

MCQ for MA Entrance

Topic: The Gothic Novel MCQs (English)

(Correct options are in bold font)

Which of the following poets wrote about World War II ?

- A. Rudyard Kipling
- B. Rupert Brooke
- C. Karl Shapiro**
- D. Hart Crane

Which of the following descriptions does NOT pertain to the Imagists ?

- A. Striving for concentrated expression and imagery
- B. Total freedom in choosing the subject
- C. Reliance on the language of common speech
- D. Creative reliance on conventional poetic forms**

Which of the following statements best characterizes Georgia Douglass Johnson's poem "Black Woman" ?

- A. This poem describes the relationship between a black woman and her child.
- B. This poem focuses primarily on the different experiences of black and white women.
- C. This poem is a conversation between a black woman and a child who is not yet born.**
- D. The poem is a conversation between a black woman and her ancestors.

H.D.'s poem "Oread" reads: "WHIRL up, sea-/Whirl your pointed pines./Splash your great pines/On our rocks./Hurl your green over us-/Cover us with your pools of fir." To which of the following categories does this poem belong ?

- A. Futurist poetry
- B. Objectivist poetry
- C. Imagist poetry**
- D. Vorticist poetry

Which of the following statements accurately characterizes the relationship between Italian Futurism and its historical context ?

- A. The Italian Futurists lived within a quickly changing social world, and they praised speed.
- B. The Italian Futurists were fascinated by the age of electric and chemical power, and they praised the beauty of automobiles.
- C. Marinetti and other Italian Futurists supported Mussolini's fascism.

D. All of these answers

In Wallace Stevens's poem "The Man on the Dump," one can say that the trash symbolizes which of the following ?

- A. The broken dreams of the American émigré community in Paris
- B. Artifacts from foreign cultures which do not fit into the American cultural context

C. Old poetry

D. The failed attempt of modern poetry

What was the primary significance of "The Book of American Negro Poetry" (1922), edited by James Weldon Johnson ?

- A. It presented African American writers to a previously indifferent white audience.
- B. It inspired Harlem Renaissance writers to establish a tradition of African American poetry.**
- C. It established an authoritative and unquestionable canon of African American poetry.
- D. It provided literary criticism on African American poetry.

Professor Hammer argues that Hart Crane's poem "Voyages" is a complex reply to which of the following modernist works?

- A. Ezra Pound's "Cantos"
- B. Langston Hughes' "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"
- C. T.S. Eliot's "A Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
- D. T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"**

Which of the following figures is the author of the 1909 "Futurist Manifesto" ?

- A. Vladimir Mayakovsky
- B. Filippo Marinetti**
- C. Umberto Boccioni
- D. Aleksander Wat

Professor Hammer points out that T.S. Eliot used quotation as an important literary technique. The use of quotations, according to Professor Hammer, suggests which of the following attitudes to the past ?

- A. Curiosity about the past
- B. Violation of the past
- C. Deference to the past
- D. Paradoxically both B and C**

Which of the following political themes was explored by American Objectivist poets ?

- A. American attitudes toward Jews and Israel
- B. Slavery
- C. Capitalism and social inequalities
- D. All of these answers**

Which of the following poets did NOT write about his experiences in World War II ?

- A. Wilfred Owen**
- B. Randall Jarrell
- C. Keith Douglas
- D. Karl Shapiro

Which of the following was an important influence on Charles Reznikoff's shift away from romantic rhetoric ?

- A. His study of medicine
- B. His study of law**
- C. His study of ancient history
- D. His study of Sanskrit

Professor Hammer argues that in Hart Crane's poem "Legend," Crane introduces himself to his readers. The poem opens with the lines: "As silent as a mirror is believed/ Realities plunge in silence by .../I am not ready for repentance;" according to Professor Hammer, Crane's refusal to repent is an assertion of which of the following ?

- A. His political views
- B. His will to sexual freedom
- C. His will to imaginative freedom
- D. Both B and C**

What is the principal subject of Marianne Moore's poem "An Octopus" ?

- A. The ocean
- B. Mt. Rainier**
- C. Death
- D. An octopus

Ezra Pound's "Canto I" opens with the following lines: "And then went down to the ship,/Set keel to breakers, forth on the godly sea, and(...)." Which of the following statements best characterizes these lines and the poem as a whole ?

- A. These lines set an impersonal tone which dominates the entire poem.**
- B. These lines are the only impersonal lines in the poem, the rest of which is primarily focused on the complexity of human emotions.
- C. These lines establish a rhythmical pattern, which is followed strictly throughout the poem.

D. These lines establish a personal tone, focusing on a lyrical perspective similar to late-Victorian era poetry.

What are some of the surface similarities between Robert Frost's poem "Out, Out" and John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "Telling the Bees" ?

- A. They are both set in rural New England.
- B. Both use formal meter to present a narrative structure.
- C. They both address the theme of death.
- D. All of these answers**

Which of the following does Professor Hammer identify as one of the most important goals of Imagist poetry ?

- A. The privileging of rhythm over meaning
- B. The privileging of image over sound
- C. The privileging of individual detail over the larger pattern**
- D. The privileging of colors over textures

Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between Georgian poetry and English World War I poetry ?

- A. Unlike World War I poetry, Georgian poetry was concerned primarily with the effects of urbanization and industrialization.
- B. Georgian poetry was modeled on World War I poetry and adapted its insights to postwar realities.
- C. Unlike World War I poetry, Georgian poetry was concerned primarily with women's rights.
- D. World War I poets like Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen adapted the Georgian poetic manner to write about modern subjects; most Georgian poets focused on individual experience and avoided writing about the upheavals of modernity.**

In T.S. Eliot's essay called "Tradition and Individual Talent," he argues that the progress of an artist consists of which of the following ?

- A. "Continual transformation of the personality"
- B. "Continual self-sacrifice, a continual extinction of personality"**
- C. "Continual expansion of the personality and its diverse elements"
- D. "Continual identification with the past"

Why was World War II a defining event in the history of the 20th century ?

- A. It was followed by Soviet domination of Eastern Europe and by the entrenchment of the Soviet totalitarian system of rule.
- B. It brought unprecedented destruction and loss of life, thereby putting into question the entire cultural and political legacy of Western civilization.
- C. It was followed by the Cold War, which affected international politics throughout the world.
- D. All of these answers**

Ezra Pound's "Canto XIV" opens with the line "Io venni in luogod'ognilucemuto" [I came to a place devoid of light]. This creates a connection between the Canto and which of the following works ?

- A. Goethe's "Faust"
- B. Dante's "Divine Comedy"
- C. Milton's "Paradise Lost"
- D. Thomas Mann's "Doctor Faustus"**

In analyzing T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Professor Hammer argues that Eliot creates something that might be called which of the following ?

- A. "Objective correlative"
- B. "Overheard inner speech"**
- C. "Implicit dialogue with the future"
- D. "A meditation on contradictions"

Which of the following statements best characterizes the contrast between T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" and the futurist aesthetic project ?

- A. "The Waste Land" is an ironic exploration of Romantic themes, whereas the futurists incorporate ironic evocations of the classical tradition in their poetry.
- B. "The Waste Land" confronts the fragmentation of modernity by exploring a variety of modes and voices, whereas the futurists do not focus on the fragmentation of modern experience, praising speed and industrial progress instead.**
- C. "The Waste Land" is primarily concerned with nature, whereas the futurists are most interested in industrial and urban landscapes.
- D. "The Waste Land" focuses on the personal connection between poet and speaker, whereas the futurists focus on an impersonal connection between humans and industry.

Professor Hammer argues that Marianne Moore's poem "England" suggests which of the following ?

- A. Moore's emotional and aesthetic attachment to England
- B. Moore's interest in England's civilizing mission in the world
- C. Moore's particular kind of combative American cultural nationalism**
- D. Moore's harsh critique of the carnage of World War I

What does Gertrude Stein's term "the Lost Generation" designate ?

- A. It refers to the young generation whose coming of age was interrupted by World War I.
- B. It refers to a group of talented American émigré writers who lived in Europe after World War I.
- C. It refers to English poets who sought refuge in New York City after World War I ended.
- D. Both A and B**

Which of the following was NOT a prominent theme of American and English modernist poetry ?

- A. The quest to describe objects with precision and without emotion
- B. The search for a new poetic language and the idea that language can be reinvented by poets
- C. The idea that the self is neither unitary nor permanently stable
- D. The approval of the norms and values of bourgeois culture**

Which of the following statements best characterizes the formal qualities of Langston Hughes's poem "Life is Fine" ?

- A. This poem is structured like a villanelle.
- B. The use of alternating end rhymes and word repetitions enhance the music of the poem and along with its occasional dissonance give it an improvisational jazz-like quality.**
- C. It is written in Standard American English for middle-class readers.
- D. The diction is much more polysyllabic than monosyllabic.

Generally speaking, African-American themes were very rare in white modernist poetry.

Which of the following white poets attempted to evoke elements of black experience in his or her poems ?

- A. T.S. Eliot
- B. Hart Crane**
- C. William Carlos Williams
- D. H.D.

Complete the following sentence. Poetic images which idealize war and ascribe spiritual qualities to battle can be found primarily in English poems written_____?

- A. in the 1920s.
- B. in the early stages of World War I.
- C. in the late stages of World War I.**
- D. around 1900.

Which of the following images in Arthur Rimbaud's poem "Eternity" undermines the idea that eternity is something fixed and permanent ?

- A. The image of satiny embers
- B. The image of the sun reflected on the sea**
- C. The image of a quest for knowledge
- D. The image of a sentinel

Professor Hammer argues that in a certain sense Wallace Stevens's poetry is always meta-poetry. What does this mean ?

- A. Stevens's poetry highlights an objective voice.
- B. Stevens's poetry investigates its own rules.**
- C. Stevens's poetry always addresses several different audiences.
- D. Stevens's poetry is primarily, though not explicitly, concerned with metaphysics.

Medieval Literature And Cultural MCQs

Which of the following writers wrote about trench warfare during the Great War ?

- A. Isaac Rosenberg
- B. Siegfried Sassoon
- C. Wilfred Owen
- D. All of these answers**

In the first lecture of his Modern Poetry course, what argument does Professor Langdon Hammer make about the relationship between the modern city and poetic modernism ?

- A. Individuals often felt lost and alienated in large cities, and among poets this resulted in turning inward and focusing only on the world of one's own imagination.
- B. Many languages and many forms of language were used in large cities; modernist poets often treated language not as something given and natural but as a construct which they could manipulate.**
- C. Most modernist poets lived in large cities; therefore, they often used urban imagery in their poetry.
- D. All of these answers

Which of the following statements best characterizes Ezra Pound's poem "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley" ?

- A. Its intensity derives from the combination of modern subject matter and alexandrine couplets.
- B. It uses iambic pentameter to achieve tonal fluidity.
- C. It undermines the idea of a single lyrical voice by using diverse cultural symbols and numerous phrases in various languages.**
- D. It is primarily a narrative poem.

According to Langston Hughes's essay "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain" (his answer to George Schuyler's essay "Negro Art Hokum"), what is the "mountain" that stands in the way of "any true Negro art in America" ?

- A. It is the racial discrimination endemic in the white community.
- B. It is a widespread "urge to incorporate and neutralize other cultures" among white Americans.
- C. It is a widespread "urge toward whiteness" among African Americans.**
- D. It is the racial segregation in the South.

Which of the following statements best characterizes the form of Claude McKay's poem "The Harlem Dancer" ?

- A. It is an English sonnet.**
- B. It is a Spenserian sonnet.
- C. It is an Italian sonnet.
- D. It is a free verse poem.

Which of the following descriptors does NOT apply to the features of French Symbolist poetry that influenced other modernist poetry ?

- A. French Symbolist poetry is shocking.
- B. French Symbolist poetry has narrative clarity.**
- C. French Symbolist poetry is full of exaggerated metaphors.
- D. French Symbolist poetry is formally experimental.

What is the most notable characteristic of Ezra Pound's "In a Station at the Metro" ?

- A. The use of simile
- B. The use of synesthesia
- C. The form of a villanelle
- D. The use of metaphor**

Yeats's "Song of Wandering Aengus" ends with the lines: "And pluck till time and times are done/The silver apples of the moon/The golden apples of the sun." Which of the following is NOT a symbolic meaning of the apples ?

- A. They point to alchemical elements, which in turn symbolize the body and the soul.
- B. They symbolize the return to a lost paradise.
- C. They symbolize the coming apocalypse.**
- D. They symbolize a fulfilled longing.

Which of the following statements best expresses the difference between how visual images functioned in World War I poetry and Imagist poetry ?

- A. World War I poets valued clarity of expression through visual images, whereas Imagists relied on complex expression through emotional visual images.
- B. The Imagists relied on visual images to achieve clarity of expression, whereas World War I poets relied on visual images to subtly punctuate their often desperate political messages.**
- C. The Imagists valued brevity, which could be achieved with precise visual images, whereas World War I poets preferred declamatory statements in their poems.
- D. There were no significant differences in the functioning of visual images in these two types of poetry.

Ezra Pound's "Cantos" may be called a modernist epic, though its form ultimately defies classification. Pound's poem alludes to which of the following epic poems ?

- A. Paradise Lost
- B. The Mahabharata
- C. The Odyssey**
- D. The Aeneid

Which of the following statements does NOT characterize the poet e. e. cummings ?

- A. Active pacifist during both world wars
- B. Ivy League educated
- C. Popularized the use of free verse
- D. A private and self-effacing person**

Ezra Pound's poem "In a Station of the Metro" reads: "The apparition of these faces in the crowd;/Petals on a wet, black bough." Which of the following statements best characterizes this poem ?

- A. It seeks to amplify the distance between society and nature.
- B. It seeks to diminish the distance between society and nature.
- C. It plays with the relationship between the social, natural, and supernatural worlds.**
- D. It evokes the beauty of a pastoral scene.

Which of the following statements best characterizes American World War II poems ?

- A. They tend to use metaphors and avoid direct descriptive statements.
- B. They tend to use traditional rhyme schemes and rhythms, and they avoid free verse.
- C. They tend to use classical imagery while rejecting romantic tropes.
- D. They tend to be narrative and confront the reader with stark wartime realities.**

Which of the following natural forces "speaks" in the culminating passage of T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" ?

- A. An avalanche
- B. The west wind

C. Rapids

D. Thunder

What is the central theme of Keith Douglas's "How to Kill" ?

A. Combat detaches a man from humanity.

B. It is honorable and just to defend your country in a war.

C. All is fair in love and war.

D. There is a right and a wrong way to throw a hand grenade.

Which of the following writers authored the poem "Dulce et Decorum Est?"

A. Wilfred Owen

B. Rupert Brooke

C. Siegfried Sassoon

D. Rudyard Kipling

Which of the following best characterizes T.S. Eliot's concept of the "objective correlative" ?

A. The objective correlative refers to the correlation between the poem's formal structure and its rhetorical aim.

B. The objective correlative refers to the correlation between the poem's formal structure and its meaning.

C. The objective correlative refers to the correlation between the poem's theme and its objective historical context.

D. The objective correlative refers to a set of objects, situations, or events which necessarily produce a particular emotion.

"How can we live in this fear says one./From day to day says another." ?

A. Fear of the AIDs crisis

B. Fear of the failure of a segregated educational system

C. Fear of global nuclear war

D. Fear of the economic Great Depression

Which of the following best describes the idea of the symbol among French Symbolist poets ?

A. A symbol is a metaphor that allows the poet to capture complex social realities.

B. A symbol is an emblem of the actual world endowed with supernatural meanings.

C. A symbol is an image that conveys powerful emotional states.

D. A symbol is a description of past realities.

Professor Hammer argues that which of the following statements is true of Ezra Pound's strong emphasis on poetic technique ?

A. It is a paradoxical mixture of personal and impersonal elements.

B. It serves the greater aim of conveying both intensity and immediacy in Pound's poetry.

C. It serves to effectively depersonalize Pound's poems.

D. It is a means of creating a dialogue between modernity and tradition.

Which of the following statements best characterizes the difference between World War II poetry and Futurist poetry ?

A. The Futurists apotheosized technology, whereas World War II poets often focused on technology's destructive powers.

B. The Futurists focused on advancements in technology and industry, whereas World War II poets ignored advancements in technology, especially in modern warfare.

C. The Futurists privileged the part over the whole, whereas World War II poets did not deal with the problem of modernity and alienation.

D. The Futurists praised speed, whereas World War II poets often evoked images of nature to describe the human condition.

Which of the following writers was among the founders of the Imagist movement ?

- A. Horace Greeley
- B. Salvador Dali
- C. Ezra Pound**
- D. Rupert Brooke

Which of the following statements accurately characterizes Marianne Moore's poem "A Grave?"

- A. It has a subtle formal structure, even though it does not use rhyme.
- B. It uses alliteration and iambic pentameter.
- C. It juxtaposes human consciousness against the sea.
- D. Both A and C**

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