

Fourth Quarter Reading Quiz I

- Perhaps the most striking quality of satiric literature is its freshness, its originality of perspective. Satire rarely offers original ideas. Instead, it presents the familiar in a new form. Satirists do not offer the world new philosophies. What they do is look at familiar conditions from a perspective that makes these conditions seem foolish, harmful, or affected. Satire jars us out of complacency into a pleasantly shocked realization that many of the values we unquestioningly accept are false. *Don Quixote* makes chivalry seem absurd; *Brave New World* ridicules the pretensions of science; *A Modest Proposal* dramatizes starvation by advocating cannibalism. None of these ideas is original. Chivalry was suspect before Cervantes, humanists objected to the claims of pure science before Aldous Huxley, and people were aware of famine before Swift. It was not the originality of the idea that made these satires popular. It was the manner of expression, the satiric method, that made them interesting and entertaining. Satires are read because they are aesthetically satisfying works of art, not because they are morally wholesome or ethically instructive. They are stimulating and refreshing because with commonsense briskness they brush away illusions and secondhand opinions. With spontaneous irreverence, satire rearranges perspectives, scrambles familiar objects into incongruous juxtaposition, and speaks in a personal idiom instead of abstract platitude.
- (15) Satire exists because there is need for it. It has lived because readers appreciate a refreshing stimulus, an irreverent reminder that they live in a world of platitudinous thinking, cheap moralizing, and foolish philosophy. Satire serves to prod people into an awareness of truth, though rarely to any action on behalf of truth. Satire tends to remind people that much of what they see, hear, and read in popular media is sanctimonious, sentimental, and only partially true. Life resembles in only a slight degree the popular image of it. Soldiers rarely hold the ideals that movies attribute to them, nor do ordinary citizens devote their lives to unselfish service of humanity. Intelligent people know these things but tend to forget them when they do not hear them expressed.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Difficulties of writing satiric literature
- (B) Popular topics of satire
- (C) New philosophies emerging from satiric literature
- (D) Reasons for the popularity of satire

2. The word "realization" in line 6 is closest in meaning to

- (A) certainty
- (B) awareness
- (C) surprise
- (D) confusion

3. Why does the author mention *Don Quixote*, *Brave New World*, and *A Modest Proposal* in lines 6-8?

- (A) They are famous examples of satiric literature.
- (B) They present commonsense solutions to problems.
- (C) They are appropriate for readers of all ages.
- (D) They are books with similar stories.

4. The word "aesthetically" in line 13 is closest in meaning to

- (A) artistically
- (B) exceptionally
- (C) realistically
- (D) dependable

5. Which of the following can be found in satiric literature?

- (A) Newly emerging philosophies
- (B) Odd combinations of objects and ideas
- (C) Abstract discussion of morals and ethics
- (D) Wholesome characters who are unselfish

6. According to the passage, there is a need for satire because people need to be

- (A) informed about new scientific developments
- (B) exposed to original philosophies when they are formulated
- (C) reminded that popular ideas are often inaccurate
- (D) told how they can be of service to their communities

7. The word "refreshing" in line 19 is closest in meaning to

- (A) popular
- (B) ridiculous
- (C) meaningful
- (D) unusual

8. The word "they" in line 22 refers to

- (A) people
- (B) media

- (C) ideals
- (D) movies

9. The word "devote" in line 25 is closest in meaning to

- (A) distinguish
- (B) feel affection
- (C) prefer
- (D) dedicate

10. As a result of reading satiric literature, readers will be most likely to

- (A) teach themselves to write fiction
- (B) accept conventional points of view
- (C) become better informed about current affairs
- (D) reexamine their opinions and values

11. The various purposes of satire include all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) introducing readers to unfamiliar situations
- (B) brushing away illusions
- (C) reminding readers of the truth
- (D) exposing false values

12. Why does the author mention "service of humanity" in line 25?

- (A) People need to be reminded to take action
- (B) Readers appreciate knowing about it
- (C) It is an ideal that is rarely achieved
- (D) Popular media often distort such stories

The Winterthur Museum is a collection and a house. There are many museums devoted to the decorative arts and many house museums, but rarely in the United States is a great collection displayed in a great country house. Passing through successive generations of a single family, Winterthur has been a private estate for more than a century. Even after the extensive renovations made to it between 1929 and 1931, the house remained a family residence. This fact is of importance to the atmosphere and effect of the museum. The impression of a lived-in house is apparent to the visitor; the rooms look as if they were vacated only a short while ago whether by the original owners of the furniture or the most recent residents of the house can be a matter of personal interpretation. Winterthur remains, then, a house in which a collection of furniture and architectural elements has been assembled. Like an English country house, it is an organic structure; the house, as well as the collection and manner of displaying it to the visitor, has changed over the years. The changes have coincided with developing concepts of the American arts, increased knowledge on the part of collectors and students, and a progression toward the achievement of a historical effect in period-room displays. The rooms at Winterthur have followed this current, yet still retained the character of a private house.

The concept of a period room as a display technique has developed gradually over the years in an effort to present works of art in a context that would show them to greater effect and would give them more meaning for the viewer. Comparable to the habitat group in a natural history museum, the period room represents the decorative arts in a lively and interesting manner and provides an opportunity to assemble objects related by style, date, or place of manufacture.

13. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The reason that Winterthur was redesigned
- (B) Elements that make Winterthur an unusual museum
- (C) How Winterthur compares to English country houses
- (D) Historical furniture contained in Winterthu

14. What happened at Winterthur between 1929 and 1931?

- (A) The owners moved out.
- (B) The house was repaired.
- (C) The old furniture was replaced.

(D) The estate became a museum.

16. What does the author mean by stating "The impression of a lived-in house is apparent to the visitor" (line 7)?

- (A) Winterthur is very old.
- (B) Few people visit Winterthur.
- (C) Winterthur does not look like a typical museum.
- (D) The furniture at Winterthur looks comfortable.

17. The word "assembled" in line 11 is closest in meaning to

- (A) summoned
- (B) appreciated
- (C) brought together
- (D) fundamentally changed

18. The word "it" in line 12 refers to

- (A) Winterthur
- (B) collection
- (C) English country house
- (D) visitor

19. The word "developing" in line 14 is closest in meaning to

- (A) traditional
- (B) exhibiting
- (C) informative
- (D) evolving

20. According to the passage, objects in a period room are related by all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) date
- (B) style
- (C) place of manufacture
- (D) past ownership

28. What is the relationship between the two paragraphs in the passage?

- (A) The second paragraph explains a term that was mentioned in the first paragraph.
- (B) Each paragraph describes a different approach to the display

of objects in a museum.

(C) The second paragraph explains a philosophy of art appreciation that contrasts with the philosophy explained in the first paragraph.

(D) Each paragraph describes a different historical period.

29. Where in the passage does the author explain why displays at Winterthur have changed?

- (A) lines 1-3
- (B) lines 5-6
- (C) lines 7-10
- (D) lines 13-16

IELTs Reading

A) In recent years we have all been exposed to dire media reports concerning the impending demise of global coal and oil reserves, but the depletion of another key non-renewable resource continues without receiving much press at all. Helium – an inert, odourless, monatomic element known to lay people as the substance that makes balloons float and voices squeak when inhaled – could be gone from this planet within a generation.

B) Helium itself is not rare; there is actually a plentiful supply of it in the cosmos. In fact, 24 per cent of our galaxy's elemental mass consists of helium, which makes it the second most abundant element in our universe. Because of its lightness, however, most helium vanished from our own planet many years ago. Consequently, only a minuscule proportion – 0.00052%, to be

exact – remains in earth's atmosphere. Helium is the by-product of millennia of radioactive decay from the elements thorium and uranium. The helium is mostly trapped in subterranean natural gas bunkers and commercially extracted through a method known as fractional distillation.

C) The loss of helium on Earth would affect society greatly. Defying the perception of it as a novelty substance for parties and gimmicks, the element actually has many vital applications in society. Probably the most well known commercial usage is in airships and blimps (non-flammable helium replaced hydrogen as the lifting gas du jour after the Hindenburg catastrophe in 1932, during which an airship burst into flames and crashed to the ground killing some passengers and crew). But helium is also instrumental in deep-sea diving, where it is blended with nitrogen to mitigate the dangers of inhaling ordinary air under high pressure; as a cleaning agent for rocket engines; and, in its most prevalent use, as a coolant for superconducting magnets in hospital MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanners.

D) The possibility of losing helium forever poses the threat of a real crisis because its unique qualities are extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible to duplicate (certainly, no biosynthetic ersatz product is close to approaching the point of feasibility for helium, even as similar developments continue apace for oil and coal). Helium is even cheerfully derided as a “loner” element since it does not adhere to other molecules like its cousin, hydrogen. According to Dr. Lee Sobotka, helium is the “most noble of gases, meaning it's very stable and non-

reactive for the most part ... it has a closed electronic configuration, a very tightly bound atom. It is this coveting of its own electrons that prevents combination with other elements'. Another important attribute is helium's unique boiling point, which is lower than that for any other element. The worsening global shortage could render millions of dollars of high-value, life-saving equipment totally useless. The dwindling supplies have already resulted in the postponement of research and development projects in physics laboratories and manufacturing plants around the world. There is an enormous supply and demand imbalance partly brought about by the expansion of high-tech manufacturing in Asia.

E) The source of the problem is the Helium Privatisation Act (HPA), an American law passed in 1996 that requires the U.S. National Helium Reserve to liquidate its helium assets by 2015 regardless of the market price. Although intended to settle the original cost of the reserve by a U.S. Congress ignorant of its ramifications, the result of this fire sale is that global helium prices are so artificially deflated that few can be bothered recycling the substance or using it judiciously. Deflated values also mean that natural gas extractors see no reason to capture helium. Much is lost in the process of extraction. As Sobotka notes: "[t]he government had the good vision to store helium, and the question now is: Will the corporations have the vision to capture it when extracting natural gas, and consumers the wisdom to recycle? This takes long-term vision because present market forces are not

sufficient to compel prudent practice". For Nobel-prize laureate Robert Richardson, the U.S. government must be prevailed upon to repeal its privatisation policy as the country supplies over 80 per cent of global helium, mostly from the National Helium Reserve. For Richardson, a twenty- to fifty-fold increase in prices would provide incentives to recycle.

F) A number of steps need to be taken in order to avert a costly predicament in the coming decades. Firstly, all existing supplies of helium ought to be conserved and released only by permit, with medical uses receiving precedence over other commercial or recreational demands. Secondly, conservation should be obligatory and enforced by a regulatory agency. At the moment some users, such as hospitals, tend to recycle diligently while others, such as NASA, squander massive amounts of helium. Lastly, research into alternatives to helium must begin in earnest.

Reading passage 3 has six paragraphs, A–F. Which paragraph contains the following information?

Questions

30) a use for helium which makes an activity safer

31) the possibility of creating an alternative to helium

32) a term which describes the process of how helium is taken out of the ground

33) a reason why users of helium do not make efforts to conserve it

34) a contrast between helium's chemical properties and how non-scientists think about it

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading passage 3? Answer Yes, No or Not given to questions 35-38. (write only Y,N,NG)

35. Helium chooses to be on its own.

36) Helium is a very cold substance.

37) High-tech industries in Asia use more helium than laboratories and manufacturers in other parts of the world.

38) The US Congress understood the possible consequences of the HPA.

Complete the summary below. Choose no more than two words from the passage for each answer.

Sobotka argues that big business and users of helium need to help look after helium stocks because **(39)** will not be encouraged through buying and selling alone. Richardson believes that the **(40)** needs to be withdrawn, as the U.S. provides most of the world's helium.