

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION I

Time—1 hour

Directions: This part consists of selections from prose works and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question and completely 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 1-17. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

It was not a union which seemed likely to prosper, since its chief characteristics were imprudence, youth and extreme good looks. But the married life of the young Brudenells unexpectedly turned out a rustic idyll. They chose to live quietly in the country at the Manor, Hambleden, Buckinghamshire, a Jacobean house set on gently rising ground and framed in chestnut trees. The rector of Hambleden at the time has left letters in which are glimpses of an amiable, charitable and democratic pair. They preferred not to use their title and, even after Robert had succeeded his uncle as Earl of Cardigan, they were known in Hambleden as Mr. and Mrs. Brudenell. They were much given to good works, and Robert, "ever a good friend to Hambleden," bought two and a half acres of land and presented it to the village for cottagers' gardens; "these gardens are a great benefit and much prized." Penelope interested herself in the village women and the school. "She is a sweet woman, possessing a temper both mild and engaging," wrote the rector.

And at the Manor on October 16th, 1797, their second child and only male infant was born and christened James Thomas.

The circumstances surrounding his arrival were impressive. It was three generations since the succession of the Earls of Cardigan had gone direct from father to son. The much desired heir was of almost mystic importance, and, as he lay in his cradle, wealth, rank, power and honours gathered round his head.

It was unfortunate that he was destined to grow up in a world that was almost entirely feminine. He already had an elder sister, and seven more girls followed his birth, of whom six survived. He remained the only son, the only boy among seven girls, unique, unchallenged, and the effect on his character was decisive. He was brought up at home among his sisters, and he grew up as such boys do, spoilt, domineering and headstrong. No arm was stronger than his. No rude voice contradicted him, no rough shoulder pushed him. From his earliest consciousness he was the most important, the most interesting, the most influential person in the world. He retained, however, from these early years a liking for the society of women and a softness in his manner towards them which, having regard to his manner with men, struck his contemporaries with

surprise. For a woman, a pretty woman, above all a pretty woman in distress, James Brudenell, later Lord Cardigan, had an almost medieval deference, a chivalrous turn of phrase, a sometimes embarrassing readiness to protect and defend, which, though productive of astonishment and mirth, were nevertheless rooted in a genuine sympathy.

It was to be expected that his parents and sisters should be passionately attached to him, and natural affection and pride were immensely heightened by the circumstance of his extraordinary good looks. In him the Brudenell beauty had come to flower. He was tall, with wide shoulders tapering to a narrow waist, his hair was golden, his eyes flashing sapphire blue, his nose aristocratic, his bearing proud. If there were a fault it was that the lower part of his face was oddly long and narrow so that sometimes one was surprised to catch an obstinate, almost a foxy look. But the boy had a dash and gallantry that were irresistible. He did not know what fear was. A superb and reckless horseman, he risked his neck on the most dangerous brutes. No tree was too tall for him to climb, no tower too high to scale. He excelled in swordsmanship and promised to be a first-class shot. He had in addition to courage another characteristic which impressed itself on all who met him. He was, alas, unusually stupid; in fact, as Greville pronounced later, an ass. The melancholy truth was that his glorious golden head had nothing in it.

1. The speaker's primary purpose in the passage is to
 - (A) describe a series of unprecedented events
 - (B) characterize an idyllic era
 - (C) portray an unusual character
 - (D) depict an inequitable situation
 - (E) comment on a popular assumption

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2. The speaker's perspective in the passage is that of
- (A) an acquaintance of James Brudenell
 - (B) a chronicler of past events
 - (C) an uninvolved eyewitness
 - (D) a commentator on social trends
 - (E) a defender of an unpopular figure

3. In the first sentence of the passage, the speaker's attitude toward the material is that of a person who is

- (A) fearful of finding a flaw in those who have been regarded as ideals
- (B) fascinated by the unique capabilities of individual characters
- (C) so familiar with the realm described as to be somewhat cynical
- (D) coolly assessing random data in search of a possible pattern
- (E) overtly sympathetic toward the subjects of the discussion

4. The word "democratic" in lines 9-10 is best understood to mean

- (A) enterprising
- (B) conscientious
- (C) lenient
- (D) law-abiding
- (E) unpretentious

5. The citations from the rector of Hambleden's letters do all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) document the speaker's sketch of the Brudenells
- (B) illustrate the rector's influence over the Brudenells
- (C) characterize the simplicity of life in Hambleden
- (D) provide evidence of the Brudenells' philanthropy
- (E) enliven the speaker's descriptions with present-tense commentary

6. Which of the following best describes the words "wealth, rank, power and honours" as they are used in lines 28-29?

- (A) Allusions to members of James Brudenell's family
- (B) Euphemisms for the heavy burdens placed on the child
- (C) Personifications of the inordinate blessings of the child
- (D) Ambiguous references to previous earls of Cardigan
- (E) Exaggerations of James Brudenell's later accomplishments

7. In line 37, the phrase "as such boys do" functions primarily as

- (A) a caution to the reader that the material presented is based on hearsay
- (B) a characterization of the speaker as a close acquaintance of the Brudenells
- (C) a reminder to the reader about the era in which the events described took place
- (D) a means of underscoring through generalization the viciousness of the faults described
- (E) an emphasis on the inevitability of a particular environment producing a particular effect

8. The speaker uses the images of "No arm," "No rude voice," and "no rough shoulder" in lines 38-39 to emphasize that James Brudenell lacked

- (A) parental guidance
- (B) the competition of male siblings
- (C) adversaries in adult life
- (D) sensitivity toward his sisters
- (E) skill in fighting and arguing

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The passage is reprinted below for your use in answering the remaining questions.

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9. Which of the following phrases could best be substituted for the phrase "he was" in line 40 to make the meaning more explicit?

- (A) he proved himself to be
- (B) he might have become
- (C) he aspired to be
- (D) he was treated as
- (E) he was fated to be

10. In context, the phrase "having regard to his manner with men" (lines 44-45) indicates that James Brudenell

- (A) enjoyed enormous popularity
- (B) relied heavily on the advice of others
- (C) respected the criticism of his peers
- (D) was often rude and arrogant
- (E) was widely known for his courage

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11. The phrase “productive of astonishment and mirth” (lines 50-51) is best described as
- (A) a deliberately puzzling paradox
 - (B) a circumlocution for “appearing ridiculous”
 - (C) an intentional shift in the level of diction
 - (D) a sarcastic interpretation of “embarrassing” (line 49)
 - (E) an authorial aside directed at the speaker’s opponents
12. In lines 53-69, the speaker creates the impression that James Brudenell was
- (A) an extraordinary figure with minor imperfections
 - (B) a representative of an ideal that the world no longer admires
 - (C) a prime example of the effect of a nurturing environment on human character
 - (D) an amusing oddity in an otherwise dull world
 - (E) a man doomed to be misunderstood by his contemporaries
13. Which of the following contribute(s) to the effect of the last three sentences of the passage (lines 69-73) ?
- I. The appending of stupidity to a list of positive attributes
 - II. The speaker’s earlier description of James Brudenell
 - III. The speaker’s admiring tone in lines 63-69
- (A) I only
 - (B) I and II only
 - (C) I and III only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III
14. The interjection “alas” (line 71) emphasizes the speaker’s
- (A) willingness to defend James Brudenell
 - (B) shock on encountering the unexpected
 - (C) awareness of a central irony
 - (D) repudiation of Greville’s accusation
 - (E) apologetic attitude toward the subject
15. The reference to Greville’s pronouncement (lines 71-72) serves primarily to
- (A) reveal the speaker’s naïveté
 - (B) arouse sympathy for James Brudenell
 - (C) provide an opinion contrary to that of the speaker
 - (D) introduce the primary source of the speaker’s information
 - (E) reinforce what the speaker has said about James Brudenell’s intellect
16. In the concluding sentence of the passage, the speaker’s attitude toward James Brudenell is chiefly one of
- (A) wry detachment
 - (B) embarrassed apology
 - (C) inquisitive perplexity
 - (D) strong resentment
 - (E) surprised confusion
17. In the last paragraph, a primary rhetorical strategy of the speaker is to
- (A) use the events of one individual’s life to generalize about other individuals
 - (B) stimulate the reader’s interest by progressively expanding the focus of attention
 - (C) arouse expectations about a character which are proved to be false
 - (D) convince the reader of the speaker’s wisdom by disproving opposing viewpoints
 - (E) appear initially uncertain about matters on which a firm stand is later taken

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