

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

Questions 1-12, Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

If mere parsimony would have made a man rich, Sir Pitt Crawley might have become very wealthy-if he had been an attorney in a country town, with no capital but his brains, it is very possible that he would have turned them to good account, and might have achieved for himself a very considerable influence and competency. But he was unluckily endowed with a good name and a large though encumbered estate, both of which went rather to injure than to advance him. He had a taste for law, which cost him many thousands yearly; and being a great deal too clever to be robbed, as he said, by any single agent, allowed his affairs to be mismanaged by a dozen, whom he all equally mistrusted. He was such a sharp landlord, that he could hardly find any but bankrupt tenants; and such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen. He speculated in every possible way; he worked mines; bought canal-shares; horsed coaches; took government contracts, and was the busiest man and magistrate of his county. As he would not pay honest agents at his granite-quarry, he had the satisfaction of finding that four overseers ran away, and took fortunes with them to America. For want of proper precautions, his coal-mines filled with water: the government flung his contract of damaged beef upon his hands: and for his coach-horses, every mail proprietor in the kingdom knew that he lost more horses than any man in the country, from under-feeding and buying cheap. In disposition he was sociable, and far from being proud; nay, he rather preferred the society of a farmer or a horse-dealer to that of a gentlemen, like my Lord, his son: he was fond of drink, of swearing, of joking with the farmers' daughters: he was never known to give away a shilling or to do a good action, but was of a pleasant, sly, laughing mood, and would cut his joke, and drink his glass with a tenant and sell him up the next day; or have his laugh with the poacher he was transporting with equal good humour. His politeness for the fair sex has already been hinted at by Miss Rebecca Sharp-in a word, the whole baronetage, peerage, commonage of England, did not contain a more cunning, mean, selfish, foolish, disreputable old man. That blood-red hand of Sir Pitt would be in anybody's pocket

(45) except his own; and it is with grief and pain that, as admirers of the British aristocracy, we find ourselves obliged to admit the existence of so many ill qualities in a person whose name is in Debrett*.

One great cause why Mr. Crawley had such a hold over the affections of his father, resulted from money arrangements. The Baronet owed his son a sum of money out of the jointure of his mother, which he did not find it convenient to pay; indeed he had an almost invincible repugnance to paying anybody, and could only be brought by force to discharge his debts. Miss Sharp calculated (for she became, as we shall hear speedily, inducted into most of the secrets of the family), that the mere payment of his creditors cost the honorable Baronet several hundreds yearly; but this was a delight he could not forego; he had a savage pleasure in making the poor wretches wait, and in shifting from court to court and from term to term the period of satisfaction, What's the good of being in Parliament, he said, if you must pay your debts? Hence, indeed, his position as a senator was not a little useful to him.

*A directory of the British aristocracy.

1. Which of the following descriptions is an example of the narrator's irony?
 - A) "he was unluckily endowed with a good name" (lines 6-7)
 - B) "grudge almost the seed to the ground" (lines 15-16)
 - C) "He speculated in every possible way" (lines 17-18)
 - D) "his coal-mines filled with water" (lines 24-25)
 - E) "the government flung his contract of damaged beef upon his hands" (lines 25-26)
2. Which of the following phrases most pointedly refers to Sir Pitt's parsimonious character?
 - A) "a very considerable influence and competency" (lines 5-6)
 - B) "a great deal too clever to be robbed" (lines 10-11)
 - C) "allowed his affairs to be mismanaged by a dozen" (line 12)
 - D) "far from being proud" (line 30)
 - E) "invincible repugnance to paying anybody" (lines 52-53)
3. In context, the adjective "close" (line 15) is best interpreted as meaning
 - A) strict and rigorous
 - B) secretive and reclusive
 - C) overly cautious in spending
 - D) restricted to a privileged class
 - E) accurate and precise
4. The use of the word "satisfaction" in line 22 is an example of which of the following?
 - A) An exaggerated description of a trivial event in Sir Pitt's life
 - B) An ironic reference to the price Sir Pitt had to pay for his business mismanagement
 - C) A euphemism for Sir Pitt's words of anger
 - D) An allusion to Sir Pitt's ambivalent reaction to financial failures
 - E) A suggestion that Sir Pitt perversely took delight in discovering the defection of his overseers

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5. In the context of the sentence, the phrases "pleasant, sly, laughing mood" (line 35) and "good humour" (line 38) are used to show Sir Pitt's
- A) haughty condescension to members of a lower social class
 - B) uninhibited passions and misguided optimism
 - C) desire to instill a democratic sensibility in his son
 - D) awkwardness in the execution of his responsibilities as a landlord
 - E) duplicity and capacity for treachery
6. Which of the following terms is (are) meant to be taken ironically?
- I. "honorable" (line 57)
 - II. "delight" (line 58)
 - III. "pleasure" (line 59)
- A) I only
 - B) II only
 - C) III only
 - D) I and II only
 - E) I, II, and III
7. The passage suggests that, as a member of Parliament, Sir Pitt was
- A) competent and respected by his colleagues
 - B) devoted to the interests of country gentlemen like himself
 - C) a servant of the cause of the British aristocracy
 - D) inadequately compensated
 - E) using his position for selfish ends
8. Which of the following statements best defines Sir Pitt's relationship with his son?
- A) Sir Pitt is devoted to his son only out of a sense of moral obligation to his son's mother.
 - B) Sir Pitt makes a display of loving his son because of the debt he owes his son.
 - C) Sir Pitt pretends to cherish his son because he has designs on his son's inheritance.
 - D) Sir Pitt is unwilling to accept and provide for his son because of the personal grudge he holds against his son's mother.
 - E) Sir Pitt treats his son with disdain because he is jealous of the estate his son has inherited.
9. Which of the following best describes the effect of the last paragraph?
- A) It illustrates how Sir Pitt's political and family affairs reflect his character.
 - B) It counters speculations about Sir Pitt's character.
 - C) It shows how Sir Pitt's shortcomings are beneficial to his political career.
 - D) It introduces Miss Sharp's role as an observer of Sir Pitt's actions.
 - E) It suggests the causes of Sir Pitt's moral transformation.
10. The narrator attributes Sir Pitt's attitude and behavior to which of the following factors?
- A) Lack of formal education
 - B) Absence of religious beliefs
 - C) Traits of his ancestors
 - D) Social rank and flawed character
 - E) Unsuccessful marriage and unprofitable projects

11. The style of the passage as a whole can be best characterized as
- A) humorless and pedantic
 - B) effusive and subjective
 - C) descriptive and metaphorical
 - D) terse and epigrammatic
 - E) witty and analytical
12. The narrator's attitude toward Sir Pitt can be best described as one of
- A) pity
 - B) objectivity
 - C) sardonic condemnation
 - D) emotional judgment
 - E) jaded disgust