AP-Style Multiple Choice Questions—Thoreau
Mr. Eble, AP Language & Composition

Directions: For your assigned paragraphs from On the Duty of Civil Disobedience, you’ll make a six-question AP-style multiple choice quiz.

You should follow these guidelines for making your quiz; for each question, you should provide 4 responses (obviously, one being correct!):

- **Two should deal with comprehension**—understanding of very specific elements in the passage. These may include syntactical questions, such as identifying a pronoun reference or a word that a phrase modifies.

- **Two should deal with rhetorical strategies**—technique items that include style and that usually refer to specific lines in the passage. For example, you may ask what scheme or trope the author includes in paragraph X (very often “except” questions work well here). These may include terminology (oxymoron, parallel structure, detail selection), and they may ask about the purpose or effect of particular sentences.

- **Two inferential / deductive** questions requiring synthesis of some elements of the passage or the entire passage. Questions about tone / purpose are typical of these big-picture questions.

Use the Multiple-Choice Stems in order to form your questions; please don’t use one more than once.

Be sure to use specific lines in crafting your test questions. Because there aren’t line numbers here, you should provide the line when necessary.

**EXAMPLE QUESTION**

In the space below the question, please write the answer and an explanation of it in bold…like this…”

1. **Rhetorical Strategy Question:** In the line “Government is at best but an expedient; but most governments are usually, and all governments are sometimes, inexpedient” (paragraph 1), Thoreau utilizes which of the following techniques?
   - A. Parallelism
   - B. Antithesis
   - C. Metaphor
   - D. Oxymoron

**ANSWER:** The answer is B. Antithesis, a figure of balance in which two contrasting ideas are intentionally juxtaposed, usually through parallel structure. The phrases “Government is at best but an expedient” and “most governments are usually…inexpedient” are constructed in parallel fashion, but have opposite meanings. While parallelism is true, antithesis is the better, more specific answer. Answers C. Metaphor and D. Oxymoron aren’t at all true.

I’ll assess you according to

- The correctness of your explanation of your answer
- The construction of your question using the question stem and the text

Each question is worth 5 points; this is worth a 30-point quiz grade.

Please print this and submit it at the start of class.
1. What is the author's attitude toward the subject?
2. The word _________ in context (line ___ ) is best interpreted to mean . . .
3. What does the phrase ______ mean?
4. The phrase ________ functions primarily as . . .
5. The word/phrase ___________ in line ____ refers to which of the following?
6. How would you characterize the style of the passage?
7. The style of the passage as a whole is most accurately characterized as . . .
8. What is the main point of the passage?
9. Restate the phrase, ____________.
10. Define the phrase, ____________.
11. What does the speaker accomplish in this passage?
12. What is the speaker's purpose in writing this passage?
13. What is the speaker's purpose in lines _______.
14. The speaker's reference to ___________ serves primarily to . . .
15. Lines ___ can be interpreted to mean . . .
16. In lines ___, the speaker employs which of the following rhetorical strategies?
17. In the sentence beginning _________, the speaker employs all of the following EXCEPT . . .
18. The type of argument employed by the speaker is most similar to which of the following?
19. The speaker describes ____________ in an order best described as from the . . .
20. Why does the writer use the allusion to ________________?
21. Which of the following best summarizes the main topic of the passage?
22. The attitude of the entire passage (or parts of the passage) is one of . . .
23. What is the tone of the passage?
24. How would you characterize the diction and style of the passage?
25. What is the speaker asserting in lines________?
26. In relation to the passage as a whole, the statement in the first sentence presents . . . [syntax]
27. The second sentence (line ___ ) is unified by metaphorical references pertaining to . . .
28. The sentence ___________________________ in lines ____ contains which of the following?
29. Describe the structure of the sentence in lines_____.
30. What contrast does the speaker develop in lines_______?
31. What effect is achieved by the speaker's using the phrases ________?
32. What dominant technique is the speaker using in lines ______?
33. In lines _______ ________, _________is a metaphorical way of saying ________________________________.
34. What does the author achieve by juxtaposing ___________________ and ________________________________?
35. What does the choice of words show about the speaker's beliefs?
36. Where is there a shift of tone in the passage?
37. The reason for the shift in tone is due to . . .
38. The tone of the passage shifts from one of _________ to one of _____________.
39. The syntax in lines _______serves to ___________________________.
40. What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject?
41. What assumptions does the speaker make about the audience?
42. It can be inferred by the description of ___________ that which of the following qualities are valued by the speaker?
43. How does the author seek to interest us in the first paragraph?
44. What method does the author use to develop the argument?
45. Line ________is parallel to what other line in the passage?
46. What can you infer about the author's attitudes toward the subject?
47. What is the antecedent for _______?
48. What type of argument is the author using in this passage?
49. What pattern of exposition is the author using in this passage?
50. What is the atmosphere established in lines ______?
51. Why is the sentence in lines _______ coherent, despite its length?
52. In line______, the use of _______ instead of _________ accomplishes what?
53. What is the function of _______________________ in the passage?
54. What is the subject of the sentence in lines _____?
55. The primary rhetorical function of lines _____ is to . . .
56. The main rhetorical strategy of the _____ paragraph is for the purpose of . . .
57. What does the author apparently believe about the subject?
58. What does the author believe we should do in response to this passage?
59. The author uses this (certain image) for the purpose of . . .
60. The principal contrast employed by the author in the passage/paragraph is between ____________ and ____________
61. Why is the sentence in lines ________ remarkable?
62. The antecedent for _______ in the clause ______________________ is . . .
63. The pattern of exposition exemplified in the passage is best described as . . .
64. The point of view indicated in the phrase ___________________ in line _____ is that of . . .
65. The atmosphere established in the ___ sentence of paragraph ___ is mainly one of . . .
66. The function of the clauses introduced by ___________)_ in lines _____ is to . . .
67. What is the function of paragraph _________? of line _______?
68. In the passage, the speaker makes all of the following assumptions about his/her readers EXCEPT
69. The diction in the passage is best described as
70. One prominent stylistic characteristic of the ___ paragraph is the use of ________
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