



Take Test: American Voices Exam

Description

Instructions

Multiple Attempts

Not allowed. This Test can only be taken once.

Force Completion

This Test can be saved and resumed later.

Save All Answers

Save and Submit

Question 1

2 points

Save Answer

Read the excerpt from Clarence Day's "The Gift of Song."

We sat down, frightened, at table. I was exhausted. But the soup was a life-saver. It was more like a stew, really. Rich milk, oyster juice, and big oysters. I put lots of small hard crackers in mine, and one slice of French toast. That hot toast soaked in soup was delicious, only there wasn't much of it, and as Father particularly liked it, we had to leave it for him. But there was plenty of soup: a great tureen full. Each boy had two helpings.

Father came down in the middle of it, still offended, but he ate his full share. I guess he was somewhat in need of a life-saver himself. The chops and peas and potatoes came on. He gradually forgot how we'd wronged him.

Which explains the purpose in the excerpt?

- ☐ The boys are ungrateful for the meal.
- ☐ Food can be comforting and helped in moving on with their conflict.
- ☐ Soups that are more like stews are delicious.
- ☐ The boys' father is a mean man.

Question 2

2 points

Save Answer

Read the excerpt from Clarence Day's "The Gift of Song."

I planted myself respectfully before him. He played the first note. He never wasted time in explanations; that was not his way; and I had only the dimmest understanding of what he wished me to do. But I struck out, haphazard, and chanted the extraordinary syllables loudly.

"No, no, no!" said Father, disgustedly.

We tried it again.

"No, no, no!" He struck the notes louder.

We tried it repeatedly. . . .

Which **best** describes the use of tone in the excerpt?

- ☐ The author uses an angry tone when describing the father's reactions to his son's attempts at singing.
- ☐ The author uses a frustrated tone when describing the father's reactions to his son's attempts at singing.
- ☐ The author uses a calm tone when describing the father's reactions to his son's attempts at singing.
- ☐ The author uses an encouraging tone when describing the father's reactions to his son's attempts at singing.

Question 3

2 points

Save Answer

Read the excerpt from Clarence Day's "The Gift of Song."

At the end of what seemed to me an hour, I still stood at attention, while Father still tried energetically to force me to sing. It was an absolute deadlock. He wouldn't give in, and I couldn't. Two or three times I had felt for a moment I was getting the hang of it, but my voice wouldn't do what I wanted; I don't think it could.

Which **best** explains how the excerpt communicates the purpose of the piece?

- ☐ It depicts the conflict that guides the entire piece by showing that the father is reluctant to accept that his son will not meet with the expectations he has set for him.
- ☐ It depicts the sadness the boy feels due to the ongoing music lesson, which makes him feel bad

singing these songs, which make him feel bad about singing unsuccessfully.

- ☐ It depicts the action of the story, which helps the reader understand that the piece will be about a boy trying to learn to sing.
- ☐ It depicts the boy's failure to sing properly, which sparks the conflict he will have with his father about continuing the music lessons.

Question 4

2 points

Save Answer

Which option represents the use of a personal example?

- ☒ I was so nervous and scared at that moment when everyone's eyes were on me that I wished I were with Papa and Roberto picking cotton.
- ☐ Two hours later, around eight o'clock, I stood by the side of the road waiting for school bus number twenty.
- ☒ The neatly dressed boys about my age got off. They carried books under their arms. After they crossed the street, the bus drove away.
- ☒ Within an hour it was too dark to continue picking.

Question 5

2 points

Save Answer

Read the excerpt from Francisco Jiménez's "The Circuit."

"Don't drink too much; you'll get sick," Roberto shouted. No sooner had he said that than I felt sick to my stomach. I dropped to my knees and let the jug roll off my hands. I remained motionless with my eyes glued on the hot sandy ground. All I could hear was the drone of insects.

What is the figurative meaning of the underlined word?

- ☐ The figurative meaning is that he remains focused on the ground in front of him.
- ☒ The figurative meaning is that his eyes have been directly stuck to the ground due to the glue's adhesiveness.
- ☐ The figurative meaning is that he is exceptionally ill.
- ☐ The figurative meaning is that he was being punished for drinking too much water.

Question 6

2 points

Save Answer

What describes a conclusion that can be drawn about the purpose of the story, “The Circuit”?

- ☐ Children of migrant workers were required to work alongside their parents.
- ☐ Children of migrant workers should be able to use both English and Spanish at school.
- ☐ Children of migrant workers avoided school because they felt embarrassed about looking different.
- ☐ Children of migrant workers should not become too comfortable with their current living conditions because of the nature of always having to move.

Question 7

2 points

Save Answer

Read the statement of purpose for “The Circuit” by Francisco Jimenez.

The purpose is to show that, among the many agonies of being a migrant worker’s child, having to leave people that they get to know was perhaps the most painful.

What textual evidence would be supportive of this statement of purpose?

- ☐ “Mr Lema, the sixth grade teacher, greeted me and assigned me a desk.”
- ☐ “That night, by the light of a kerosene lamp, we unpacked and cleaned our new home.”
- ☐ “Sunday, only one—the best picker—came to work. I liked him.... That Sunday was the last time I saw him.”
- ☐ “Early the next morning Mr. Sullivan showed us where his crop was, and after breakfast, Papa, Roberto, and I headed for the vineyard to pick.”

Question 8

2 points

Save Answer

Read the statement of purpose for “Aha Moment” by Julia Alvarez.

The purpose is to show how the author is interested in the lives of other passengers on the plane.

What textual evidence would be **most** helpful in supporting the statement of purpose?

Supporting the statement of purpose.

- ☐ "I thought of something I had heard a friend say about the wonderful gift his dying father had given the family: He had died peacefully, as if not to alarm any of them about an experience they would all have to go through someday."
- ☐ "Among the many feelings going through my head during those excruciating 20 minutes was pride—pride in how well everybody was behaving. No one panicked. No one screamed."
- ☐ "The flight attendants, already strapped in, waved wildly for me to sit down. As I lunged ahead toward my seat, passengers looked up at me with the stricken expression of creatures who know they are about to die."
- ☐ "‘I think we got hit by lightning,’ the girl in the seat next to mine said. She was from a small town in east Texas, and this was only her second time on an airplane. She had won a trip to England by competing in a high school geography bee and was supposed to make a connecting flight when we landed in Newark."

Question 9

2 points

Save Answer

Read the excerpt from "Aha Moment" by Julia Alvarez.

"I think we got hit by lightning," the girl in the seat next to mine said. She was from a small town in east Texas, and this was only her second time on an airplane. She had won a trip to England by competing in a high school geography bee and was supposed to make a connecting flight when we landed in Newark.

Given the context of the passage, what is the **most** accurate description of the story's setting?

- ☐ The story is set in the contemporary United States.
- ☐ The story is set in contemporary England.
- ☐ The story is set in contemporary Newark, New Jersey.
- ☐ The story is set in the contemporary world.

Question 10

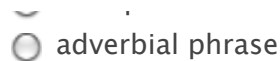
2 points

Save Answer

The basketball team is scheduled to play in the national tournament.

Which type of phrase is underlined in the sentence?

- ☐ absolute phrase
- ☐ noun phrase
- ☐ verb phrase

**Question 11**

2 points

Save Answer

Read the passage.

Many parents encourage their children to participate in team sports. According to many, team sports help build discipline and teamwork. However, some parents are very competitive.

Which sentence adds the most value and interest when inserted at the end of the passage?

- ☐ Such pressure can reduce children's enjoyment and cause them to feel overwhelmed.
- ☐ This pressure can cause students to feel overwhelmed by the amount of pressure placed on them.
- ☐ Competitive parents can place too much pressure on their children, causing the children to feel overwhelmed.
- ☐ Competitive parents often irritate coaching staff, which can lead to their child receiving less playing time.

Question 12

2 points

Save Answer

Read the passage.

In recent years the video game industry has come under intense fire. Critics claim that video games involving shooting people promote violent tendencies. All video games are not shooting games.

Which of the following sentences is **complex** and adds the most value and interest when inserted at the end of the passage?

- ☐ Some video games are more expensive than others.
- ☐ Nobody wants to play video games that are boring and only shooting games are fun.
- ☐ Although some video games involve shooting, the critics may be unfairly targeting the video game industry.
- ☐ Shooting games teach skills like self-defense and survival.

Question 13

2 points

Save Answer

Question 13

Which sentence uses commas correctly?

- ☐ Mrs. Johnson, who is the principal at my school, is a hockey fan.
- ☐ Mrs. Johnson, who is the principal at my school is a hockey fan.
- ☐ Mrs. Johnson who is the principal at my school is a hockey fan.
- ☐ Mrs. Johnson who is the principal, at my school, is a hockey fan.

Question 14**2 points****Save Answer**

Which sentence uses dashes correctly?

- ☐ A student's reading level increases—when he or she reads between 500 thousand–1 million words.
- ☐ The tennis shoes cost \$100—I hope I have enough money—and are available in many colors.
- ☐ Last summer—my sister traveled to the United Arab Emirates.
- ☐ Even when we are playing well, Mr. Griffin—our tennis coach—yells too much!

Question 15**2 points****Save Answer**

Identify the sentence that uses quotation marks correctly.

- ☐ The chain turned colors in "four weeks," but when I took it back to the jeweler, he insisted it was real sterling silver.
- ☐ The chain turned colors in four weeks, but when I took it back to the jeweler, he "insisted" it was real sterling silver.
- ☐ The chain turned colors in four weeks, but when I took it back to the jeweler, he insisted it was "real" sterling silver.
- ☐ The chain turned "colors" in four weeks, but when I took it back to the jeweler, he insisted it was real "sterling silver."

Question 16**2 points****Save Answer**

Read the sentence.

Although Jessica is always ready to go to the movies with Lauren, she said she was tired when I asked her.

Where should the quotation marks go to express

Where should the quotation marks go to express sarcasm or irony in the sentence?

- ☐ Place quotation marks around *always*.
- ☐ Place quotation marks around *Lauren*
- ☐ Place quotation marks around *to go*.
- ☐ Place quotation marks around *tired*.

Question 17

2 points

Save Answer

Read the sentence.

My mom said, "Take this bow in the road slowly; it is tricky."

Identify the synonym that reflects the meaning of the word as used in the sentence.

- ☐ curve
- ☐ accept
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ knot

Question 18

2 points

Save Answer

Read the sentence.

Her rude comment startled everyone in the room.

Identify the antonym for the underlined word in the sentence.

- ☐ Impolite
- ☐ aggressive
- ☐ polite
- ☐ coarse

Question 19

2 points

Save Answer

Read the sentence.

The family was hampered by the economy, so the church donated a hamper of goods to them.

Identify the two different meanings of the same the word in the sentence.

- ☐ bound, basket
- ☐ secure, binding
- ☐ secure, basket
- ☐ stuck together, compelled

Question 20

2 points

Save Answer

Read the dictionary entry.

-hood: word-forming element meaning "state or condition of being," from Old English *-had*, meaning "condition, position"

- ☐ Robin Hood and his merry men were outlaws in England for many years.
- ☐ Sir Edward was honored with a knighthood for his service to the crown.
- ☐ My oldest sister always wore a yellow, tattered

Question Completion Status:

, insisted that John remove his hood.

Question 21

2 points

Save Answer

Which option describes the use of an imagined experience in a narrative essay about the Great Depression?

- ☐ the dates on which the story took place
- ☐ the names of products that were popular during that time
- ☐ a description of the taste of dust and sweat
- ☐ a quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt's inaugural address

Question 22

2 points

Save Answer

Which strategy would be **most** useful in developing a character for a narrative essay?

- ☐ Use dialogue to allow the character's voice to reveal his or her personality.
- ☐ Give your character heroic qualities so that the reader will like him or her.
- ☐ Shape your character to be like your best friend.
- ☐ Research people who lived during the time in which the essay is set.

Question 23

2 points

Save Answer

Which style of writing would be **most** helpful to Nathan as he explains why learning to play chess is a good use of time?

- ☐ descriptive
- ☐ persuasive
- ☐ narrative
- ☐ informational

Question 24

2 points

[Save Answer](#)

Which narrative device would be the **most** helpful in developing a complex storyline?

- ☐ dialogue
- ☐ pacing
- ☐ multiple plot lines
- ☐ description

Question 25

2 points

[Save Answer](#)

Which set of words might be helpful in creating a frightening mood?

- ☐ scarlet-faced; pistol, kidnapped; madman
- ☐ diapers; children; building blocks; playroom
- ☐ excursions; cruise ship; volleyball; video game room
- ☐ monkeys; zoo; vacation; tourists

Question 26

2 points

[Save Answer](#)

Read the sentence:

The lincoln memorial hospital is in her Mother's hometown of Decatur, Il.

Which option represents the **best** revision to the sentence?

- ☐ The Lincoln memorial hospital is in her mother's hometown of Decatur, Illinois.
- ☐ The Lincoln Memorial Hospital is in her Mother's hometown of Decatur, IL.
- ☐ The Lincoln Memorial Hospital is in her mother's hometown of Decatur, Illinois.
- ☐ The Lincoln Memorial hospital is in her Mother's hometown of Decatur, Il.

Question 27

2 points

[Save Answer](#)

Which option represents the appropriate use of a dash?

- ☐ Mercedes planned to invite—John, Jessica, Rachel, Rick, Ryan, Annabelle, Jacob—well, pretty much the whole class!
- ☐ Mercedes planned to invite John, Jessica, Rachel, Rick, Ryan, Annabelle, Jacob—well, pretty much the whole class!
- ☐ Mercedes—planned to invite John, Jessica, Rachel, Rick, Ryan, Annabelle, Jacob—well, pretty much the whole class!
- ☐ Mercedes planned—to invite John, Jessica, Rachel, Rick, Ryan, Annabelle, Jacob—well, pretty much the whole class!

Question 28

2 points

[Save Answer](#)

Which option shows a compound sentence?

- ☐ The rocket launch would happen Tuesday, and Margaret was eager to see it.
- ☐ The rocket launch would happen Tuesday, and Margaret, who loved rockets, was eager to see it.
- ☐ The rocket launch, which was scheduled for Tuesday, was during Margaret's vacation.
- ☐ Margaret was eager to see the rocket launch on Tuesday.

Question 29

2 points

[Save Answer](#)

Read the sentence:

Casey who lives in Santa Cruz is excited about the start of school.

Which option shows correct comma usage?

- ☐ Casey who lives in Santa Cruz, is excited about the start of school.
- ☐ Casey, who lives in Santa Cruz, is excited about the start of school.
- ☐ Casey, who lives in Santa Cruz, is excited, about the start of school.
- ☐ Casey who lives in Santa Cruz is excited, about the start of school.

Save and Submit

Save and Submit

Save All Answers

Save and Submit