

## 1994 AP English Literature

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

Directions: This section 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 the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-14. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

- The Sunday morning service began when Brother Elisha sat down at the piano and raised a song. This moment and this music had been with John, so it seemed, since he had first drawn breath. It seemed that
- (5) there had never been a time when he had not known this moment of waiting while the packed church paused—the sisters in white, heads raised, the brothers in blue, heads back; the white caps of the women seeming to glow in the charged air like crowns, the
- (10) kinky, gleaming heads of the men seeming to be lifted up—and the rustling and the whispering ceased and the children were quiet; perhaps someone coughed, or the sound of a car horn, or a curse from the streets came in; then Elisha hit the keys, beginning at once to sing,
- (15) and everybody joined him, clapping their hands, and rising, and beating the tambourines.  
The song might be: *Down at the cross where my Saviour died!*  
Or: *Jesus. I'll never forget how you set me free!*
- (20) Or: *Lord. hold my hand while I run this race!*  
They sang with all the strength that was in them, and clapped their hands for joy. There had never been a time when John had not sat watching the saints rejoice with terror in his heart, and wonder. Their singing
- (25) caused him to believe in the presence of the Lord; indeed, it was no longer a question of belief, because they made that presence real. He did not feel it himself, the joy they felt, yet he could not doubt that it was, for them, the very bread of life—could not doubt it, that is,
- (30) until it was too late to doubt. Something happened to their faces and their voices, the rhythm of their bodies, and to the air they breathed; it was as though wherever they might be became the upper room, and the Holy Ghost were riding on the air. His father's face, always
- (35) awful, became more awful now; his father's daily anger was transformed into prophetic wrath. His mother, her eyes raised to heaven, hands arced before her, moving,

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made real for John that patience, that endurance, that long suffering, which he had read of in the Bible and found so hard to imagine.

(40) On Sunday mornings the women all seemed patient, all the men seemed mighty. While John watched, the Power struck someone, a man or woman; they cried out, a long, wordless crying, and, arms outstretched like wings, they began the Shout. Someone moved a chair a little to give them room, the rhythm paused, the singing stopped, only the pounding feet and the clapping hands were heard; then another cry, another dancer; then the tambourines began again, and the voices rose again, and the music swept on again, like fire, or flood, or judgment.

(50) Then the church seemed to swell with the Power it held, and, like a planet rocking in space, the temple rocked with the Power of God. John watched, watched the faces, and the weightless bodies, and

(55) listened to the timeless cries. One day, so everyone said, this Power would possess him; he would sing and cry as they did now, and dance before his King.

1. The passage is primarily concerned with
  - A) John's attitude toward the Sunday service
  - B) John's theories about the power of the Lord
  - C) the impact of music on John's church
  - D) John's relationship with his parents
  - E) the role of John's church in his future
2. In lines 12-14, the words "perhaps someone coughed, or the sound of a car horn, or a curse from the streets came in" have which of the following effects?
  - A) They retard the tempo of the speaker's prose.
  - B) They satirize the faith of the churchgoers.
  - C) They highlight the distractions that spoil the audience's concentration.
  - D) They change, for a moment, the point of view of the speaker.
  - E) They emphasize, by contrast, the hushed silence in the church.
3. Which of the following best describes the effect produced by the repetition of the phrase "there had never been a time when" in lines 5 and 22-23 ?
  - A) It signals to the reader that attending church is an unpleasant event for John.
  - B) It emphasizes how vague John's memory of his youth is.
  - C) It establishes the contrast between John's past and future.
  - D) It emphasizes the pervasiveness of the Sunday service in John's memory.
  - E) It alerts the reader to John's naïveté
4. It can be inferred from the phrase "with terror in his heart, and wonder" (line 24) that John
  - A) dreaded attending church services on Sundays
  - B) responded strongly but ambivalently to the church service
  - C) found the music in the church mystifying and unpleasant
  - D) was indifferent to the emotional force that lay behind the singing
  - E) was disturbed by the insincerity of those singing

5. In lines 28-29, the pronoun "it" in the phrase "it was, for them" refers to
- A) "wonder" (line 24)
  - B) "singing" (line 24)
  - C) "question" (line 26)
  - D) "joy they felt" (line 28)
  - E) "bread of life" (line 29)
6. The depiction of John's father's "prophetic wrath" and his mother's "long suffering" (lines 36-39) serves what specific function in the narrative progress of the passage?
- A) It diverts the reader's attention from John's point of view.
  - B) It retards the pace of the narration prior to the climax.
  - C) It provides a specific example of a preceding general description.
  - D) It counters earlier references to the demeanor of the congregation.
  - E) It offers a parallel to the transformation John undergoes in the passage.
7. In context, "the saints" (line 23), "bread of life" (line 29), and "arms outstretched like wings" (lines 44-45) serve to
- A) evoke an otherworldly atmosphere resonant of the Bible
  - B) situate the passage within a socially conservative framework
  - C) highlight the bitter, sardonic humor of the passage
  - D) mask the passage's truly secular emphasis
  - E) endorse a particular approach to spiritual matters
8. The qualifiers "for them" (lines 28-29) and "so everyone said" (lines 55-56) suggest that
- A) John is confident that he will replace his doubt with joy and ecstasy
  - B) John shares the experience of those around him sympathetically
  - C) John feels himself to be isolated from the rest of the congregation
  - D) the speaker views the congregation as the ultimate authority over John
  - E) the speaker is more interested in the experience of the congregation than in that of John
9. The image of "a planet rocking in space" (line 52) suggests all of the following EXCEPT the
- A) energy generated by the worshippers
  - B) power of God in the heavens
  - C) swaying of the congregation to the music
  - D) cohesiveness and unity of the congregation
  - E) despair of those who are bound to earth
10. The attention the speaker pays to the details of sound serves primarily to
- A) distract the reader from the disconcerting issues raised in the passage
  - B) offer the reader a physical sense of the church service
  - C) construct a metaphor for John's position in the congregation
  - D) entertain the reader prior to the presentation of more challenging material
  - E) complement the attention paid to the visual and the tactile
11. The style of the passage as a whole is characterized by
- A) simple declarative sentences containing a minimum of descriptive language
  - B) complex sentences interspersed with short, exclamatory sentences
  - C) sentences that contain several modifying phrases and subordinate clauses
  - D) sentences that grow progressively more argumentative as the passage continues
  - E) expository sentences at the beginning that give way to interpretive sentences at the end

12. The irony in the passage as a whole rests chiefly on the conflict between
- A) the solemnity of the occasion and the joy of the worshippers
  - B) John's father's prophetic wrath and his mother's long suffering
  - C) the air of expectancy prior to the morning service and the sounds from the street
  - D) John's acute observation of religious ecstasy and his inability to participate in it
  - E) the change that takes place in the churchgoers on Sunday and their daily appearance and demeanor
13. The point of view in the passage is that of a
- A) participating observer who is partial to John
  - B) third-person narrator who is aware of John's thoughts
  - C) nonparticipating spectator who is unfamiliar with John's thoughts
  - D) first-person narrator who chooses to speak of himself in the third-person
  - E) third-person narrator who provides insight into the thoughts of several characters
14. Which of the following best describes the effect produced by the repetition of the words "seeming" and "seemed" throughout the passage?
- A) It serves to emphasize John's particular, individual perspective on the events described.
  - B) It functions as a reminder to the reader that the speaker is only telling a story.
  - C) It suggests that John's memory of the events described is vague and indistinct
  - D) It provides support for the extended allegory developed in the passage.
  - E) It highlights the speaker's capacities as an omniscient narrator.