
Student's Name

SAT II: Literature

Time: The exam is 1 hour long.

Scoring: For each correct answer you will receive one point (whether the question is easy or hard). For questions you omit, you will receive no points.

Guessing: An educated guess may improve your score. That is, if you can eliminate one or more choices as wrong, you increase your chances of choosing the correct answer and earning one point. On the other hand, if you can't eliminate any choices, omit the question and move on.

Answers: You may write in this test book, but mark all answers on your answer sheet to receive credit. Make each mark a dark mark that completely fills the oval and is as dark as all your other marks. If you erase, do so completely.

DO NOT OPEN THE TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO!

LITERATURE TEST

Directions: This test 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 on the answer sheet.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-6. Read the following fable carefully before you choose your answers.

A weaver watched in wide-eyed wonder a silkworm spinning its cocoon in a white mulberry tree.

(5) "Where do you get that stuff?" asked the admiring weaver.

"Do you want to make something out of it?" inquired the silkworm, eagerly.

(10) Then the weaver and the silkworm went their separate ways, for each thought the other had insulted him. We live, man and worm, in a time when almost everything can mean almost anything, for this is the age of gobbledygook, doubletalk, and gudda.

MORAL: A word to the wise is not sufficient if it doesn't make any sense.

From Further Fables for Our Time,
published by Simon & Schuster.
© 1956 James Thurber. Originally
printed in *The New Yorker*.

1. The central idea of the fable is the
 - (A) frequent failure of language as a means of communication
 - (B) unstable nature of casual relationships
 - (C) richness of language, even in everyday situations
 - (D) unwillingness of people to listen to each other
 - (E) possibility of misunderstanding in any relationship

2. The silkworm intended "make" (line 6) as a synonym for
 - (A) imply
 - (B) arrange
 - (C) start
 - (D) draw
 - (E) weave
3. The characters were insulted because the words "stuff" (line 4) and "make something out of it" (line 6) were misinterpreted as
 - (A) "nonsense" and "cause a disturbance"
 - (B) "material" and "weave a garment from it"
 - (C) "junk" and "use it as a reason for a quarrel"
 - (D) "garbage" and "make a mountain out of a molehill"
 - (E) "rubbish" and "take it for your own use"

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LITERATURE TEST—*Continued*

4. The effect of the phrase “man and worm” (line 10) is to
- (A) suggest that the narrator is hostile toward the two characters
 - (B) demonstrate that human language is appropriate for a wide variety of situations
 - (C) emphasize the close relationship among all living creatures
 - (D) indicate the narrator’s concern for sophisticated and unsophisticated creatures
 - (E) suggest the gently satiric attitude of the narrator
5. The primary reason that the misunderstanding between the two is ironic is that
- (A) weavers and silkworms seldom talk to each other in such a way
 - (B) neither the weaver nor the silkworm means to be hostile
 - (C) the silkworm is a creature that is useful to people
 - (D) the weaver and the silkworm are not wise
 - (E) the weaver and the silkworm are using language incorrectly
6. The misunderstanding between the two characters might have been prevented if they had paid more attention to
- (A) grammar
 - (B) sentence structure
 - (C) imagery
 - (D) tone
 - (E) alliteration

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

Questions 7-15. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

- This world a hunting is:
The prey, poor man; the Nimrod fierce is death;
His speedy greyhounds are
Lust, Sickness, Envy, Care,
(5) Strife that ne'er falls amiss,
With all those ills which haunt us while we
 breathe.
Now if, by chance, we fly
Of these the eager chase,
Old Age with stealing pace
Casts up his nets, and there we panting die.
7. The poem is concerned primarily with the
- (A) gradual coming of old age
 - (B) different forms that death can take
 - (C) inevitability of death
 - (D) cruelty of hunting
 - (E) nature of disease
8. In the context of the poem as a whole, the speaker's attitude toward "poor man" (line 2) can best be described as
- (A) condescending
 - (B) mocking
 - (C) dispassionate
 - (D) sympathetic
 - (E) deferential

9. From the context we can conclude that "Nimrod" (line 2) refers to a
- (A) predatory animal
 - (B) famous hunter
 - (C) diabolical old man
 - (D) fearless soldier
 - (E) dangerous weapon
10. Which of the following changes is introduced in line 6?
- (A) The greyhounds become even more threatening.
 - (B) Man's chief enemy changes from fierce greyhounds to physical disorders.
 - (C) The emphasis is placed on man's struggles to defeat the hunters.
 - (D) The multiplicity of man's ills is suggested.
 - (E) The impersonal "man" (line 2) becomes the more personal "we."

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

11. What is the effect of "by chance" (line 7) ?
- (A) It stresses man's ineffectualness in influencing his own fate.
 - (B) It weakens the speaker's analysis in lines 1-6.
 - (C) It marks a shift in the speaker's attitude toward the hunting.
 - (D) It introduces the theme of man's good fortune in escaping harm.
 - (E) It suggests that man can be the hunter as well as the hunted.
12. Which of the following best describes the relationship between lines 7-8 and the rest of the poem?
- (A) They are even more pessimistic than the rest of the poem.
 - (B) They mark a major shift in mood.
 - (C) They heighten tension by allowing for a moment of false optimism.
 - (D) They echo the gloomy tone of the opening lines.
 - (E) They reveal the speaker's complacency.
13. What is the effect of the personification of "Old Age" (lines 9-10) ?
- (A) The essentially human qualities of aging are emphasized.
 - (B) A time of life is made especially threatening by depicting it as a determined enemy.
 - (C) The identity of "Nimrod" (line 2) becomes clearer.
 - (D) Old age fights against the allegorical greyhounds in the series "Lust, Sickness, Envy, Care, / Strife" (lines 4-5).
 - (E) Old age is rendered consolingly familiar and comprehensible by making it human.
14. In its context, "stealing" (line 9) suggests that old age is
- (A) sluggish and grasping
 - (B) dishonest and mean
 - (C) sadistic and vicious
 - (D) slow and stealthy
 - (E) subtle and complex
15. Which of the following pairs of words does NOT correctly illustrate the contrast in content between the two parts of the poem (lines 1-6 and lines 7-10) ?
- (A) "man" (line 2) and "Old Age" (line 9)
 - (B) "Nimrod" (line 2) and "Old Age" (line 9)
 - (C) "speedy" (line 3) and "stealing" (line 9)
 - (D) "greyhounds" (line 3) and "nets" (line 10)
 - (E) "we breathe" (line 6) and "we panting die" (line 10)

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

Questions 16-26. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Miss Sally Appleby,

Madam,

Understanding you have a parcel of heart, warranted sound, to be disposed of, shall be

- (5) willing to treat for said commodity, on reasonable terms; doubt not, shall agree for same; shall wait of you for further information, when and where you shall appoint. This the needful from

(10) Yours etc.

Gam. Pickle

- This laconic epistle, simple and unadorned as it was, met with as cordial a reception from the person to whom it was addressed, as if it had
- (15) been couched in the most elegant terms that delicacy of passion and cultivated genius could supply; nay, I believe, was the more welcome on account of its mercantile plainness; because when an advantageous match is in view, a
- (20) sensible woman often considers the flowery professions and rapturous exclamations of love as ensnaring ambiguities, or at best impertinent preliminaries, that retard the treaty they are designed to promote; whereas Mr. Pickle
- (25) removed all disagreeable uncertainty by descending at once to the most interesting particular.

16. It can be inferred from his letter that Pickle is

- (A) a cold-hearted exploiter
- (B) a lover too shy to say what he means
- (C) an arrogant snob
- (D) a man too rushed to enjoy life
- (E) a thoroughgoing pragmatist

17. All of the following are true of the letter EXCEPT that its

- (A) opening and closing courtesies suggest that the two people may not be well acquainted
- (B) avoidance of the pronoun "I" makes it seem impersonal
- (C) tone is insincere
- (D) clipped phrases sound hurried
- (E) purpose is practical

18. The narrator's comments (lines 12-27) about the letter are designed to

- (A) dispel any favorable impression the reader might have of Pickle
- (B) confirm the reader's expectation that Sally Appleby would be insulted by the letter
- (C) distract the reader from the letter's offensive tone
- (D) show the superiority of the narrator's taste to that of Pickle or Sally Appleby
- (E) indicate that the letter is more appropriate than it might seem

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

19. According to the narrator, Miss Appleby's reaction to the letter makes clear that she values
- (A) success over happiness
 - (B) directness over decoration
 - (C) humility over assertiveness
 - (D) style over substance
 - (E) her welfare over that of others
20. The phrase "delicacy of passion" (line 16) means
- (A) refinement of feeling
 - (B) concealment of emotion
 - (C) shyness and coyness
 - (D) feeble affection
 - (E) witty expression
21. The statement made in lines 18-24 is presented in which of the following ways?
- (A) As a general truth that helps the reader understand the incident
 - (B) As a controversial statement requiring closer examination
 - (C) As an excuse made up by Pickle for his unconventional behavior
 - (D) As a cynical observation made by the narrator
 - (E) As a belief held by the rich, but not by the poor
22. As used by the narrator, the effect of such phrases as "elegant terms" (line 15), "delicacy of passion" (line 16), "flowery professions" (lines 20-21), and "rapturous exclamations" (line 21) is to
- (A) indicate the narrator's appreciation of true love letters
 - (B) stress the narrator's contempt for emotion
 - (C) satirize the language of conventional love
 - (D) reveal the deeply sentimental nature of language
 - (E) mock Pickle's futile attempt at fine language
23. Which of the following best describes the effect of the words "advantageous" (line 19), "match" (line 19), "treaty" (line 23), and "promote" (line 24) ?
- (A) They imply that the commercialism of marriage is degrading.
 - (B) They provide a contrast to the phrase "mercantile plainness" (line 18).
 - (C) They suggest that marriage is like a sporting contest.
 - (D) They echo the commercial and legal metaphors of Pickle's letter.
 - (E) They elaborate on the analogy between marital and international strife.
24. As it is used in the passage, the word "impertinent" (line 22) means
- (A) distressing
 - (B) rude
 - (C) exaggerated
 - (D) critical
 - (E) irrelevant
25. The "most interesting particular" (lines 26-27) is best understood as a
- (A) consummation of the marriage
 - (B) proposed marriage settlement
 - (C) date for the marriage
 - (D) token of eternal love
 - (E) reconciliation of the two lovers
26. The narrator's attitude toward a sensible woman's considerations in regard to marriage is best described as
- (A) heavily ironic
 - (B) bitterly disapproving
 - (C) strongly defensive
 - (D) gently satirical
 - (E) somewhat shocked

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

Questions 27-35. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

Kitchenette Building

We are things of dry hours and the involuntary plan,
Grayed in, and gray. "Dream" makes a giddy sound, not strong
Like "rent," "feeding a wife," "satisfying a man."

But could a dream send up through onion fumes
(5) Its white and violet, fight with fried potatoes
And yesterday's garbage ripening in the hall,
Flutter, or sing an aria down these rooms

Even if we were willing to let it in,
Had time to warm it, keep it very clean,
(10) Anticipate a message, let it begin?

We wonder. But not well! not for a minute!
Since Number Five is out of the bathroom now,
We think of lukewarm water, hope to get in it.

"Kitchenette Building," *The World of Gwendolyn Brooks*. Copyright, 1945 by Gwendolyn Brooks Blakely. By permission of Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.

27. The best paraphrase of "dry hours" (line 1) is
- (A) summer drought
 - (B) fruitless existence
 - (C) chronic fatigue
 - (D) sudden misfortune
 - (E) orderly lives
28. The kind of paradox in the phrase "involuntary plan" (line 1) most closely resembles that in which of the following?
- (A) Careful disorder
 - (B) Spontaneous combustion
 - (C) Dangerous hobby
 - (D) Secret agreement
 - (E) Irrelevant information
29. As it is used in the poem, "giddy" (line 2) can be understood in all of the following senses EXCEPT
- (A) dizzy (B) flighty (C) ephemeral
 - (D) impractical (E) raucous
30. In the context of the poem, the opposition of "white and violet" (line 5) to "Grayed in, and gray" (line 2) suggests all of the following contrasts EXCEPT the
- (A) attractiveness of dreams and the dullness of reality
 - (B) varied nature of dreams and the monotonous nature of routine duties
 - (C) purity and intensity of abstractions and the dinginess of concreteness
 - (D) beauty of the outside world and the drabness of the apartment
 - (E) poetic and the prosaic

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LITERATURE TEST—*Continued*

31. An aria (line 7) is unlikely to be heard because
- (A) the speaker is too poor to attend the opera
 - (B) the speaker does not like loud or giddy noises
 - (C) the speaker is too tired to listen to music
 - (D) it would not be a pleasant diversion from the daily routine
 - (E) it would be too weak to compete with the sordidness of daily life
32. Lines 8-9 refer to the dream as though it were a
- (A) dangerous vagrant
 - (B) valuable possession
 - (C) distant relative
 - (D) young creature requiring care
 - (E) mysterious but beneficent force
33. The primary effect of the change of tempo in line 11 is to suggest that the speaker
- (A) is putting aside the temptation to dream and returning to the reality at hand
 - (B) is excited by the possibilities she has just imagined
 - (C) is unaccustomed to sustaining a pessimistic mood for any length of time
 - (D) is angry because she has missed the opportunity to get hot water
 - (E) recognizes the need for haste in finishing the chores so that important decisions can be made
34. The “onion fumes” (line 4), “garbage” (line 6), and “lukewarm water” (line 13) help to indicate that the
- (A) speaker is indifferent to housekeeping
 - (B) speaker does not like the finer things in life
 - (C) speaker’s life is ruled by necessities
 - (D) speaker’s senses are very acute
 - (E) speaker is afraid of change and excitement
35. In this poem, the sequence “dream” (line 2) to “wonder” (line 11) to “hope” (line 13) emphasizes a progression from the
- (A) divine to the profane
 - (B) improbable to the attainable
 - (C) permanent to the transient
 - (D) unpleasant to the pleasant
 - (E) present to the future

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

Questions 36-44. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

Other faces there were, too, of men who (if the brevity of their remembrance, after death, can be augured from their little value in life) should have been represented in snow rather than marble. Posterity will be puzzled what to do with busts like these, the concretions and petrifications of a vain self-estimate; but will find, no doubt, that they serve to build into stone walls, or burn into quicklime, as well as if (5) the marble had never been blocked into the guise of human heads.

But it is an awful thing, indeed, this endless endurance, this almost indestructibility, of a marble bust! Whether in our own case, or that (15) of other men, it bids us sadly measure the little, little time during which our lineaments are likely to be of interest to any human being. It is especially singular that Americans should care about perpetuating themselves in this mode. The (20) brief duration of our families, as a hereditary household, renders it next to a certainty that the great-grandchildren will not know their father's grandfather, and that half a century hence, at furthest, the hammer of the auctioneer will (25) thump its knockdown blow against his blockhead, sold at so much for the pound of stone! And it ought to make us shiver, the idea of leaving our features to be a dusty-white ghost among strangers of another generation, who will (30) take our nose between their thumb and fingers (as we have seen men do by Caesar's), and infallibly break it off if they can do so without detection!

36. In this passage, marble busts become symbolic of
- (A) man's foolish attempts to transcend time
 - (B) the extravagant aspirations of the artist
 - (C) the loneliness of man in his own time
 - (D) the hardness of man's heart
 - (E) nature's triumph over civilization
37. The "other faces" mentioned in line 1 should have been represented in snow because they
- (A) were cold-hearted and arrogant
 - (B) did not wish to be remembered
 - (C) failed to remember their friends
 - (D) did not merit a permanent memorial
 - (E) were not respected by their friends
38. The speaker's tone in lines 7-11 is best described as
- (A) arrogant and patronizing
 - (B) shocked and indignant
 - (C) mildly disappointed
 - (D) reluctantly approving
 - (E) contemptuously ironic

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LITERATURE TEST—*Continued*

39. As it is used in line 26, the word “blockhead” functions as a
- (A) play on words
 - (B) literary allusion
 - (C) reference to the sculptor
 - (D) nonsense word
 - (E) paradoxical term
40. In the second paragraph, the speaker implies that American families are characterized by their
- (A) contempt for foreigners
 - (B) lack of interest in their own past
 - (C) indifference to fine works of art
 - (D) overindulgence of their children and grandchildren
 - (E) eagerness to acquire and exhibit wealth
41. The “shiver” described in line 27 is occasioned by
- (A) the coldness of our graves
 - (B) fear of the disrespect of those who come after us
 - (C) apprehension about what our ghosts will do
 - (D) horror at the corruption of our bodies
 - (E) the knowledge that we must come to dust
42. As it is used in line 28, the image of the ghost suggests something that is
- (A) pitiful (B) ominous (C) vindictive
 - (D) restless (E) ageless
43. In the second paragraph, the speaker characterizes posterity as
- (A) pious (B) resentful (C) frugal
 - (D) impudent (E) industrious
44. According to the passage, which of the following properties of marble is most important to those who have busts of themselves made?
- (A) Beauty (B) Translucence (C) Usefulness
 - (D) Coldness (E) Durability

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

Questions 45-52. Read the following poem carefully before you choose your answers.

The Garden

En robe de parade.

Samain

Like a skein of loose silk blown against a wall
She walks by the railing of a path in Kensington Gardens,
And she is dying piece-meal
of a sort of emotional anaemia.

- (5) And round about there is a rabble
Of the filthy, sturdy, unkillable infants of the very poor.
They shall inherit the earth.

In her is the end of breeding.
Her boredom is exquisite and excessive.

- (10) She would like some one to speak to her,
And is almost afraid that I
will commit that indiscretion.

Ezra Pound, *Personae*, © 1926.
Reprinted by permission of New
Directions Publishing Corporation.

45. The woman in the poem is best described as a
- (A) lonely social outcast
 - (B) feeble but kindly elderly woman
 - (C) devitalized aristocrat
 - (D) determined and ambitious social climber
 - (E) person who has lost her inherited money
46. Which of the following best represents the relationship between "she" in lines 1-4 and "infants" in lines 5-7?
- (A) "skein" (line 1) and "poor" (line 6)
 - (B) "walks" (line 2) and "inherit" (line 7)
 - (C) "Kensington Gardens" (line 2) and "the earth" (line 7)
 - (D) "dying" (line 3) and "unkillable" (line 6)
 - (E) "piece-meal" (line 3) and "filthy" (line 6)
47. What is the effect of using the word "infants" (line 6) rather than "children" or simply "the very poor"?
- (A) To suggest that "They" (line 7) seem particularly vulnerable and pathetic to "her" (line 8)
 - (B) To stress "her" (line 8) maternal sympathies
 - (C) To indicate that "They" (line 7) will be irresponsible in governing the earth they will eventually inherit
 - (D) To symbolize the universality of the problem of poverty
 - (E) To link the word to "inherit" (line 7) by alliteration

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LITERATURE TEST—*Continued*

48. Given the context of the poem, the poor are most likely to inherit the earth because they
- (A) have been promised it
 - (B) are determined to have it
 - (C) are the only ones willing to accept it
 - (D) are stronger than those who control it now
 - (E) are the legal heirs of the present owners
49. In its context, the phrase “end of breeding” (line 8) conveys which of the following ideas?
- I. Result of centuries of privilege
 - II. Epitome of refined manners
 - III. Termination of reproduction
- (A) I only (B) II only (C) III only
(D) I and II only (E) I, II, and III
50. “I” (line 11) can best be described as
- (A) the critical observer
 - (B) a sympathetic friend
 - (C) her would-be lover
 - (D) a social activist
 - (E) a social snob
51. The attitude of “She” (line 10) toward “I” (line 11) is best described as
- (A) hostile (B) ambivalent (C) indifferent
 - (D) curious (E) receptive
52. In this poem, the woman functions as which of the following?
- I. A symbol of the emptiness of modern life
 - II. The representative of a social class
 - III. The personification of the power of love
- (A) I only (B) II only (C) I and III only
(D) II and III only (E) I, II, and III

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

Questions 53-60. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

But Leander got the last word. Opening Aaron's copy of Shakespeare, after it had begun to rain, Coverly found the place marked with a note in his father's hand. "Advice to my sons," (5) it read. "Never put whisky into hot water bottle crossing borders of dry states or countries. Rubber will spoil taste. Never make love with pants on. Beer on whisky, very risky. Whisky on beer, never fear. Never eat apples, peaches, (10) pears, etc., while drinking whisky except long French-style dinners, terminating with fruit. Other viands have mollifying effect. Never sleep in moonlight. Known by scientists to induce madness. Should bed stand beside window on (15) clear night draw shades before retiring. Never hold cigar at right angles to fingers. Hayseed. Hold cigar at diagonal. Remove band or not as you prefer. Never wear red necktie. Provide light snorts for ladies if entertaining. Effects of (20) harder stuff on frail sex sometimes disastrous. Bathe in cold water every morning. Painful but exhilarating. Also reduces horniness. Have haircut once a week. Wear dark clothes after 6 p.m. Eat fresh fish for breakfast when (25) available. Avoid kneeling in unheated stone churches. Ecclesiastical dampness causes prematurely gray hair. Fear tastes like a rusty knife and do not let her into your house. Courage tastes of blood. Stand up straight. Admire the world. Relish the love of a gentle woman. Trust in the Lord."

53. With which of the following is Leander's advice most concerned?
- (A) Practical knowledge and sensible living
 - (B) Fortitude and salvation
 - (C) Accomplishment and material success
 - (D) Determination and moral rectitude
 - (E) Wit and serenity

54. The first sentence suggests that the
- (A) sons tried to be unlike their father in every way they could
 - (B) father was never able to communicate with his sons
 - (C) father was never more profound than in his note
 - (D) sons exercised great control over their own lives
 - (E) sons and father debated about the conduct of the sons' lives
55. The humor of the advice given in lines 5-7 ("Never . . . taste") depends primarily on the fact that Leander
- (A) is aware that his sons enjoy whisky
 - (B) thinks it likely that his sons have hot water bottles
 - (C) assumes that his sons will be traveling
 - (D) assumes that his sons' cars will be searched
 - (E) is unconcerned about his sons' breaking the law

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LITERATURE TEST—Continued

56. Which of the following pieces of advice is most probably based on superstition?
- (A) "Never make love with pants on."
(lines 7-8)
 - (B) "Never eat [fruit] while drinking whisky."
(lines 9-10)
 - (C) "Never sleep in moonlight." (lines 12-13)
 - (D) "Never hold cigar at right angles to fingers." (lines 15-16)
 - (E) "Bathe in cold water every morning."
(line 21)
57. Which of the following pairs best points up the contrast in levels of diction in the passage?
- (A) "viands" (line 12) . . . "snorts" (line 19)
 - (B) "mollifying" (line 12) . . . "entertaining"
(line 19)
 - (C) "sleep" (line 12) . . . "retiring" (line 15)
 - (D) "Painful" (line 21) . . . "exhilarating" (line 22)
 - (E) "Fear" (line 27) . . . "Courage" (line 29)
58. Leander's comment "Hayseed" (line 16) suggests that
- (A) Leander has a favorite brand of cigar
 - (B) Leander thinks it undignified for gentlemen to smoke
 - (C) holding a cigar at right angles is a hazard
 - (D) holding a cigar at right angles is unrefined
 - (E) holding a cigar at right angles indicates aggressiveness
59. Leander writes, "Fear tastes like a rusty knife and do not let her into your house. Courage tastes of blood" (lines 27-29). All of the following are true of these sentences EXCEPT:
- (A) They are metaphorical.
 - (B) They summarize the rest of the passage.
 - (C) They are aphoristic.
 - (D) They are abstractions following many specific and concrete statements.
 - (E) They serve as a transition to the serious closing statements.
60. Which of the following best characterizes the language in which Leander's advice is conveyed?
- (A) Concise syntax
 - (B) Abundance of metaphors
 - (C) Florid diction
 - (D) Coherent organization
 - (E) Regular rhythm

S T O P

**IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER TEST IN THIS BOOK.**