- D. sagacious
- E. sanguine

Correct Answer: C

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#### QUESTION 12

W.E.

B. Du Bois's exhibit of African American history and culture at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle attracted the attention of a world of sociological scholarship whose values his work challenged. Du Bois believed that sociological sociologists failed in their attempts to gain greater understanding of human deeds because their work examined not deeds but theories and because they gathered data not to effect social progress but merely to theorize. In his exhibit. Du Bois sought to present cultural artifacts that would shift the focus of sociology from the construction of vast generalizations to the observation of particular. living individual elements of society and the working contributions of individual people to a vast functioning social structure. The passage implies that Du Bois believed which of the following statements about sociology?

A.

It should contribute to the betterment of society.

B.

It should study what people actually do.

C.

It should focus on how existing social structures determine individual behavior.

Correct Answer: B

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### QUESTION 13

Recent research has questioned the long-standing view of pearly mussels as exclusively suspension feeders (animals that strain suspended particles from water) that subsist on phytoplankton (mostly algae). Early studies of mussel feeding were based on analyses of gut contents, a method that has three weaknesses. First, material in mucus-bound gut contents is difficult to identify and quantify. Second, material found in the gut may pass undigested out of the mussel, not contributing to its nutrition. Finally, examination of gut contents offers limited insight into the mechanisms and behaviors by which mussels acquire food. Modern studies suggest that pearly mussels feed on more than just algae and may use other means than suspension feeding. Pedal feeding (sweeping up edible material with a muscular structure called the foot) has been observed in juvenile pearly mussels.

Besides the phytoplankton pearly mussels capture from the water column, their guts also contain small animals, protozoans, and detritus (nonliving particulate organic material). Recent studies show that mussels can capture and assimilate bacteria as well, a potentially important source of food in many fresh waters. Another potential source of food for mussels is dissolved organic matter. Early studies showing that pearly mussels could take up simple organic compounds were largely discounted because such labile (unstable) compounds are rarely abundant in nature. Nevertheless, recent work on other bivalves suggests that dissolved organic matter may be a significant source of nutrition.

Of this complex mix of materials that pearly mussels acquire, what is actually required and assimilated? Stable-isotope analyses of mussels taken from nature and of captive-reared mussels are beginning to offer some insight into this question. Nichols and Garling showed that pearly mussels in a small river were omnivorous, subsisting mainly on particles less than 25 micrometers in diameter, including algae, detritus, and bacteria. Bacterially derived carbon was apparently the primary source of soft-tissue carbon. However, bacteria alone cannot support mussel growth, because they lack the necessary long-chain fatty acids and sterols and are deficient in some amino acids. Bacteria may supplement other food resources, provide growth factors, or be the primary food in habitats such as headwater streams, where phytoplankton is scarce. Juvenile mussels have been most successfully reared in the laboratory on diets containing algae high in polyunsaturated fatty acids. Thus, it appears that the pearly mussel diet in nature may consist

of algae, bacteria, detritus, and small animals and that at least some algae and bacteria may be required as a source of essential biochemicals.

Which of the following can be inferred about the "recent research?"

- A. Little of it has been conducted on mussels in their natural habitats.
- B. Some of it has produced findings that overturn earlier assumptions about pearly mussels' competition for food.
- C. Some of it has been conducted by methods other than analysis of gut contents.
- D. It has revealed little about the mechanisms and behavior by which pearly mussels acquire food.
- E. It has invalidated researchers' questions about what pearly mussels eat.

Correct Answer: C

#### QUESTION 14

$n$  is an integer and  $x > 1$ .

$$(x^{2+n})(x^{2-n}) = x^{4-n^2}$$

Quantity A

$n$

Quantity B

2

- A. Quantity A is greater.
- B. Quantity B is greater.
- C. The two quantities are equal.
- D. The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Correct Answer: B

#### QUESTION 15

For each item, a manager calculates the ratio of the manufacturing cost to the manufacturing time. Which of the following is closest to the value of the greatest of these eleven ratios, in dollars per minute?

- A. 2.5
- B. 3.5
- C. 4.0
- D. 4.5
- E. 5.0

Correct Answer: B

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