English 3-AP Language and Compostion
Summer Reading Study Guide

Text: The Scarlet Letter - Nathaniel Hawthorne

Study Guide

To help you get the most out of the novel, you must read actively. Keep notes as you read to help you keep track of the plot and the thematic development.

Graphic Organizer

As you read the novel, trace the key events of the plot so that you will be able to analyze the structure of the novel chapter by chapter. When you have completed the novel, prepare a Graphic Organizer of your choice that best illustrates the development of the novel.

Chart of Quotes and Comments

Keep track of key themes as you read by marking passages that seem to convey what Hawthorne is getting at through the story. When you have completed the novel, review the passages and select 10 which clearly reveal the thematic progression.

Cite the 10 key passages you have selected verbatim using quotation marks and list the page number. (Do not limit yourself to dialogue.) Then carefully analyze the significance of the quote. Your commentary should be at least twice as long as the quote. You may present this chart in any form you prefer.

Sample AP Multiple Choice Questions - attached

Refer to the passages indicated and answer the questions on the attached scantron. This exercise will familiarize you with the form of the AP exam as well as the literary terms you will have to know for the exam.

Essays-Rhetorical Strategies Analysis and Argumentation-attached

These exercises will help familiarize you with the type of essay you will be learning to write next year to prepare for the AP Language and Composition Exam. Do your best to answer the prompts. Limit your essays to two typed pages each. They will be the starting point for our writing instruction.

Due Date: All work due at second meeting of class. If you do not submit this assignment in full, you will be dropped from the class.

Directions: This part consists of selections from *The Scarlet Letter* and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

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

Passage 1, Questions 1-7. Read the following passage from Chapter 1, "The Market-Place," carefully before you choose your answers.

The grass-plot before the jail, in Prison Lane, on a certain summer morning, not less than two centuries ago, was occupied by a pretty large number of the inhabitants of Boston, all with their eyes intently fastened on the iron-clamped oaken door. Amongst any other population, or at a later period in the history of New England, the grim rigidity that petrified the bearded physiognomies of these good people would have augured some awful business in hand. It could have betokened nothing short of the anticipated execution of some noted culprit, on whom the sentence of a legal tribunal had but confirmed the verdict of public sentiment. But, in that early severity of the Puritan character, an inference of this kind could not so indubitably be drawn. It might be that a sluggish bond-servant, or an undutiful child, whom his parents had given over to the civil authority, was to be corrected at the whipping-post. It might be, that an Antinomian, a Quaker, or other heterodox religionist was to be scourged out of the town, or an idle and vagrant Indian, whom the white man's fire-water had made riotous about the streets, was to be driven with stripes into the shadow of the forest. It might be, too, that a witch, like old Mistress Hibbins, the bitter-tempered widow of the magistrate, was to die upon the gallows. In either case, there was very much the same solemnity of demeanor on the part of the spectators; as befitted a people amongst whom religion and law were almost identical, and in whose character both were so thoroughly interfused, that the mildest and the severest acts of public discipline were alike made venerable and awful. Meagre, indeed, and cold was the sympathy that a transgressor might look for from such by-standers, at the scaffold. On the other hand, a penalty, which, in our days, would infer a degree of mocking infamy and ridicule, might then be invested with almost as stern a dignity as the punishment of death itself.

It was a circumstance to be noted, on the summer morning when our story begins its course, that the women, of whom there were several in the crowd, appeared to take a particular interest in whatever penal infliction might be expected to ensue. The age had not so much refinement, that any sense of impropriety restrained the wearers of petticoats and farthingale from stepping forth into the public ways, and wedging their not unsubstantial persons, if occasion were, into the throng nearest to the scaffold at an execution. Morally, as well as materially, there was a coarser fibre in those wives and maidens of old English birth and breeding, than in their fair descendants, separated from them by a series of six or seven generations; for, throughout that chain of ancestry, every successive mother has transmitted to her child a fainter bloom, a more delicate and briefer beauty, and a slighter physical frame, if not a character of less force and solidity, than her own. The women who were now standing about the prison-door stood within less than half a century of the period when the man-like Elizabeth had been the not altogether unsuitable representative of the sex. They were her country-women; and the beef and ale of their native land, with a moral diet not a whit more refined, entered largely into their composition. The bright morning sun, therefore, shone on broad shoulders and well-developed busts, and on round and ruddy cheeks, that had ripened in the far-off island, and had hardly yet grown paler or thinner in the atmosphere of New England. There was, moreover, a boldness and rotundity of speech among these matrons, as most of them seemed to be, that would startle us at the present day, whether in respect to its purport or its volume of tone.

"Goodwives," said a hard-featured dame of fifty, "I'll tell ye a piece of my mind. It would be greatly for the public behoof, if we women, being of mature age and church-members in good repute, should have the handling of such malefactresses as this Hester Prynne. What think ye, gossips? If the hussy stood up for judgment before us five, that are now here in a knot together, would she come off with such a sentence as the worshipful magistrates have awarded? Marry, I trow not!"

"People say," said another, "that the Reverend Master Dimmesdale, her godly pastor, takes it very grievously to heart that such a scandal should have come upon his congregation."

"The magistrates are God-fearing gentlemen, but merciful overmuch --that is a truth," added a third autumnal matron. "At the very least, they should have put the brand of a hot iron on Hester Prynne's forehead. Madam Hester would have winced at that, I warrant me. But she--the

naughty baggage--little will she care what they put upon the bodice of her gown! Why, look you, she may cover it with a brooch, or such like heathenish adornment, and so walk the streets as brave as ever!"

"Ah, but," interposed, more softly, a young wife, holding a child by the hand, "let her cover the mark as she will, the pang of it will be always in her heart."

"What do we talk of marks and brands, whether on the bodice of her gown, or the flesh of her forehead?" cried another female, the ugliest as well as the most pitiless of these self-constituted judges. "This woman has brought shame upon us all, and ought to die. Is there not law for it? Truly, there is, both in the Scripture and the statute-book. Then let the magistrates, who have made it of no effect, thank themselves if their own wives and daughters go astray!"

"Mercy on us, goodwife," exclaimed a man in the crowd, "is there no virtue in woman, save what springs from a wholesome fear of the gallows? That is the hardest word yet! Hush, now, gossips! for the lock is turning in the prison-door, and here comes Mistress Prynne herself."

1. A prominent stylistic characteristic of the narrator's discussion of the awaited culprit's possible identity: "But in that early . . . made venerable and awful" (lines 14-33) is

   (A) hyperbole
   (B) parallel construction
   (C) metaphor
   (D) syllogistic reasoning
   (E) allegory

2. The negative tone of the speaker's appraisal of the assembled women is tempered by which of the following phrases?

   (A) "wedging their not insubstantial persons" (lines 49-50)
   (B) "a coarser fibre in those wives and maidens" (lines 52-53)
   (C) "a more delicate and briefer beauty" (line 58)
   (D) "with a moral diet not a whit more refined" (line 66)
   (E) "in respect to its purport or its volume of tone" (lines 75-76)

3. The antecedent of "its" in line 76 is

   (A) "speech" (line 73)
   (B) "matrons" (line 73)
   (C) "them" (line 74)
   (D) "present day" (line 75)
   (E) "respect" (line 75)

4. As used in line 75, "purport" means

   (A) purpose
   (B) appearance
   (C) meaning
   (D) transport
   (E) allegation

5. The narrator seems to feel that the women of the era

   (A) are harsher in their judgments than are the ruling men
   (B) are overly subservient to men
   (C) are without exception bitter-tempered
   (D) are more refined than the "man-like" Elizabeth"
   (E) are concerned about Antinomians

6. The conversation beginning "Goodwives" (line (77) and ending ". . . Mistress Prynne herself" (line 120) is characterized by several

   (A) personifications
   (B) euphemisms
   (C) apostrophes
   (D) antitheses
   (E) rhetorical questions

7. The words of the man in the crowd, "Mercy on us . . . hardest word yet!" (lines 115-118) serve the purpose of

   (A) pointing out the moral deficiencies of the women of the era
   (B) explaining the magistrates' choice of Hester's sentence
   (C) exposing the underlying implication of the "goodwife's" words
   (D) criticizing those who would question authority
   (E) comparing virtuous women to those who fear the gallows

Passage 2, Questions 8-16. Read the following passage from Chapter 3 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Recognition," carefully before you choose your answers.

From this intense consciousness of being the object of severe and universal observation, the wearer of the scarlet letter was at length relieved, by discerning, on the outskirts of the crowd, a figure which irresistibly took possession of her thoughts. An Indian, in his native garb, was standing there; but the red men were not so infrequent visitors of the English settlements, that one of them would have attracted any notice from Hester Prynne at such a time; much less would he have excluded all other objects and ideas from her mind. By the Indian's side, and evidently sustaining a companionship with him, stood a white man, clad in a strange disarray of civilized and savage costume.

He was small in stature, with a furrowed visage, which, as yet, could hardly be termed aged. There was a remarkable intelligence in his features, as of a person who had so cultivated his mental part that it could not fail to mould the physical to itself, and become manifest by unmistakable tokens. Although, by a seemingly careless arrangement of his heterogeneous garb, he had endeavored to conceal or abate the peculiarity, it was sufficiently evident to Hester Prynne that one of this man's shoulders rose higher than the other. Again, at the first instant of perceiving that thin visage, and the slight deformity of the figure, she pressed her infant to her bosom with so convulsive a force that the poor babe uttered another cry of pain. But the mother did not seem to hear it.

At his arrival in the market-place, and some time before she saw him, the stranger had bent his eyes on Hester Prynne. It was carelessly, at first, like a man chiefly accustomed to look inward, and to whom external matters are of little value and import, unless they bear relation to something within his mind. Very soon, however, his look became keen and penetrative. A writhing horror twisted itself across his features, like a snake gliding swiftly over them, and making one little pause, with all its wreathed intervolutions in open sight. His face darkened with some powerful emotion, which, nevertheless, he so instantaneously controlled by an effort of his will, that, save at a single moment, its expression might have passed for calmness. After a brief space, the convulsion grew almost imperceptible, and finally subsided into the depths of his nature. When he found the eyes of Hester Prynne fastened on his own, and saw that she appeared to recognize him, he slowly and calmly raised his finger, made a gesture with it in the air, and laid it on his lips.

Then, touching the shoulder of a townsman who stood next to him, he addressed him, in a formal and courteous manner.

"I pray you, good Sir," said he, "who is this woman?--and wherefore is she here set up to public shame?"

"You must needs be a stranger in this region, friend," answered the townsman, looking curiously at the questioner and his savage companion, "else you would surely have heard of Mistress Hester Prynne, and her evil doings. She hath raised a great scandal, I promise you, in godly Master Dimmesdale's church."

"You say truly," replied the other. "I am a stranger, and have been a wanderer, sorely against my will. I have met with grievous mishaps by sea and land, and have been long held in bonds among the heathen-folk, to the southward; and am now brought hither by this Indian to be redeemed out of my captivity. Will it please you, therefore, to tell me of Hester Prynne's--have I her name rightly?--of this woman's offences, and what has brought her to yonderscaffold?"

"Truly, friend; and methinks it must gladden your heart, after your troubles and sojourn in the wilderness," said the townsman, "to find yourself, at length, in a land where iniquity is searched out, and punished in the sight of rulers and people, as here in our godly New England. Yonder woman, Sir, you must know, was the wife of a certain learned man, English by birth, but who had long dwelt in Amsterdam, whence, some good time agone, he was minded to cross over and cast in his lot with us of the Massachusetts. To this purpose, he sent his wife before him, remaining himself to look after some necessary affairs. Marry, good Sir, in some two years, or less, that the woman has been a dweller here in Boston, no tidings have come of this learned gentleman, Master Prynne; and his young wife, look you, being left to her own misguidance"--

"Ah! aha!--I conceive you," said the stranger with a bitter smile. "So learned a man as you speak of should have learned this too in his books. And who, by your favor, Sir, may be the father of yonder babe--it is some three or four months old, I should judge--which Mistress Prynne is holding in her arms?"

"Of a truth, friend, that matter remaineth a riddle; and the Daniel who shall expound it is yet a-wanting," answered the townsman. "Madam Hester absolutely refuseth to speak, and the magistrates have laid their heads together in vain. Peradventure the guilty one stands looking on at this sad spectacle, unknown of man, and forgetting that God sees him."

"The learned man," observed the stranger, with another smile, "should come himself, to look into the mystery."

"It behooves him well, if he be still in life," responded the townsman. "Now, good Sir, our Massachusetts magistracy, bethinking themselves that this woman is youthful and fair, and doubtless was strongly tempted to her fall--and that, moreover, as is most likely, her husband may be at the bottom of the sea--they have not been bold to put in force the extremity of our righteous law against her. The penalty thereof is death. But in their great mercy and tenderness of heart, they have doomed Mistress Prynne to stand only a space of three hours on the platform of the pillory, and then and thereafter, for the remainder of her natural life, to wear a mark of shame upon her bosom."

"A wise sentence!" remarked the stranger, gravely bowing his head. "Thus she will be a living sermon against sin, until the ignominious letter be engraved upon her tombstone. It irks me, nevertheless, that the partner of her iniquity should not, at least, stand on the scaffold by her side. But he will be known!--he will be known!--he will be known!"

8. The word "careless" as used in line 21 most nearly means

(A) reckless
(B) unstudied
(C) selfish
(D) thoughtless
(E) irrational

9. In describing the momentary revelation of the stranger's emotion, the narrator employs

(A) allusion
(B) personification
(C) simile
(D) antithesis
(E) hyperbole

10. The antecedent of "its" (line 45) is

(A) "snake" (line 39)
(B) "face" (line 42)
(C) "emotion" (line 43)
(D) "will" (line 44)
(E) "moment" (line 45)

11. The stranger most likely lays his finger on his lips (line 52) to

(A) keep himself from speaking involuntarily
(B) express sympathy for Hester Prynne
(C) communicate his wishes to his Indian companion
(D) signal to Hester that she should not acknowledge him
(E) express his amazement at the scene before him

12. Which of the following is the subject of the main clause in the first sentence of the third paragraph--"At his arrival . . . Prynne" (lines 31-33)?

(A) arrival
(B) market-place
(C) stranger
(D) she
(E) Hester Prynne

13. The tone of the first three paragraphs is best described as

(A) foreboding
(B) ironic
(C) agitated
(D) elegiac
(E) despairing

14. In the conversation with the stranger, the townsman discusses all of the following EXCEPT

(A) his unwavering support of the magistrates
(B) speculation as to the cause of Hester's sin
(C) speculation as to the fate of Master Prynne
(D) the community's response to Hester's sin
(E) assurance that the identity of the baby's father will be revealed

15. The vehement tone of the two sentences beginning, "'It irks me'" and ending, "'he will be known!'" (lines 129-133) would seem to be most incongruous with which of the stranger's words?

(A) "'The learned man . . . mystery'" (lines 109-111)
(B) "'And who . . . yonder babe'" (lines 97-98)
(C) "'So learned a man as you speak of . . . in his books'" (lines 95-97)
(D) "'have I her name rightly?'" (line 73)
(E) "'A wise sentence!'" (line 126)

16. In the context of the passage as a whole, the stranger's marked courtesy probably serves to further his intention to

(A) disarm
(B) delight
(C) bemuse
(D) compensate
(E) imitate

Passage 3, Questions 17-23. Read the following passage from Chapter 5 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "Hester at Her Needle," carefully before you choose your answers.

Hester Prynne's term of confinement was now at an end. Her prison-door was thrown open, and she came forth into the sunshine, which, falling on all alike, seemed, to her sick and morbid heart, as if meant for no other purpose than to reveal the scarlet letter on her breast. Perhaps there was a more real torture in her first unattended footsteps from the threshold of the prison, than even in the procession and spectacle that have been described, where she was made the common infamy, at which all mankind was summoned to point its finger. Then, she was supported by an unnatural tension of her nerves, and by all the combative energy of her character, which enabled her to convert the scene into a kind of lurid triumph. It was, moreover, a separate and insulated event, to occur but once in her lifetime, and to meet which, therefore, reckless of economy, she might call up the vital strength that would have sufficed for many quiet years. The very law that condemned her--a giant of stern features, but with vigor to support, as well as to annihilate, in his iron arm--had held her up, through the terrible ordeal of her ignominy. But now, with this unattended walk from her prison-door, began the daily custom; and she must either sustain and carry it forward by the ordinary resources of her nature, or sink beneath it. She could no longer borrow from the future to help her through the present brief. To-morrow would bring its own trial with it; so would the next day, and so would the next; each its own trial, and yet the very same that was now so unutterably grievous to be borne. The days of the far-off future would toil onward, still with the same burden for her to take up, and bear along with her, but never to fling down; for the accumulating days, and added years, would pile up their misery upon the heap of shame. Throughout them all, giving up her individuality, she would become the general symbol at which the preacher and the moralist might point, and in which they might vivify and embody their images of woman's frailty and sinful passion. Thus the young and pure would be taught to look at her, with the scarlet letter flaming on her breast--at her, the child of honorable parents--at her, the mother of a babe, that would hereafter be a woman--at her, who had once been innocent--as a figure, the body, the reality of sin. And over her grave, the infamy that she must carry thither would be her only monument.

It may seem marvellous, that, with the world before her--kept by no restrictive clause of her condemnation within the limits of the Puritan settlement, so remote and so obscure--free to return to her birthplace, or to any other European land, and there hide her character and identity under a new exterior, as completely as if emerging into another state of being--and having also the passes of the dark, inscrutable forest open to her, where the wildness of her nature might assimilate itself with a people whose customs and life were alien from the law that had condemned her--it may seem marvellous that this woman should still call that place her home, where, and where only, she must needs be the type of shame. But there is a fatality, a feeling so irresistible and inevitable that it has the force of doom, which almost invariably compels human beings to linger around and haunt, ghostlike, the spot where some great and marked event has given the color to their lifetime; and still more irresistibly, the darker the tinge that saddens it. Her sin, her ignominy, were the roots which she had struck into the soil. It was as if a new birth, with stronger assimilations than the first, had converted the forest-land, still so uncongenial to every other pilgrim and wanderer, into Hester Prynne's wild and dreary, but life-long home. All other scenes of earth--even that village of rural England, where happy infancy and stainless maidenhood seemed yet to be in her mother's keeping, like garments put off long ago--were foreign to her, in comparison. The chain that bound her here was of iron links, and galling to her inmost soul, but could never be broken.

It might be, too--doubtless it was so, although she hid the secret from herself, and grew pale whenever it struggled out of her heart, like a serpent from its hole--it might be that another feeling kept her within the scene and pathway that had been so fatal. There dwelt, there trod the feet of one with whom she deemed herself connected in a union, that, unrecognized on earth, would bring them together before the bar of final judgment, and make that their marriage-altar, for a joint futurity of endless retribution. Over and over again, the tempter of souls had thrust this idea upon Hester's contemplation, and laughed at the passionate and desperate joy with which she seized, and then strove to cast it from her. She barely looked the idea in the face, and hastened to bar it in its dungeon. What she compelled herself to believe--what, finally, she reasoned upon, as her motive for continuing a resident of New England--was half a truth, and half a self-delusion. Here, she said to herself, had been the scene of her guilt, and here should be the scene of her earthly punishment; and so, perchance, the torture of her daily shame would at length purge her soul, and work out another

purity than that which she had lost; more saint-like, because the result of martyrdom.

17. The antecedent of "It" (line 16) is

(A) scene (line 15)
(B) torture (line 8)
(C) infamy (line 11)
(D) energy (line 14)
(E) triumph (line 16)

18. The sentence "The very law that condemned her . . . her ignominy" (lines 20-24), presents which of the following?

I. personification
II. understatement
III. irony

(A) I only
(B) I and II only
(C) I and III only
(D) II and III only
(E) I, II, and III

19. The first sentence of the second paragraph is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

(A) periodic structure
(B) verbals
(C) parallelism
(D) repetition
(E) subordination

20. In the second and third paragraphs, the narrator's purpose is to

(A) present examples of the injustices within the Puritan settlement
(B) posit explanations for a seemingly anomalous situation
(C) defend Hester's determination to maintain a certain sacred union
(D) reinforce his stance as an objective chronicler of events
(E) emphasize Hester's defiance of the law that condemned her

21. In line 68, the word "type" can be best defined as

(A) sort
(B) individual
(C) solid imprint
(D) prime example
(E) species

22. One pair of verb phrases in the third paragraph which illustrates Hester's internal ambivalence is

(A) "hid the secret" and "grew pale" (lines 89-90)
(B) "trod the feet of one" and "deemed herself connected" (lines 93-94)
(C) "thrust this idea" and "laughed at the passionate and desperate joy" (lines 99-101)
(D) "looked the idea in the face" and "hastened to bar it" (lines 102-103)
(E) "compelled herself to believe" and "said to herself" (lines 104-108)

23. The passage is characterized by all of the following rhetorical features EXCEPT

(A) parallel construction
(B) metaphor
(C) personal anecdote
(D) simile
(E) personification

Passage 4, Questions 24-30. Read the following passage from Chapter 7 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Governor's Hall," carefully before you choose your answers.

They approached the door; which was of an arched form, and flanked on each side by a narrow tower or projection of the edifice, in both of which were lattice-windows, with wooden shutters to close over them at need. Lifting the iron hammer that hung at the portal, Hester Prynne gave a summons, which was answered by one of the Governor's bond-servants; a free-born Englishman, but now a seven years' slave. During that term he was to be the property of his master, and as much a commodity of bargain and sale as an ox, or a joint-stool. The serf wore the blue coat, which was the customary garb of serving-men of that period, and long before, in the old hereditary halls of England.

"Is the worshipful Governor Bellingham within?" inquired Hester.

"Yea, forsooth," replied the bond-servant, staring with wide-open eyes at the scarlet letter, which, being a newcomer in the country, he had never before seen. "Yea, his honorable worship is within. But he hath a godly minister or two with him, and likewise a leech. Ye may not see his worship now."

"Nevertheless, I will enter," replied Hester Prynne, and the bond-servant, perhaps, judging from the decision of her air, and the glittering symbol on her bosom, that she was a great lady in the land, offered no opposition.

So the mother and little Pearl were admitted into the hall of entrance. With many variations, suggested by the nature of his building-materials, diversity of climate, and a different mode of social life, Governor Bellingham had planned his new habitation after the residences of gentlemen of fair estate in his native land. Here, then, was a wide and reasonably lofty hall, extending through the whole depth of the house, and forming a medium of general communication, more or less directly, with all the other apartments. At one extremity, this spacious room was lighted by the windows of the two towers, which formed a small recess on either side of the portal. At the other end, though partly muffled by a curtain, it was more powerfully illuminated by one of those embowed hall-windows which we read of in old books, and which was provided with a deep and cushioned seat. Here, on the cushion, lay a folio tome, probably of the Chronicles of England, or other such substantial literature; even as, in our own days, we scatter gilded volumes on the centre-table, to be turned over by the casual guest. The furniture of the hall consisted of some ponderous chairs, the backs of which were elaborately carved with wreaths of oaken flowers; and likewise a table in the same taste; the whole being of the Elizabethan age, or perhaps earlier, and heirlooms, transferred hither from the Governor's paternal home. On the table--in token that the sentiment of old English hospitality had not been left behind--stood a large pewter tankard, at the bottom of which, had Hester or Pearl peeped into it, they might have seen the frothy remnant of a recent draught of ale.

On the wall hung a row of portraits, representing the forefathers of the Bellingham lineage, some with armor on their breasts, and others with stately ruffs and robes of peace. All were characterized by the sternness and severity which old portraits so invariably put on; as if they were the ghosts, rather than the pictures, of departed worthies, and were gazing with harsh and intolerant criticism at the pursuits and enjoyments of living men.

At about the centre of the oaken panels, that lined the hall, was suspended a suit of mail, not, like the pictures, an ancestral relic, but of the most modern date; for it had been manufactured by a skilful armorer in London, the same year in which Governor Bellingham came over to New England. There was a steel headpiece, a cuirass, a gorget, and greaves, with a pair of gauntlets and a sword hanging beneath; all, and especially the helmet and breastplate, so highly burnished as to glow with white radiance, and scatter an illumination everywhere about upon the floor. This bright panoply was not meant for mere idle show, but had been worn by the Governor on many a solemn muster and training field, and had glittered, moreover, at the head of a regiment in the Pequot war. For, though bred a lawyer, and accustomed to speak of Bacon, Coke, Noye, and Finch as his professional associates, the exigencies of this new country had transformed Governor Bellingham into a soldier as well as a statesman and ruler.

Little Pearl--who was as greatly pleased with the gleaming armor as she had been with the glittering frontispiece of the house--spent some time looking into the polished mirror of the breastplate.

"Mother," cried she, "I see you here. Look! Look!"

Hester looked, by way of humoring the child; and she saw that, owing to the peculiar effect of this convex mirror, the scarlet letter was represented in exaggerated and gigantic proportions, so as to be greatly the most prominent feature of her appearance. In truth, she seemed absolutely hidden behind it. Pearl pointed upward, also, at a similar picture in the headpiece; smiling at her

mother, with the elfish intelligence that was so familiar an expression on her small physiognomy. That look of naughty merriment was likewise reflected in the mirror, with so much breadth and intensity of effect, that it made Hester Prynne feel as if it could not be the image of her own child, but of an imp who was seeking to mould itself into Pearl's shape.

24. The similes employed in the first paragraph suggest primarily that the serf

(A) contributes to the picturesque atmosphere of the home
(B) is not adequately remunerated for his labors
(C) labors strenuously for his master
(D) would have fared better had he remained in England
(E) is viewed as less than human

25. In the paragraph beginning "So the mother and little Pearl" (line 29), the narrator makes clear that he

(A) disapproves of the governor's furnishings
(B) is critical of the governor's lack of hospitality
(C) has doubts as to the identity of the governor's "paternal home"
(D) is not the governor's contemporary
(E) can pinpoint precisely the period to which the furnishings belong

26. Which of the following is the subject of the sentence "With many variations . . . his native land" (lines 30-35)?

(A) Governor Bellingham
(B) nature
(C) diversity
(D) habitation
(E) gentlemen

27. In the paragraph beginning "At about the centre" (line 73), the narrator's attitude toward Governor Bellingham could best be described as

(A) pedestrian
(B) cynical
(C) respectful
(D) condescending
(E) fawning

28. Which of the following is the antecedent for "it" (line 76)?

(A) "centre" (line 73)
(B) "hall" (line 74)
(C) "suit" (line 74)
(D) "pictures" (line 75)
(E) "relic" (line 75)

29. The phrase "by way of" (line 101) would most accurately be rephrased as

(A) "instead of"
(B) "incidentally to"
(C) "in the manner of"
(D) "by means of".
(E) "in order to"

30. The author's style in the passage is characterizedby

(A) literary allusions
(B) highly abstract metaphors
(C) historical references
(D) didacticrhetoric
(E) aphoristic statements

Passage 5, Questions 31-37. Read the following passage from Chapter 9 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Leech," carefully before you choose your answers.

In this manner, the mysterious old Roger Chillingworth became the medical adviser of the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale. As not only the disease interested the physician, but he was strongly moved to look into the character and qualities of the patient, these two men, so different in age, came gradually to spend much time together. For the sake of the minister's health, and to enable the leech to gather plants with healing balm in them, they took long walks on the sea-shore, or in the forest; mingling various talk with the plash and murmur of the waves, and the solemn wind-anthem among the tree-tops. Often, likewise, one was the guest of the other, in his place of study and retirement. There was a fascination for the minister in the company of the man of science, in whom he recognized an intellectual cultivation of no moderate depth or scope; together with a range and freedom of ideas that he would have vainly looked for among the members of his own profession. In truth, he was startled, if not shocked, to find this attribute in the physician. Mr. Dimmesdale was a true priest, a true religionist, with the reverential sentiment largely developed, and an order of mind that impelled itself powerfully along the track of a creed, and wore its passage continually deeper with the lapse of time. In no state of society would he have been what is called a man of liberal views; it would always be essential to his peace to feel the pressure of a faith about him, supporting, while it confined him within its iron framework. Not the less, however, though with a tremulous enjoyment, did he feel the occasional relief of looking at the universe through the medium of another kind of intellect than those with which he habitually held converse. It was as if a window were thrown open, admitting a freer atmosphere into the close and stifled study, where his life was wasting itself away, amid lamplight, or obstructed day-beams, and the musty fragrance, be it sensual or moral, that exhales from books. But the air was too fresh and chill to be long breathed with comfort. So the minister, and the physician with him, withdrew again within the limits of what their church defined as orthodox.

Thus Roger Chillingworth scrutinized his patient carefully, both as he saw him in his ordinary life, keeping an accustomed pathway in the range of thoughts familiar to him, and as he appeared when thrown amidst other moral scenery, the novelty of which might call out something new to the surface of his character. He deemed it essential, it would seem, to know the man, before attempting to do him good. Wherever there is a heart and an intellect, the diseases of the physical frame are tinged with the peculiarities of these. In Arthur Dimmesdale, thought and imagination were so active, and sensibility so intense, that the bodily infirmity would be likely to have its groundwork there. So Roger Chillingworth--the man of skill, the kind and friendly physician--strove to go deep into his patient's bosom, delving among his principles, prying into his recollections, and probing everything with a cautious touch, like a treasure-seeker in a dark cavern. Few secrets can escape an investigator, who has opportunity and license to undertake such a quest, and skill to follow it up. A man burdened with a secret should especially avoid the intimacy of his physician. If the latter possess native sagacity, and a nameless something more,--let us call it intuition; if he show no intrusive egotism, nor disagreeably prominent characteristics of his own; if he have the power, which must be born with him, to bring his mind into such affinity with his patient's, that this last shall unawares have spoken what he imagines himself only to have thought; if such revelations be received without tumult, and acknowledged not so often by an uttered sympathy as by silence, an inarticulate breath, and here and there a word, to indicate that all is understood; if to these qualifications of a confidant be joined the advantages afforded by his recognized character as a physician--then, at some inevitable moment, will the soul of the sufferer be dissolved, and flow forth in a dark, but transparent stream, bringing all its mysteries into the daylight.

Roger Chillingworth possessed all, or most, of the attributes above enumerated. Nevertheless, time went on; a kind of intimacy, as we have said, grew up between these two cultivated minds, which had as wide a field as the whole sphere of human thought and study, to meet upon; they discussed every topic of ethics and religion, of public affairs and private character; they talked much, on both sides, of matters that seemed personal to themselves; and yet no secret, such as the physician fancied must exist there, ever stole out of the minister's consciousness into his companion's ear. The latter had his suspicions, indeed, that even the nature of Mr. Dimmesdale's bodily disease had never fairly been revealed to him. It was a strange reserve!

After a time, at a hint from Roger Chillingworth, the friends of Mr. Dimmesdale effected an arrangement by which the two were lodged in the same house; so that every ebb and flow of the minister's life-tide might pass under the eye of his anxious and attached physician. There was much joy throughout the town when this

greatly desirable object was attained. It was held to be the best possible measure for the young clergyman's welfare; unless, indeed, as often urged by such as felt authorized to do so, he had selected some one of the many blooming damsels, spiritually devoted to him, to become his devoted wife. This latter step, however, there was no present prospect that Arthur Dimmesdale would be prevailed upon to take; he rejected all suggestions of the kind, as if priestly celibacy were one of his articles of church-discipline. Doomed by his own choice, therefore, as Mr. Dimmesdale so evidently was, to eat his unsavory morsel always at another's board, and endure the life-long chill which must be his lot who seeks to warm himself only at another's fireside, it truly seemed that this sagacious, experienced, benevolent old physician, with his concord of paternal and reverential love for the young pastor, was the very man of all mankind to be constantly within reach of his voice.

31. In context, the phrase "of no moderate depth or scope" (lines 17-18) is an example of

(A) litotes
(B) hyperbole
(C) synecdoche
(D) allusion
(E) metaphor

32. "This attribute" (line 21) refers to

(A) "fascination" (line 15)
(B) "man of science" (line 16)
(C) "intellectual cultivation" (line 17)
(D) "depth or scope" (lines 17-18)
(E) "range and freedom" (line 18)

33. The sentence "So the minister . . . defined as orthodox" (lines 42-44) reflects the paradox that

(A) That which is sensual can also be moral.
(B) That which is restrictive can also be comforting.
(C) That which is free can also be stifling.
(D) That which is fresh can also be chill.
(E) That which is liberal can also be orthodox.

34. The subject of the main clause in the sentence beginning "If the latter possess native sagacity . . . " (line 68) is

(A) "latter" (line 68)
(B) "he" (line 70)
(C) "revelations" (line 76)
(D) "qualifications" (line 80)
(E) "soul" (line 83)

35. Considering the context of this chapter and the preceding chapter, the narrator's use of the terms "benevolent," "paternal," and "reverential" (lines 125-126) to describe Chillingworth most likely represent

(A) his own perception of Chillingworth
(B) Dimmesdale's perception of Chillingworth
(C) the perception of both the narrator and the community
(D) the perception of the community
(E) the perception of the town's "blooming damsels"

36. The phrase "constantly within reach of his voice" (line 128) becomes ominous in light of which of the following phrases which precede it?

I. "like a treasure-seeker in a dark cavern" (lines 63-64)
II. "doomed by his own choice" (line 119)
III. "strongly moved to look into the character and qualities of the patient" (lines 4-6)

(A) I only
(B) I and II only
(C) II and III only
(D) I and III only
(E) I, II, and III

37. The passage contains all of the following imagery patterns EXCEPT

(A) confinement and release
(B) darkness and light
(C) quest and discovery
(D) descent and ascent
(E) destruction and creation

Passage 6, Questions 38-45. Read the following passage from Chapter 11 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Interior of a Heart," carefully before you choose your answers.

More than once, Mr. Dimmesdale had gone into the pulpit, with a purpose never to come down its steps until he should have spoken words like the above. More than once, he had cleared his throat, and drawn in the long, deep, and tremulous breath, which, when sent forth again, would come burdened with the black secret of his soul. More than once--nay, more than a hundred times--he had actually spoken! Spoken! But how? He had told his hearers that he was altogether vile, a viler companion of the vilest, the worst of sinners, an abomination, a thing of unimaginable iniquity; and that the only wonder was that they did not see his wretched body shrivelled up before their eyes, by the burning wrath of the Almighty! Could there be plainer speech than this? Would not the people start up in their seats, by a simultaneous impulse, and tear him down out of the pulpit, which he defiled? Not so, indeed! They heard it all, and did but reverence him the more. They little guessed what deadly purport lurked in those self-condemning words. "The godly youth!" said they among themselves. "The saint on earth! Alas, if he discern such sinfulness in his own white soul, what horrid spectacle would he behold in thine or mine!" The minister well knew--subtle, but remorseful hypocrite that he was!--the light in which his vague confession would be viewed. He had striven to put a cheat upon himself by making the avowal of a guilty conscience, but had gained only one other sin, and a self-acknowledged shame, without the momentary relief of being self-deceived. He had spoken the very truth, and transformed it into the veriest falsehood. And yet, by the constitution of his nature, he loved the truth, and loathed the lie, as few men ever did. Therefore, above all things else, he loathed his miserable self!

His inward trouble drove him to practices more in accordance with the old, corrupted faith of Rome, than with the better light of the church in which he had been born and bred. In Mr. Dimmesdale's secret closet, under lock and key, there was a bloody scourge. Oftentimes, this Protestant and Puritan divine had plied it on his own shoulders; laughing bitterly at himself the while, and smiting so much the more pitilessly because of that bitter laugh. It was his custom, too, as it has been that of many other pious Puritans, to fast--not, however, like them, in order to purify the body and render it the fitter medium of celestial illumination, but rigorously, and until his knees trembled beneath him, as an act of penance. He kept vigils, likewise, night after night, sometimes in utter darkness; sometimes with a glimmering lamp; and sometimes, viewing his own face in a looking-glass, by the most powerful light which he could throw upon it. He thus typified the constant introspection wherewith he tortured, but could not purify, himself. In these lengthened vigils, his brain often reeled, and visions seemed to flit before him; perhaps seen doubtfully, and by a faint light of their own, in the remote dimness of the chamber, or more vividly, and close beside him, within the looking-glass. Now it was a herd of diabolic shapes, that grinned and mocked at the pale minister, and beckoned him away with them; now a group of shining angels, who flew upward heavily, as sorrow-laden, but grew more ethereal as they rose. Now came the dead friends of his youth, and his white-bearded father, with a saint-like frown, and his mother, turning her face away as she passed by. Ghost of a mother--thinnest fantasy of a mother--methinks she might yet have thrown a pitying glance towards her son! And now, through the chamber which these spectral thoughts had made so ghastly, glided Hester Prynne, leading along little Pearl, in her scarlet garb, and pointing her forefinger, first at the scarlet letter on her bosom, and then at the clergyman's own breast.

None of these visions ever quite deluded him. At any moment, by an effort of his will, he could discern substances through their misty lack of substance, and convince himself that they were not solid in their nature, like yonder table of carved oak, or that big, square, leathern-bound and brazen-clasped volume of divinity. But, for all that, they were, in one sense, the truest and most substantial things which the poor minister now dealt with. It is the unspeakable misery of a life so false as his, that it steals the pith and substance out of whatever realities there are around us, and which were meant by Heaven to be the spirit's joy and nutriment. To the untrue man, the whole universe is false--it is impalpable--it shrinks to nothing within his grasp. And he himself, in so far as he shows himself in a false light, becomes a shadow, or, indeed, ceases to exist. The only truth that continued to give Mr. Dimmesdale a real existence on this earth was the anguish in his inmost soul, and the undissembled expression of it in his aspect. Had he once found power to smile, and wear a face of gayety, there would have been no such man!

On one of those ugly nights, which we have faintly hinted at, but forborne to picture forth, the minister started from his chair. A new thought had struck him. There might be a moment's peace in it. Attiring himself with as much care as if it had been for public worship, and precisely in the

same manner, he stole softly down the staircase,
110 undid the door, and issued forth.

38. The first paragraph is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

(A) parallel structure
(B) exclamatory sentences
(C) hyperbolic language
(D) metaphorical allusions
(E) rhetorical questions

39. The minister's subtlety is most clearly demonstrated by which characteristic of his "confession"?

(A) euphemistic language
(B) mollifying tone
(C) lack of specificity
(D) reliance on abstractions
(E) introductory physical gestures

40. From the second paragraph, it can be inferred that typical Puritan practices might not suffice for a sinner who seeks

(A) purification
(B) preparation
(C) pity
(D) piety
(E) penance

41. In context, the word "typified" (line 57) most nearly means

(A) made common
(B) repeated
(C) represented
(D) continued
(E) characterized

42. The statement that the visions with "their misty lack of substance" are "the truest and most substantial things" (lines 82-88) in the minister's experience is an example of

(A) metonymy
(B) oxymoron
(C) personification
(D) foreshadowing
(E) paradox

43. The phrase "for all that" (line 86) would best be restated as

(A) for that reason
(B) because of all that
(C) instead of all that
(D) in spite of all that
(E) on behalf of all that

44. In the third paragraph, the shift from a discussion of a specific case to that of universal truths is signalled by

(A) "around us" (line 91)
(B) "meant by Heaven" (lines 91-92)
(C) "To the untrue man" (lines 92-93)
(D) "the whole universe" (line 93)
(E) "within his grasp" (line 94)

45. The antecedent of the first "it" in line 107 is

(A) "one" (line 103)
(B) "chair" (line 105)
(C) "thought" (line 105)
(D) "peace" (line 106)
(E) "care" (line 107)

Passage 7, Questions 46-53. Read the following passage from Chapter 13 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "Another View of Hester," carefully before you choose your answers.

It was only the darkened house that could contain her. When sunshine came again, she was not there. Her shadow had faded across the threshold. The helpful inmate had departed, without one backward glance to gather up the meed of gratitude, if any were in the hearts of those whom she had served so zealously. Meeting them in the street, she never raised her head to receive their greeting. If they were resolute to accost her, she laid her finger on the scarlet letter, and passed on. This might be pride, but was so like humility, that it produced all the softening influence of the latter quality on the public mind. The public is despotic in its temper; it is capable of denying common justice, when too strenuously demanded as a right; but quite as frequently it awards more than justice, when the appeal is made, as despots love to have it made, entirely to its generosity. Interpreting Hester Prynne's deportment as an appeal of this nature, society was inclined to show its former victim a more benign countenance than she cared to be favored with, or, perchance, than she deserved.

The rulers, and the wise and learned men of the community, were longer in acknowledging the influence of Hester's good qualities than the people. The prejudices which they shared in common with the latter were fortified in themselves by an iron framework of reasoning, that made it a far tougher labor to expel them. Day by day, nevertheless, their sour and rigid wrinkles were relaxing into something which, in the due course of years, might grow to be an expression of almost benevolence. Thus it was with the men of rank, on whom their eminent position imposed the guardianship of the public morals. Individuals in private life, meanwhile, had quite forgiven Hester Prynne for her frailty; nay, more, they had begun to look upon the scarlet letter as the token, not of that one sin, for which she had borne so long and dreary a penance, but of her many good deeds since. "Do you see that woman with the embroidered badge?" they would say to strangers. "It is our Hester--the town's own Hester, who is so kind to the poor, so helpful to the sick, so comfortable to the afflicted!" Then, it is true, the propensity of human nature to tell the very worst of itself, when embodied in the person of another, would constrain them to whisper the black scandal of bygone years. It was none the less a fact, however, that, in the eyes of the very men who spoke thus, the scarlet letter had the effect of the cross on a nun's bosom. It imparted to the wearer a kind of sacredness, which enabled her to walk securely amid all peril. Had she fallen among thieves, it would have kept her safe. It was reported, and believed by many, that an Indian had drawn his arrow against the badge, and that the missile struck it, but fell harmless to the ground.

The effect of the symbol--or rather, of the position in respect to society that was indicated by it--on the mind of Hester Prynne herself, was powerful and peculiar. All the light and graceful foliage of her character had been withered up by this red-hot brand, and had long ago fallen away, leaving a bare and harsh outline, which might have been repulsive, had she possessed friends or companions to be repelled by it. Even the attractiveness of her person had undergone a similar change. It might be partly owing to the studied austerity of her dress, and partly to the lack of demonstration in her manners. It was a sad transformation, too, that her rich and luxuriant hair had either been cut off, or was so completely hidden by a cap, that not a shining lock of it ever once gushed into the sunshine. It was due in part to all these causes, but still more to something else, that there seemed to be no longer anything in Hester's face for Love to dwell upon; nothing in Hester's form, though majestic and statue-like, that Passion would ever dream of clasping in its embrace; nothing in Hester's bosom, to make it ever again the pillow of Affection. Some attribute had departed from her, the permanence of which had been essential to keep her a woman. Such is frequently the fate, and such the stern development, of the feminine character and person, when the woman has encountered, and lived through, an experience of peculiar severity. If she be all tenderness, she will die. If she survive, the tenderness will either be crushed out of her, or--and the outward semblance is the same--crushed so deeply into her heart that it can never show itself more. The latter is perhaps the truest theory. She who has once been woman, and ceased to be so, might at any moment become a woman again if there were only the magic touch to effect the transfiguration. We shall see whether Hester Prynne were ever afterwards so touched, and so transfigured.

Much of the marble coldness of Hester's impression was to be attributed to the circumstance, that her life had turned, in a great measure, from passion and feeling, to thought. Standing alone in the world,--alone, as to any dependence on society, and with little Pearl to be guided and protected--alone, and hopeless of retrieving her position, even had she not scorned to consider it desirable--she cast away the fragments of a broken chain. The world's law was no law for her mind. It was an age in which the human intellect, newly emancipated, had

taken a more active and a wider range than for many centuries before. Men of the sword had overthrown nobles and kings. Men bolder than these had overthrown and rearranged--not actually, but within the sphere of theory, which was their most real abode--the whole system of ancient prejudice, wherewith was linked much of ancient principle. Hester Prynne imbibed this spirit. She assumed a freedom of speculation, then common enough on the other side of the Atlantic, but which our forefathers, had they known it, would have held to be a deadlier crime than that stigmatized by the scarlet letter. In her lonesome cottage, by the sea-shore, thoughts visited her, such as dared to enter no other dwelling in New England; shadowy guests, that would have been as perilous as demons to their entertainer, could they have been seen so much as knocking at her door.

46. The point of the statement "The public is despotic . . . to its generosity" (lines 13-18) is to

(A) argue that the public will eventually see reason
(B) assert that the public upholds certain rights for its citizens
(C) suggest that the public can be won over by a humble approach
(D) emphasize that the public commonly faces complex dilemmas
(E) refute the idea that the public is mercurial

47. In light of lines 37-40, "nay, more . . . since," the clause which precedes it--"Individuals . . . frailty" (lines 35-37) would best be characterizedas

(A) a hyperbole
(B) a metaphor
(C) an allusion
(D) an understatement
(E) a paradox

48. How does the speaker characterize the difference between "The rulers" (line 23) and the "Individuals in private life" (line 35)?

(A) The rulers are more constrained in their thinking.
(B) The rulers are wiser in their judgments.
(C) The rulers are more prejudiced toward sinners.
(D) The rulers are less compassionate in their responses.
(E) The rulers are more benevolent toward those in need.

49. Which of the following phrases could best be substituted for the phrase "it would have kept her" in line 54 to make the meaning more explicit?

(A) it had the power to keep her
(B) it would likely have kept her
(C) it would have kept Hester
(D) it was thought it would have kept her
(E) it was known to have kept her

50. Which of the following best describes the words "Love," "Passion," and "Affection" as they are used in the third paragraph?

(A) Allusions to the father of Hester's child
(B) Euphemisms for emotions forbidden by the community
(C) Ambiguous references to Hester's contemporaries
(D) Exaggerations of her lover's feelings for Hester
(E) Personifications of abstractions now denied Hester

51. The phrase "to effect" (line 94) most nearly means

(A) to have an impact upon
(B) to assume the appearance of
(C) to alter
(D) to bring about
(E) to be caused by

52. "The sword" in the phrase "Men of the sword" (line 110) is an example of

(A) simile
(B) analogy
(C) metaphor
(D) metonymy
(E) euphemism

53. The narrator uses the terms "deadlier crime" (line 120), "shadowy guests" (line 123), and "perilous as demons" (line 124) to emphasize

I. the community's fear of free speculation
II. Hester's fear of the community's censure
III. Hester's continued rebellion against the community's standards

(A) I only
(B) I and II only
(C) I and III only
(D) II and III only
(E) I, II, and III

Passage 8, Questions 54-60. Read the following passage from Chapter 16 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "A Forest Walk," carefully before you choose your answers.

Hester Prynne remained constant in her resolve to make known to Mr. Dimmesdale, at whatever risk of present pain or ulterior consequences, the true character of the man who had crept into his intimacy. For several days, however, she vainly sought an opportunity of addressing him in some of the meditative walks which she knew him to be in the habit of taking, along the shores of the peninsula, or on the wooded hills of the neighboring country. There would have been no scandal, indeed, nor peril to the holy whiteness of the clergyman's good fame, had she visited him in his own study, where many a penitent, ere now, had confessed sins of perhaps as deep a dye as the one betokened by the scarlet letter. But, partly that she dreaded the secret or undisguised interference of old Roger Chillingworth, and partly that her conscious heart imputed suspicion where none could have been felt, and partly that both the minister and she would need the whole wide world to breathe in, while they talked together--for all these reasons, Hester never thought of meeting him in any narrower privacy than beneath the open sky.

At last, while attending in a sick-chamber, whither the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale had been summoned to make a prayer, she learnt that he had gone, the day before, to visit the Apostle Eliot, among his Indian converts. He would probably return, by a certain hour, in the afternoon of the morrow. Betimes, therefore, the next day, Hester took little Pearl--who was necessarily the companion of all her mother's expeditions, however inconvenient her presence--and set forth.

The road, after the two wayfarers had crossed from the peninsula to the mainland, was no other than a footpath. It straggled onward into the mystery of the primeval forest. This hemmed it in so narrowly, and stood so black and dense on either side, and disclosed such imperfect glimpses of the sky above, that, to Hester's mind, it imaged not amiss the moral wilderness in which she had so long been wandering. The day was chill and sombre. Overhead was a gray expanse of cloud, slightly stirred, however, by a breeze; so that a gleam of flickering sunshine might now and then be seen at its solitary play along the path. This flitting cheerfulness was always at the farther extremity of some long vista through the forest. The sportive sunlight--feebly sportive, at best, in the predominant pensiveness of the day and scene--withdrew itself as they came nigh, and left the spots where it had danced the drearier, because they had hoped to find them bright.

"Mother," said little Pearl, "the sunshine does not love you. It runs away and hides itself, because it is afraid of something on your bosom. Now see! There it is, playing, a good way off. Stand you here, and let me run and catch it. I am but a child. It will not flee from me, for I wear nothing on my bosom yet!"

"Nor ever will, my child, I hope," said Hester.

"And why not, mother?" asked Pearl, stopping short, just at the beginning of her race. "Will not it come of its own accord, when I am a woman grown?"

"Run away, child," answered her mother, "and catch the sunshine! It will soon be gone."

Pearl set forth, at a great pace, and, as Hester smiled to perceive, did actually catch the sunshine, and stood laughing in the midst of it, all brightened by its splendor, and scintillating with the vivacity excited by rapid motion. The light lingered about the lonely child, as if glad of such a playmate, until her mother had drawn almost nigh enough to step into the magic circle too.

"It will go now," said Pearl, shaking her head.

"See!" answered Hester, smiling. "Now I can stretch out my hand, and grasp some of it."

As she attempted to do so, the sunshine vanished; or, to judge from the bright expression that was dancing on Pearl's features, her mother could have fancied that the child had absorbed it into herself, and would give it forth again, with a gleam about her path, as they should plunge into some gloomier shade. There was no other attribute that so much impressed her with a sense of new and untransmitted vigor in Pearl's nature, as this never-failing vivacity of spirits; she had not the disease of sadness, which almost all children, in these latter days, inherit, with the scrofula, from the troubles of their ancestors. Perhaps this too was a disease, and but the reflex of the wild energy with which Hester had fought against her sorrows before Pearl's birth. It was certainly a doubtful charm, imparting a hard, metallic lustre to the child's character. She wanted--what some people want throughout life--a grief that should deeply touch her, and thus humanize and make her capable of sympathy. But there was time enough yet for little Pearl.

54. The narrator hints in the first paragraph that

(A) Hester's sin is not unique in the community
(B) the minister is concerned about causing a scandal
(C) any interference from Chillingworth would be cleverly concealed
(D) the minister's reputation has begun to suffer
(E) Hester knows that she and the minister will not truly have privacy outdoors

55. The subject of the main clause in the sentence beginning "But, partly that she dreaded . . ." (lines 15-23) is

(A) "she" (line 15)
(B) "heart" (line 18)
(C) "the minister and she" (line 19)
(D) "they" (line 20)
(E) "Hester" (line 21)

56. The personification of the sunshine contributes to the passage primarily by

(A) underscoring the Puritan concept of sin
(B) highlighting a contrast between Hester and Pearl
(C) providing a contrast to the non-personified clouds and breeze
(D) heightening the expectation of the minister's appearance
(E) evoking the reader's sympathy for Pearl

57. In context of the passage, Hester would most likely describe Pearl as

(A) inquisitive and morose
(B) rebellious and spiteful
(C) imaginative and compassionate
(D) creative and obedient
(E) enigmatic and energetic

58. The antecedent of "this" (line 93) is

(A) "vigor" (line 89)
(B) "vivacity" (line 90)
(C) "sadness" (line 91)
(D) "scrofula" (line 92)
(E) "troubles" (line 92)

59. In context, the word "wanted" in line 97 is best understood to mean

(A) lacked
(B) needed
(C) sought
(D) desired
(E) longed for

60. The final sentence of the passage is most likely an example of

(A) allusion
(B) antithesis
(C) foreshadowing
(D) irony
(E) symbolism

Passage 9, Questions 61-68. Read the following passage from Chapter 18 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "A Flood of Sunshine," carefully before you choose your answers.

Arthur Dimmesdale gazed into Hester's face with a look in which hope and joy shone out, indeed, but with fear betwixt them, and a kind of horror at her boldness, who had spoken what he vaguely hinted at but dared not speak.

But Hester Prynne, with a mind of native courage and activity, and for so long a period not merely estranged, but outlawed, from society, had habituated herself to such latitude of speculation as was altogether foreign to the clergyman. She had wandered, without rule or guidance, in a moral wilderness; as vast, as intricate and shadowy, as the untamed forest, amid the gloom of which they were now holding a colloquy that was to decide their fate. Her intellect and heart had their home, as it were, in desert places, where she roamed as freely as the wild Indian in his woods. For years past she looked from this estranged point of view at human institutions, and whatever priests or legislators have established; criticizing all with hardly more reverence than the Indian would feel for the clerical band, the judicial robe, the pillory, the gallows, the fireside, or the church. The tendency of her fate and fortunes had been to set her free. The scarlet letter was her passport into regions where other women dared not tread. Shame, Despair, Solitude! These had been her teachers--stern and wild ones--and they had made her strong, but taught her much amiss.

The minister, on the other hand, had never gone through an experience calculated to lead him beyond the scope of generally received laws; although, in a single instance, he had so fearfully transgressed one of the most sacred of them. But this had been a sin of passion, not of principle, nor even purpose. Since that wretched epoch, he had watched, with morbid zeal and minuteness, not his acts--for those it was easy to arrange--but each breath of emotion, and his every thought. At the head of the social system, as the clergymen of that day stood, he was only the more trammelled by its regulations, its principles, and even its prejudices. As a priest, the framework of his order inevitably hemmed him in. As a man who had sinned, but who kept his conscience all alive and painfully sensitive by the fretting of an unhealed wound, he might have been supposed safer within the line of virtue than if he had never sinned at all.

Thus, we seem to see that, as regarded Hester Prynne, the whole seven years of outlaw and ignominy had been little other than a preparation for this very hour. But Arthur Dimmesdale! Were such a man once more to fall, what plea could be urged in extenuation of his crime? None; unless it avail him somewhat, that he was broken down by long and exquisite suffering; that his mind was darkened and confused by the very remorse which harrowed it; that between fleeing as an avowed criminal, and remaining as a hypocrite, conscience might find it hard to strike the balance; that it was human to avoid the peril of death and infamy, and the inscrutable machinations of an enemy; that, finally, to this poor pilgrim, on his dreary desert path, faint, sick, miserable, there appeared a glimpse of human affection and sympathy, a new life, and a true one, in exchange for the heavy doom which he was now expiating. And be the stern and sad truth spoken, that the breach which guilt has once made into the human soul is never, in this mortal state, repaired. It may be watched and guarded; so that the enemy shall not force his way again into the citadel, and might even, in his subsequent assaults, select some other avenue, in preference to that where he had formerly succeeded. But there is still the ruined wall, and, near it, the stealthy tread of the foe that would win over again his unforgotten triumph.

61. The first two paragraphs are each followed by a paragraph which provides

(A) an elaboration
(B) a contrast
(C) a qualification
(D) an example
(E) an analogy

62. In the second paragraph, the author includes all of the following rhetorical devices EXCEPT

(A) analogy
(B) simile
(C) metonymy
(D) personification
(E) euphemism

63. In the second paragraph, the narrator

(A) evinces his approval of Hester's point of view
(B) remains an objective chronicler of events
(C) praises the Puritan society
(D) qualifies an otherwise sympathetic description of Hester
(E) reveals his unadulterated admiration for the "wild Indian"

64. In the third paragraph, the description of the minister is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

(A) absolutes
(B) parallel construction
(C) generalization
(D) alliteration
(E) Biblical allusions

65. The phrase "unless it avail him somewhat" (lines 54-55) serves to introduce

I. a series of possible justifications for the minister's eventual decision
II. an answer to a rhetorical question posed earlier
III. an ironic description of the minister before his second "fall"

(A) I only
(B) II only
(C) I and II only
(D) II and III only
(E) I, II, and III

66. "The citadel" (line 72) is most likely a reference to

(A) "the stern and sad truth" (lines 67-68)
(B) "the breach" (line 68)
(C) "guilt" (line 68)
(D) "the human soul" (line 69)
(E) "this mortal state" (lines 69-70)

67. In the fourth paragraph, beginning "Thus, we seem to see that . . ." (line 49), the narrator's sympathy for Dimmesdale is conveyed primarily through his choice of

(A) adjectives
(B) verbs
(C) adverbs
(D) sentence structure
(E) similes

68. The narrator describes both Hester and Dimmesdale as

(A) being tormented by unhealed wounds
(B) fighting an inscrutable enemy
(C) wandering in a desert
(D) being trammelled by society's regulations
(E) criticizing Puritan institutions

Passage 10, Questions 69-75. Read the following passage from Chapter 22 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Procession," carefully before you choose your answers.

During all this time, Hester stood, statue-like, at the foot of the scaffold. If the minister's voice had not kept her there, there would nevertheless have been an inevitable magnetism in that spot, whence she dated the first hour of her life of ignominy. There was a sense within her,--too ill-defined to be made a thought, but weighing heavily on her mind--that her whole orb of life, both before and after, was connected with this spot, as with the one point that gave it unity.

Little Pearl, meanwhile, had quitted her mother's side, and was playing at her own will about the market-place. She made the sombre crowd cheerful by her erratic and glistening ray; even as a bird of bright plumage illuminates a whole tree of dusky foliage by darting to and fro, half seen and half concealed amid the twilight of the clustering leaves. She had an undulating, but, oftentimes, a sharp and irregular movement. It indicated the restless vivacity of her spirit, which to-day was doubly indefatigable in its tiptoe dance, because it was played upon and vibrated with her mother's disquietude. Whenever Pearl saw anything to excite her ever-active and wandering curiosity, she flew thitherward, and, as we might say, seized upon that man or thing as her own property, so far as she desired it; but without yielding the minutest degree of control over her motions in requital. The Puritans looked on, and, if they smiled, were none the less inclined to pronounce the child a demon offspring, from the indescribable charm of beauty and eccentricity that shone through her little figure, and sparkled with its activity. She ran and looked the wild Indian in the face; and he grew conscious of a nature wilder than his own. Thence, with native audacity, but still with a reserve as characteristic, she flew into the midst of a group of mariners, the swarthy-cheeked wild men of the ocean, as the Indians were of the land; and they gazed wonderingly and admiringly at Pearl, as if a flake of the sea-foam had taken the shape of a little maid, and were gifted with a soul of the sea-fire, that flashes beneath the prow in the night-time.

One of these seafaring men--the shipmaster, indeed, who had spoken to Hester Prynne--was so smitten with Pearl's aspect, that he attempted to lay hands upon her, with purpose to snatch a kiss. Finding it as impossible to touch her as to catch a humming-bird in the air, he took from his hat the gold chain that was twisted about it, and threw it to the child. Pearl immediately twined it around her neck and waist, with such happy skill, that, once seen there, it became a part of her, and it was difficult to imagine her without it.

"Thy mother is yonder woman with the scarlet letter," said the seaman. "Wilt thou carry her a message from me?"

"If the message pleases me, I will," answered Pearl.

"Then tell her," rejoined he, "that I spake again with the black-a-visaged, hump-shouldered old doctor, and he engages to bring his friend, the gentleman she wots of, aboard with him. So let thy mother take no thought, save for herself and thee. Wilt thou tell her this, thou witch-baby?"

"Mistress Hibbins says my father is the Prince of the Air!" cried Pearl, with a naughty smile. "If thou callest me that ill name, I shall tell him of thee, and he will chase thy ship with a tempest!"

Pursuing a zigzag course across the market-place, the child returned to her mother, and communicated what the mariner had said. Hester's strong, calm, steadfastly enduring spirit almost sank, at last, on beholding this dark and grim countenance of an inevitable doom, which--at the moment when a passage seemed to open for the minister and herself out of their labyrinth of misery--showed itself, with an unrelenting smile, right in the midst of their path.

With her mind harassed by the terrible perplexity in which the shipmaster's intelligence involved her, she was also subjected to another trial. There were many people present, from the country round about, who had often heard of the scarlet letter, and to whom it had been made terrific by a hundred false or exaggerated rumors, but who had never beheld it with their own bodily eyes. These, after exhausting other modes of amusement, now thronged about Hester Prynne with rude and boorish intrusiveness. Unscrupulous as it was, however, it could not bring them nearer than a circuit of several yards. At that distance they accordingly stood, fixed there by the centrifugal force of the repugnance which the mystic symbol inspired. The whole gang of sailors, likewise, observing the press of spectators, and learning the purport of the scarlet letter, came and thrust their sunburnt and desperado-looking faces into the ring. Even the Indians were affected by a sort of cold shadow of the white man's curiosity, and gliding through the crowd, fastened their snake-like black eyes on Hester's bosom; conceiving, perhaps, that the wearer of this brilliantly embroidered badge must needs be a personage of high dignity among her people. Lastly, the inhabitants of the town (their own interest in this worn-out subject languidly reviving itself, by sympathy with what they saw others feel)

lounged idly to the same quarter, and tormented Hester Prynne, perhaps more than all the rest, with their cool, well-acquainted gaze at her familiar shame. Hester saw and recognized the self-same faces of that group of matrons, who had awaited her forthcoming from the prison-door, seven years ago; all save one, the youngest and only compassionate among them, whose burial-robe she had since made. At the final hour, when she was so soon to fling aside the burning letter, it had strangely become the centre of more remark and excitement, and was thus made to sear her breast more painfully than at any time since the first day she put it on.

69. It can be inferred from the passage that Hester considers her shame to have begun when

(A) she sinned with the minister
(B) Pearl was born
(C) she saw Chillingworth enter the market-place with the ship's captain
(D) she stood on the scaffold before the community
(E) she found it impossible to restrain Pearl's wild personality

70. In context, the word "engages" (line 62) is best interpreted to mean

(A) agrees
(B) hires
(C) intends
(D) promises
(E) makes provision

71. The "doom" Hester dreads (line 76) is emphasized by means of which of the following?

(A) allusion
(B) simile
(C) metaphor
(D) allegory
(E) personification

72. The antecedent of "it" (line 91) is

(A) "intelligence" (line 82)
(B) "trial" (line 83)
(C) "letter" (line 86)
(D) "amusement" (line 89)
(E) "intrusiveness" (line 91)

73. The tone of the clause "whose burial robe she had since made" (line 116) may be described as

(A) elegiac
(B) agitated
(C) despairing
(D) didactic
(E) resentful

74. The central descriptions of Pearl rely on images of

I. motion
II. light
III. sound

(A) I only
(B) I and II only
(C) I and III only
(D) II and III only
(E) I, II, and III

75. The narrator characterizes Pearl by means of all of the following EXCEPT

(A) description of her actions
(B) description of Hester's response to Pearl's words
(C) direct narrative explanation
(D) description of the reactions of other characters to Pearl
(E) figurative language

Passage 11, Questions 76-82. Read the following passage from Chapter 23 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Revelation," carefully before you choose your answers.

Now was heard again the clangor of music, and the measured tramp of the military escort, issuing from the church-door. The procession was to be marshalled thence to the town-hall, where a solemn banquet would complete the ceremonies of the day.

Once more, therefore, the train of venerable and majestic fathers was seen moving through a broad pathway of the people, who drew back reverently, on either side, as the Governor and magistrates, the old and wise men, the holy ministers, and all that were eminent and renowned, advanced into the midst of them. When they were fairly in the market-place, their presence was greeted by a shout. This--though doubtless it might acquire additional force and volume from the childlike loyalty which the age awarded to its rulers--was felt to be an irrepressible outburst of enthusiasm kindled in the auditors by that high strain of eloquence which was yet reverberating in their ears. Each felt the impulse in himself, and, in the same breath, caught it from his neighbor. Within the church, it had hardly been kept down; beneath the sky, it pealed upward to the zenith. There were human beings enough, and enough of highly wrought and symphonious feeling, to produce that more impressive sound than the organ tones of the blast, or the thunder, or the roar of the sea; even that mighty swell of many voices, blended into one great voice by the universal impulse which makes likewise one vast heart out of the many. Never, from the soil of New England, had gone up such a shout! Never, on New England soil, had stood the man honored by his mortal brethren as the preacher.

How fared it with him then? Were there not the brilliant particles of a halo in the air about his head? So etherealized by spirit as he was, and so apotheosized by worshipping admirers, did his footsteps, in the procession, really tread upon the dust of earth?

As the ranks of military men and civil fathers moved onward, all eyes were turned towards the point where the minister was seen to approach among them. The shout died into a murmur, as one portion of the crowd after another obtained a glimpse of him. How feeble and pale he looked, amid all his triumph! The energy--or say, rather, the inspiration which had held him up until he should have delivered the sacred message that brought its own strength along with it from Heaven--was withdrawn, now that it had so faithfully performed its office. The glow, which they had just before beheld burning on his cheek, was extinguished, like a flame that sinks down hopelessly among the late-decaying embers. It seemed hardly the face of a man alive, with such a deathlike hue; it was hardly a man with life in him that tottered on his path so nervelessly, yet tottered, and did not fall!

One of his clerical brethren--it was the venerable John Wilson--observing the state in which Mr. Dimmesdale was left by the retiring wave of intellect and sensibility--stepped forward hastily to offer his support. The minister tremulously, but decidedly, repelled the old man's arm. He still walked onward, if that movement could be so described, which rather resembled the wavering effort of an infant with its mother's arms in view, outstretched to tempt him forward. And now, almost imperceptible as were the latter steps of his progress, he had come opposite the well-remembered and weather-darkened scaffold, where, long since, with all that dreary lapse of time between, Hester Prynne had encountered the world's ignominious stare. There stood Hester, holding little Pearl by the hand! And there was the scarlet letter on her breast! The minister here made a pause, although the music still played the stately and rejoicing march to which the procession moved. It summoned him onward--onward to the festival!--but here he made a pause.

Bellingham, for the last few moments, had kept an anxious eye upon him. He now left his own place in the procession, and advanced to give assistance, judging, from Mr. Dimmesdale's aspect, that he must otherwise inevitably fall. But there was something in the latter's expression that warned back the magistrate, although a man not readily obeying the vague intimations that pass from one spirit to another. The crowd, meanwhile, looked on with awe and wonder. This earthly faintness was, in their view, only another phase of the minister's celestial strength; nor would it have seemed a miracle too high to be wrought for one so holy, had he ascended before their eyes, waxing dimmer and brighter, and fading at last into the light of heaven.

76. In the first two paragraphs, the narrator conveys the mood of the market-place by means of all of the following EXCEPT

(A) exclamation
(B) hyperbolic language
(C) simile
(D) personification
(E) connotative adjectives

77. The primary function of the phrase "though doubtless" (line 15) is to

(A) illustrate a previous assertion
(B) characterize the Puritan rulers
(C) concede the validity of certain qualifications
(D) characterize the society as childish
(E) give examples of the enthusiasm of the crowd

78. The sentence beginning "Within the church" (lines 22-24) is an example of a(n)

(A) cumulative sentence
(B) understatement
(C) oxymoron
(D) balanced sentence
(E) paradox

79. The purpose of the third paragraph is to provide a transition from

I. a description of the crowd to a description of the minister
II. the narrator's praise to the narrator's censure
III. images of power to images of weakness

(A) I only
(B) II only
(C) I and III only
(D) II and III only
(E) I, II, and III

80. The antecedent for "it" (line 51) is

(A) "murmur" (line 44)
(B) "inspiration" (line 48)
(C) "message" (line 49)
(D) "strength" (line 50)
(E) "Heaven" (line 51)

81. From the passage, it can be inferred that Bellingham

(A) was not particularly sensitive to indirect communication
(B) considered himself to be the person in authority in the community
(C) resented the enthusiasm of Dimmesdale's reception
(D) believed Dimmesdale's strength to be miraculous
(E) thought Dimmesdale's weakness was an important sign

82. In the context of the novel as a whole, the crowd's assessment of Dimmesdale's faintness (lines 91-96) is best described as

(A) satiric
(B) ironic
(C) realistic
(D) brash
(E) accepting

Passage 12, Questions 83-90. Read the following passage from Chapter 24 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "Conclusion," carefully before you choose your answers.

After many days, when time sufficed for the people to arrange their thoughts in reference to the foregoing scene, there was more than one account of what had been witnessed on the scaffold.

Most of the spectators testified to having seen, on the breast of the unhappy minister, a SCARLET LETTER--the very semblance of that worn by Hester Prynne--imprinted in the flesh. As regarded its origin, there were various explanations, all of which must necessarily have been conjectural. Some affirmed that the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale, on the very day when Hester Prynne first wore her ignominious badge, had begun a course of penance--which he afterwards, in so many futile methods, followed out--by inflicting a hideous torture on himself. Others contended that the stigma had not been produced until a long time subsequent, when old Roger Chillingworth, being a potent necromancer, had caused it to appear, through the agency of magic and poisonous drugs. Others, again--and those best able to appreciate the minister's peculiar sensibility, and the wonderful operation of his spirit upon the body--whispered their belief, that the awful symbol was the effect of the ever-active tooth of remorse, gnawing from the inmost heart outwardly, and at last manifesting Heaven's dreadful judgment by the visible presence of the letter. The reader may choose among these theories. We have thrown all the light we could acquire upon the portent, and would gladly, now that it has done its office, erase its deep print out of our own brain, where long meditation has fixed it in very undesirable distinctness.

It is singular, nevertheless, that certain persons, who were spectators of the whole scene, and professed never once to have removed their eye from the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale, denied that there was any mark whatever on his breast, more than on a new-born infant's. Neither, by their report, had his dying words acknowledged, nor even remotely implied, any, the slightest connection, on his part, with the guilt for which Hester Prynne had so long worn the scarlet letter. According to these highly respectable witnesses, the minister, conscious that he was dying--conscious, also, that the reverence of the multitude placed him already among saints and angels--had desired, by yielding up his breath in the arms of that fallen woman, to express to the world how utterly nugatory is the choicest of man's own righteousness. After exhausting life in his efforts for mankind's spiritual good, he had made the manner of his death a parable, in order to impress on his admirers the mighty and mournful lesson that, in the view of Infinite Purity, we are sinners all alike. It was to teach them that the holiest among us has but attained so far above his fellows as to discern more clearly the Mercy which looks down, and repudiate more utterly the phantom of human merit, which would look aspiringly upward. Without disputing a truth so momentous, we must be allowed to consider this version of Mr. Dimmesdale's story as only an instance of that stubborn fidelity with which a man's friends--and especially a clergyman's--will sometimes uphold his character, when proofs, clear as the midday sunshine on the scarlet letter, establish him a false and sin-stained creature of the dust.

The authority which we have chiefly followed--a manuscript of old date, drawn up from the verbal testimony of individuals, some of whom had known Hester Prynne, while others had heard the tale from contemporary witnesses--fully confirms the view taken in the foregoing pages. Among many morals which press upon us from the poor minister's miserable experience, we put only this into a sentence:--Be true! Be true! Be true! Show freely to the world, if not your worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred!

Nothing was more remarkable than the change which took place, almost immediately after Mr. Dimmesdale's death, in the appearance and demeanor of the old man known as Roger Chillingworth. All his strength and energy--all his vital and intellectual force--seemed at once to desert him; insomuch that he positively withered up, shrivelled away, and almost vanished from mortal sight, like an uprooted weed that lies wilting in the sun. This unhappy man had made the very principle of his life to consist in the pursuit and systematic exercise of revenge; and when, by its completest triumph and consummation, that evil principle was left with no further material to support it, when, in short, there was no more Devil's work on earth for him to do, it only remained for the unhumanized mortal to betake himself whither his Master would find him tasks enough, and pay him his wages duly. But, to all these shadowy beings, so long our near acquaintances--as well Roger Chillingworth as his companions--we would fain be merciful. It is a curious subject of observation and inquiry, whether hatred and love be not the same thing at bottom. Each, in its utmost development, supposes a high degree of intimacy and heart-knowledge; each renders one individual dependent for the food of his affections and spiritual life upon another; each leaves the passionate lover, or the no less

passionate hater, forlorn and desolate by the withdrawal of his subject. Philosophically considered, therefore, the two passions seem essentially the same, except that one happens to be seen in a celestial radiance, and the other in a dusky and lurid glow. In the spiritual world, the old physician and the minister--mutual victims as they have been--may, unawares, have found their earthly stock of hatred and antipathy transmuted into golden love.

83. The narrator's perspective in the passage is primarily that of

(A) an uninvolved eyewitness
(B) a defender of Puritan society
(C) an acquaintance of the minister
(D) a reporter of historical accounts
(E) an admirer of Dimmesdale's defenders

84. The word "any" (line 41) most likely modifies

(A) "words" (line 40)
(B) "report" (line 40)
(C) "part" (line 42)
(D) "guilt" (line 42)
(E) "letter" (line 43)

85. The narrator's attitude toward those who viewed Dimmesdale's words as a parable could best be described as one of

(A) contemptuous scorn
(B) righteous indignation
(C) incredulous dismissal
(D) indulgent skepticism
(E) admiring acceptance

86. It can be inferred that the narrator believes Dimmesdale may have been spared his downfall had he

(A) been honest with Hester
(B) avoided Roger Chillingworth
(C) not exhausted himself on behalf of his congregation
(D) had a different, less peculiar sensibility
(E) in some way revealed his guilt to the community

87. The narrator characterizes Roger Chillingworth by means of

(A) an allegory
(B) a simile
(C) an allusion
(D) a metaphor
(E) an anecdote

88. The "material" mentioned in line 93 is best understood to refer to

(A) Hester's punishment
(B) Chillingworth's magic
(C) the community's support
(D) Pearl's distrust of the minister
(E) Dimmesdale's secret

89. The narrator implies that the difference between hatred and love is primarily one of

(A) effect
(B) expression
(C) perception
(D) intensity
(E) origin

90. The tone of the final sentence is most consistent with the narrator's stated desire to

(A) allow the reader to draw his or her own conclusion
(B) underscore the moral of the story
(C) reinforce his own objectivity
(D) be merciful in his portrayal of each character
(E) emphasize the minister's righteousness

Question 1

(Suggested time--40 minutes)

In the following passage from *The Scarlet Letter*, the narrator introduces the reader to the Puritan community of the novel. Read the passage carefully. Then write an essay analyzing how the narrator's description of the Puritans and their community suggests his attitude toward them. You might consider such elements as selection of detail, manipulation of language, and tone.

The grass-plot before the jail, in Prison Lane, on a certain summer morning, not less than two centuries ago, was occupied by a pretty large number of the inhabitants of Boston, all with their eyes intently fastened on the iron-clamped oaken door. Amongst any other population, or at a later period in the history of New England, the grim rigidity that petrified the bearded physiognomies of these good people would have augured some awful business in hand. It could have betokened nothing short of the anticipated execution of some noted culprit, on whom the sentence of a legal tribunal had but confirmed the verdict of public sentiment. But, in that early severity of the Puritan character, an inference of this kind could not so indubitably be drawn. It might be that a sluggish bond-servant, or an undutiful child, whom his parents had given over to the civil authority, was to be corrected at the whipping-post. It might be, that an Antinomian, a Quaker, or other heterodox religionist was to be scourged out of the town, or an idle and vagrant Indian, whom the white man's fire-water had made riotous about the streets, was to be driven with stripes into the shadow of the forest. It might be, too, that a witch, like old Mistress Hibbins, the bitter-tempered widow of the magistrate, was to die upon the gallows. In either case, there was very much the same solemnity of demeanor on the part of the spectators; as befitted a people amongst whom religion and law were almost identical, and in whose character both were so thoroughly interfused, that the mildest and the severest acts of public discipline were alike made venerable and awful. Meagre, indeed, and cold was the sympathy that a transgressor might look for from such by-standers, at the scaffold. On the other hand, a penalty, which, in our days, would infer a degree of mocking infamy and ridicule, might then be invested with almost as stern a dignity as the punishment of death itself.

It was a circumstance to be noted, on the summer morning when our story begins its course, that the women, of whom there were several in the crowd, appeared to take a particular interest in whatever penal infliction might be expected to ensue. The age had not so much refinement, that any sense of impropriety restrained the wearers of petticoats and farthingale from stepping forth into the public ways, and wedging their not unsubstantial persons, if occasion were, into the throng nearest to the scaffold at an execution. Morally, as well as materially, there was a coarser fibre in those wives and maidens of old English birth and breeding, than in their fair descendants, separated from them by a series of six or seven generations; for, throughout that chain of ancestry, every successive mother has transmitted to her child a fainter bloom, a more delicate and briefer beauty, and a slighter physical frame, if not a character of less force and solidity, than her own. The women who were now standing about the prison-door stood within less than half a century of the period when the man-like Elizabeth had been the not altogether unsuitable representative of the sex. They were her country-women; and the beef and ale of their native land, with a moral diet not a whit more refined, entered largely into their composition. The bright morning sun, therefore, shone on broad shoulders and well-developed busts, and on round and ruddy cheeks, that had ripened in the far-off island, and had hardly yet grown paler or thinner in the atmosphere of New England. There was, moreover, a boldness and rotundity of speech among these matrons, as most of them seemed to be, that would startle us at the present day, whether in respect to its purport or its volume of tone.

Question 3

(Suggested time--40 minutes)

In chapter 16 of *The Scarlet Letter*, the narrator, using Pearl as an example of humankind in general, asserts that people are not truly "humanized" or capable of sympathy for others until they are deeply touched by grief. Write a carefully reasoned, persuasive essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies this assertion. Use evidence from your observation, experience, or reading to develop your position.

Question 6

(Suggested time--40 minutes)

The narrator of *The Scarlet Letter* asserts in the conclusion that people should "Show freely to the world, if not [their] worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred." Write a carefully reasoned, persuasive essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies this assertion. Use evidence from your observation, experience, or reading to develop your position.