International School of Monterrey

Junior High School **9th Grade**
Trimester 3 Final Exam **Literature**

Name _____ Date _____ List #:____-____

I. DIRECTIONS: Read the passages then answer the questions below. (6 pts.)

TABLETS IN THE CLASSROOM

Many people use tablet computers at home for reading, watching movies, playing games, or other forms of entertainment. Tablet computers are also becoming increasingly popular in the workplace, where they can be used for everything from scanning credit cards to hosting virtual meetings. But while tablets are already very common at home and on the job, there is one place where they have not yet fully taken hold: in the classroom. Although there are several ways in which tablets can benefit children, K-12 schools should continue to use old-fashioned paper, pens, and textbooks instead of giving tablets to their students.

Proponents of tablets point out that the devices are smaller, lighter, and easier to carry than textbooks. Because tablets can hold the equivalent of 8,000-64,000 books, switching to tablets would eliminate the heavy book bags that many children carry to and from school every day. It would also free up space in the classroom that is otherwise taken up by textbooks, paper exams, homework assignments, and other materials. While the tablet is certainly much more portable and convenient than a textbook, this convenience comes with a price. Tablets are much easier to misplace than a heavy textbook. A lost textbook might cost a student thirty or forty dollars at the most. A lost tablet, on the other hand, can cost hundreds of dollars. In addition, because tablets are much more expensive, they are also much more tempting to steal. Few people would pay top dollar for a copy of a ninth-grade history textbook—the same cannot be said for a tablet. Moreover, a broken tablet can be costly and difficult to repair. A torn page in a textbook, on the other hand, can be fixed easily with a simple piece of tape.

Another argument in favor of tablets is that they help students become more engaged in learning. According to the U.S. Department of Education, lessons that incorporate technology can help students reach learning objectives 30-80 times faster than traditional instruction alone. Many teachers believe that their students are more motivated and involved with a lesson when technology is involved. However, the fact that students find tablet technology so appealing also has its drawbacks. Although all students are likely to lose focus on the lesson now and then, students who use tablets are much more prone to distraction than students using traditional textbooks. Unlike paper books, tablets have apps, games, email, cameras, websites, social media, and other diversions available instantly at the touch of a finger. According to education expert Lesley Lanir, more than two thirds of teachers believe that "today's digital technologies do more to distract students than to help them academically. "Tablets may engage students, but there is no guarantee that they are actually being engaged in the lesson instead of tablets themselves.

Fans of tablets also argue that today's children need to work with tablets so that they are familiar with 21st century technology, thus preparing them for jobs that require advanced computer knowledge. This may indeed be the case; however, there are some problems with this argument. First, many children already know how to use computers because they have access to them at home. In fact, Lanir's research found that over 80% of teachers believe that "today's students are too 'plugged in' and need more time away from their digital technologies." Lanir's findings suggest that

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school should be a place where students are exposed to different types of learning instead of being further immersed in technology.

Of course, there are also students whose families cannot afford to have this technology at home. For these students, gaining experience with tablets at school can be extremely helpful. However, if they do not have access to these devices at home, they are likely to feel less confident than their peers in using the tablets at school. This may make them fall behind in class. Furthermore, if the students do not have broadband Internet at home, they will not be able to access Internet-based homework or work collaboratively with their peers on projects. Finally, tablet technology is generally only available in wealthier school districts. If, as tablet supporters suggest, students need tablets in order to prepare them for the 21st century job market, then students in poorer districts are being put at a disadvantage. There is already an achievement gap between wealthy students and poor students; the unequal distribution of tablets is only going to further this gap.

There are several advantages to giving tablets to school-age children. However, the disadvantages outweigh the benefits. Instead of spending money on tablets or other technology, school districts should invest their money in hiring, retaining, and training quality teachers. New technology fads will come and go, but one thing remains constant: a class is only as good as the person teaching it.

____ **1. As used in paragraph 2, which is the best synonym for PROPONENTS?**

A. supporters
B. questioners
C. improvers
D. collectors

____ **2. Which of the following pieces of information, if added to the passage, would strengthen the author's main argument in paragraph 2?**

A. Tablets can allow students to collaborate with each other outside of the classroom more easily; through social media and file-sharing programs, students can work on group projects without needing to meet face-to-face.
B. Each year, an estimated 30,000 school-age students are treated for back problems as a result of carrying heavy back packs to and from school.
C. 80% of teachers in lower-income school districts have to pay for their own classroom materials and school supplies.
D. Less than a week after tablets were handed out to students at a school in Cleveland Heights, at least twelve students reported being mugged on the way home from school.

____ **3. How does the author counter (argue against) the claim that tablets make a lesson more interesting and engaging for students?**

A. By suggesting that what makes a tablet engaging is also what makes it a potential source of distraction.
B. By providing statistics that prove that tablets do not actually help students reach learning objectives any faster than traditional instruction.
C. By pointing out that not all students find tablets interesting and engaging.
D. By reminding readers that good students will be engaged in a lesson regardless of whether there is technology involved.

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____ **4. The main purpose of paragraph 5 is to**

A. Argue that tablets do not actually provide students with the advanced technology skills that the 21st-century workplace requires.
B. Encourage readers to donate money to lower-income school districts so that they can provide tablets to their students.
C. Point out that tablets can put low-income students at a disadvantage.
D. Suggest that low-income schools can narrow the achievement gap by using traditional textbooks instead of tablets.

____ **5. Which of the following is NOT a reason provided by the author to explain why schools should not give their students tablets?**

A. Students are likely to be distracted from the lesson by the games, apps, or other features on the tablet.
B. Teachers are currently not given the proper training on how to include tablet technology into their lessons successfully.
C. Broken tablets are expensive to repair.
D. Many students already know how to use tablets because they have them at home; therefore, using tablets at school does not teach them anything they already do not know.

____ **6. How is this passage organized?**

A. The author asks a question and then provides evidence to answer the question.
B. The author describes a problem and then proposes a solution to that problem.
C. The author makes an argument and then provides support for that argument.
D. The author explores two different sides of an argument without providing an opinion.

QUESTION 7. Based on the information in the passage, explain in your own words the main problems with providing tablets in the classroom. (1 pt.)

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II. ***Directions:*** *Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.* **(5 pts.)**

Summer Rain

The worst days of any summer are the rainy ones. We spend all year looking forward to nice weather and long, hot days. All of winter, with its dreary gray days and bitter cold, we dream of those endless days at the beach, laying on the sand and soaking in the bright and burning sun. And then, summer comes, and it rains.

As a child, I would wake up to rainy summer days and come close to crying. It wasn't fair. We suffered through months of school and miserable weather for those scant ten weeks of freedom and balmy weather. Any day that I could not spend at the beach or playing ball with my friends seemed like a punishment for something I didn't even do.

On those rainy summer days, I had nothing fun to do and could only sit inside, staring out at the rain like a Dickensian orphan. I was an only child, so there was no one else to play with. My father worked from home, so I was not truly alone, but he could not actively play with me since he was technically at work. It was those days that I would resign myself to whatever was on television or any books that I could find lying around. I'd crawl through the day and pray each night that the rain would not be there the next day.

As an adult, though, my opinion of summer rain has changed. When you have to work every day, summer is not as eagerly anticipated. Mostly, the days run together, bleeding into each other so that they no longer seem like separate entities and instead feel like continuations of the same long day. Everything seems monotonous and dull, and an ennui or listlessness kicks in. Such a mindset makes you cheer for anything new or different. I spend the winter dreaming of summer and the summer dreaming of winter. When summer comes, I complain about how hot it is. And then I look forward to the rain, because the rain brings with it a cold front, which offers a **reprieve**—admittedly one that is all too short—from the torture of 100° and humid days. Rainy days are still the worst days of the summer, but summer rain today means positively beautiful—and considerably cooler—weather tomorrow.

____ **8.** According to the passage, summer is different for adults because
- **A.** rain brings with it cold temperatures for the following days.
- **B.** the weather is much warmer than it is for children.
- **C.** they do not get a long time off from work for the season.
- **D.** they better know how to occupy their **downtime** **(time when the person can relax)**.

____ **9.** According to the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the narrator as a child?
- **A.** He or she was often bored on summer days.
- **B.** He or she preferred cooler weather.
- **C.** He or she liked staying indoors.
- **D.** He or she had no siblings.

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____ **10.** Compared to how he or she was as a child, the narrator as an adult is

A. more realistic.
B. less excitable.
C. more idealistic.
D. less calm.

____ **11.** As used in the final paragraph, the word **reprieve** most nearly means

A. a permanent conclusion.
B. a short continuation
C. a higher level of pain
D. a temporary break

III. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose or write the best answer. (6 pts.)

"Just Lather, That's All."

____ **12.** At the beginning of the story, what two objects does the author use to create suspense?

A. the razor and the gun holster
B. the wall hook and the military cap
C. the soap and the brush
D. the bullet-studded belt and the barber chair

____ **13.** How does the author use the details of the shaving to create suspense?

A. They reveal that the barber is skilled.
B. They help the reader to care about Torres.
C. They focus the reader's attention on the shaving process.
D. They show how easy it would be for the barber to kill Torres.

____ **14.** The ending of the story is ironic because it is

A. logical.
B. exciting.
C. frightening.
D. unexpected.

15. What is the main reason Torres comes to the barber shop?

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_____

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____ **16.** Which line from the story reveals the barber's moment of truth?

A. You are an executioner, and I am only a barber.

B. And with an enemy under my roof, I felt responsible.

C. I'm sure that one solid stroke, one deep incision, would prevent any pain.

D. A good barber like me takes pride in never allowing this to happen to a client.

17. What is the main question the barber has to answer for himself?

_____

_____

IV. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose or write the best answer. (6 pts.)

"The Woman Who Was Death."

____ **18.** This story is a myth because it explains

A. reincarnation.

B. Indian culture.

C. a natural event.

D. the creation of the world.

____ **19.** In this story, what is personified?

A. death

B. illness

C. famine

D. emptiness

____ **20.** Read this sentence from the story.

> And the earth itself groaned beneath the weight upon it.

Which word personifies the earth?

A. itself

B. weight

C. beneath

D. groaned

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____ **21.** Which of these is **not** true about myths?

A. They often involve life lessons.

B. They are typically linked to the beliefs of a culture.

C. They usually have ordinary human beings as the main characters.

D. They have usually been passed down orally from one generation to the next.

____ **22.** Why does the woman flee from Lord Brahma?

A. She is afraid that he will hurt her.

B. She is overwhelmed by his cruelty.

C. She is horrified to learn about her task.

D. She is in despair about the emptiness in her life.

____ **23.** The woman in this myth makes several discoveries. What is her most important discovery?

A. her name

B. her creator

C. her cruelty

D. her destiny

V. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose or write the best answer. (4 pts.)

"Too Young to Drive?"

____ **24.** What evidence does Bayles use to support his argument about driver's education?

A. news stories

B. legislative bills

C. a survey taken by driving instructors

D. a poll conducted by college students

____ **25.** Which sentence from the editorial signals that it is persuasive?

A. Parents often overestimate their children's proficiency behind the wheel.

B. Despite the advances in both car and road safety, teen deaths remain fairly constant.

C. Teen drivers should not be allowed to carry nonfamily members in the car during their first year.

D. Police blamed a recent crash that killed a high school senior on excessive speed and erratic driving.

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____ **26.** Which statement takes the **pro** side of the argument to raise the driving age?

A. Teen driving curfews should be lowered to 9 p.m.
B. Teenagers mature more quickly after the age of 17.
C. Driving instructors should be better prepared to teach.
D. Better road conditions will reduce the number of accidents.

____ **27.** Both authors argue that teen drivers

A. should not be allowed to drive.
B. should be supervised by their parents.
C. should be given more difficult driving tests.
D. should not be allowed to transport family members.

VI. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose or write the best answer. (4 pts.)
"Rules of the Road."

____ **28.** Under which subhead can you find information about flashing lights on a bus?

A. Go slow near schools.
B. Cut down on distractions.
C. Be cautious in bad weather.
D. Don't assume what other drivers will do.

____ **29.** The ideas developed in this article are meant to help readers learn how to

A. avoid breaking laws.
B. study for a driving test.
C. learn to maintain a car.
D. be responsible drivers.

____ **30.** According to the article, driving with an experienced driver in the car can help you to

A. judge the safety of a left turn in traffic.
B. watch for pedestrians at intersections.
C. watch for other cars while changing lanes.
D. judge the space behind you while backing up.

____ **31.** What would probably happen if all drivers followed the advice in this article?

A. Fewer traffic accidents would occur.
B. City driving conditions would improve.
C. Bad weather would be easier to drive in.
D. Speed limits would be broken less often.

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VII. DIRECTIONS: Read each question and choose the best answer. (4 pts.)
"Piracy Bites!"

____ **32.** Both authors compare

A. the Internet to a shopping mall.
B. intellectual property to cargo from a ship.
C. the value of intellectual property to the earnings of a day of work.
D. copyrighted materials on the Internet to the items for sale in a store.

____ **33.** What evidence does Smith use to show that piracy threatens national security?

A. international news stories
B. examples of criminal trafficking
C. information about annual profits
D. the number of CDs stolen each year

____ **34.** Who does Towns believe most needs protection from the effects of piracy?

A. content companies
B. local business owners
C. computer manufacturers
D. low-income communities

____ **35.** How does Smith believe intellectual property rights should be protected?

A. with stronger laws
B. with industry self-regulation
C. with better labels and packaging
D. with a focus on consumer responsibilities

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