

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.

Rhetorical Analysis / Close Reading: Multiple-Choice Stems
From the AP Language and Composition Exam:

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 _____

Paragraphs	Name: A2	Name: B2
1-2	Spencer Ballard	Ethan Callahan / Nick Wright
3-4	Kevin Collins	Jared Diesslin / Noah Worobetz
5-6	Logan Cooper	Marshall Eippert / Hank Woodard
7-8	Zane Cooper	Nick Fendinger/ Luke Weber
9-10	Aiden Dalton	Nate Fowler
11-12	Alex Gruber	John Geyer
13-14	Chase Hawkins	JJ Harper
15-16	TJ Peloquin	Austin Herriott
17-19	Eli Proffitt	Alex Johnson
20-21	Harrison Savarese	Jacob Menke
22-23	Jeff Shagena	Griffin Mulvaney
24-25	Andrew Smith	Andrew Olinger
26-27	Sam Waldbillig	Eddy Pappalardo
28-29	Jake Wermes	Connor Peed
30-32		Mitch Poch
33-35		Austin Sanders
36-38		Eric Schutter
39-40		Drew Scott
41-42		Nick Spuzzillo
43-45		Liam Taylor