PHẦN 2: ĐỌC HIỂU – VSTEP

Thời gian: 60 phút
Số câu hỏi: 40

Directions: *In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C, or D for each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

This rapid transcontinental settlement and these new urban industrial circumstances of the last half of the 19th century were accompanied by the development of a national literature of great abundance and variety. New themes, new forms, new subjects, new regions, new authors, new audiences all emerged in the literature of this half century. As a result, at the onset of World War I, the spirit and substance of American literature had **evolved** remarkably, just as its center of production had shifted from Boston to New York in the late 1880s and the sources of its energy to Chicago and the Midwest. No longer was **it** produced, at least in its popular forms, in the main by solemn, typically moralistic men from New England and the Old South; no longer were polite, well-dressed, grammatically correct, middle-class young people the only central characters in its narratives; no longer were these narratives to be set in **exotic** places and remote times; no longer, **indeed**, were fiction, poetry, drama, and formal history the chief acceptable forms of literary expression; no longer, finally, was literature read primarily by young, middle class women. In sum, American literature in **these years** fulfilled in considerable measure the condition Walt Whitman called for in 1867 in describing Leaves of Grass: it treats, he said of his own major work, each state and region as peers "and expands from them, and includes the world connecting an American citizen with the citizens of all nations". At the same time, these years saw the emergence of what has been

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designated "the literature of argument", powerful works in sociology, philosophy, psychology, many of them impelled by the spirit of exposure and reform. Just as America learned to play a role in this half century as an autonomous international political, economic, and military power, so did its literature establish itself as a producer of major works.

1. The main idea of this passage is_____.

A. that the new American literature was less provincial than the old

B. that World War I caused a dramatic change in America

C. that centers of culture shifted from East to West

D. that most people were wary of the new literature

2. It can be inferred that the previous passage probably discussed_____.

A. the importance of tradition to writers

B. new developments in industrialization and population shifts

C. the fashions and values of 19th century America

D. the limitations of American literature to this time

3. The word "<u>evolved</u>" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. became famous B. turned back

C. diminished D. changed

4. The word "<u>it</u>" in the passage refers to

A. the population B. the energy

C. American literature D. the manufacturing

5. The word "<u>exotic</u>" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. urban B. unusual

C. well-known D. old-fashioned

6. The author uses the word "<u>indeed</u>" in the passage for what purpose?

A. To emphasize the contrast he is making

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B. For variety in a lengthy paragraph

C. To wind down his argument

D. To show a favorable attitude to these forms of literature

7. The phrase "<u>these years</u>" in the passage refers to_____.

A. 1850-1900 B. the 1900s

C. the early 1800s D. the present

8. It can be inferred from the passage that Walt Whitman_____.

A. disliked urban life

B. was disapproving of the new literature

C. wrote Leaves of Grass

D. was an international diplomat

9. All of the following can be inferred from the passage about the new literature EXCEPT____.

A. It was not highly regarded internationally.

B. It introduced new American themes, characters, and settings.

C. It broke with many literary traditions of the past.

D. It spoke to the issue of reform and change.

10. This passage would probably be read in which of the following academic courses?

A. European history B. American literature

C. Current events D. International affairs

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

When Daniel Boone died peacefully in bed in his son Nathan's elegant stone Missouri farmhouse on September 26,1820, the surge of emigrants along the Oregon Trail was still a generation away. But Boone already exemplified the pioneer at his best. He was neither the physical giant (five feet nine) nor the innocent child of nature that legend has made of him. He was an intelligent, soft spoken family man who cherished the same wife for 57 years. He befriended Indians, preferred company to solitude, and when he told his wife it was time to move because a newcomer had settled some 70 miles away, he was

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