

Critical Reading Practice Test 2

Directions: Questions follow the passage below. Using only the stated or implied information in the passage and in its introduction, if any, answer the questions.

Questions 1 through 12 are based on the following passage:

Early in the day Dorothea had returned from the infant school which she had set going in the village, and was taking her usual place in the pretty sitting-room (5) which divided the bedrooms of the sisters, bent on finishing a plan for some buildings (a kind of work which she delighted in), when Celia, who had been watching her with a hesitating desire to propose (10) something, said — “Dorothea dear, if you don’t mind — if you are not very busy — suppose we looked at mamma’s jewels today, and divided them? It is exactly six months today since uncle gave them to (15) you, and you have not looked at them yet.”

Celia’s face had the shadow of a pouting expression in it, the full presence of the pout being kept back by an habitual awe of Dorothea. To her relief, Dorothea’s eyes (20) were full of laughter as she looked up. “What a wonderful little almanac you are, Celia! Is it six calendar or six lunar months?”

“It is the last day of September now, and it (25) was the first of April when uncle gave them to you. You know, he said that he had forgotten them till then. I believe you have never thought of them since you locked them up in the cabinet here.”

(30) “Well, dear, we should never wear them, you know.” Dorothea spoke in a full cordial tone, half caressing, half explanatory.

She had her pencil in her hand, and was making tiny side-plans on a margin.

(35) Celia coloured, and looked very grave. “I think, dear, we are wanting in respect to mamma’s memory, to put them by and take no notice of them. And,” she added, after hesitating a little, “necklaces are (40) quite usual now; and Madame Poinçon, who was stricter in some things even than you are, used to wear ornaments. And

(50) animating her whole person. “Of course, then, let us have them out. Why did you not tell me before? But the keys, the keys!” She pressed her hands against the sides of her head and seemed to despair of (55) her memory. “They are here,” said Celia, with whom this explanation had been long meditated and prearranged.

The casket was soon open before them, and the various jewels spread out on the table. It (60) was no great collection, but a few of the ornaments were really of remarkable beauty, the finest that was obvious at first being a necklace of purple amethysts set in exquisite gold work, and a pearl cross with five brilliants (65) in it. Dorothea immediately took up the necklace and fastened it round her sister’s neck, where it fitted almost as closely as a bracelet; but the circle suited the style of Celia’s head and neck, and she could see (70) that it did, in the pier-glass opposite. “There, Celia! You can wear that with your Indian muslin. But this cross you must wear with your dark dresses.” Celia was trying not to smile with pleasure.

(75) “O Dodo, you must keep the cross yourself.”

“No, no, dear, no,” said Dorothea, putting up her hand with careless deprecation.

“Yes, indeed you must; it would suit you — in your black dress, now,” said Celia, insistingly.

(80) “You might wear that.”

“Not for the world, not for the world. A cross is the last thing I would wear as a trinket.” Dorothea shuddered slightly.

“Then you will think it wicked in me to wear (85) it,” said Celia, uneasily.

“No, dear, no,” said Dorothea, stroking her sister’s cheek. “Souls have complexions too: what will suit one will not suit another.”

“But you might like to keep it for mamma’s

Christians generally — surely there are women in heaven now who wore jewels.”
(45) Celia was conscious of some mental strength when she really applied herself to argument.

“You would like to wear them?” exclaimed Dorothea, an air of astonished discovery

(90) sake.”

“No, I have other things of mamma’s — her sandal-wood box which I am so fond of — plenty of things. In fact, they are all yours, dear. We need discuss them no longer.

(95) There — take away your property.”

Celia felt a little hurt. There was a strong assumption

of superiority in this Puritanic toleration, hardly less trying to the blond flesh

of an unenthusiastic sister than a Puritanic **(100)** persecution.

Q1. From the details of the passage, it can be learned or inferred that

- I. Dorothea and Celia are sisters.
- II. Dorothea and Celia may be orphans.
- III. Dorothea and Celia are temperamentally very alike.

- A. III only
- B. I and II only
- C. I and III only
- D. II and III only
- E. I, II, and, III

Answer ____

Q2. The first paragraph of the passage refers to the “infant school” and “plan for some buildings” in order to suggest that Dorothea is

- A. prying and interfering.
- B. rich and idle.
- C. self-centered and ambitious.
- D. active and unselfish.
- E. philanthropic and ineffectual.

Answer ____

Q3. In lines 22–23, Dorothea asks Celia whether it is “six calendar or six lunar months” because she

- A. wants to know exactly how many days have passed.
- B. is good-humoredly teasing Celia.
- C. had hoped to keep the jewels from Celia.
- D. wants to demonstrate the scientific precision of her mind.
- E. has forgotten what the current month is.

Answer ____

Q4. In line 36, the phrase “wanting in respect” can be best understood to mean

- A. obliged to be more deferential.
- B. desirous to esteem.
- C. lewd in regard.
- D. deficient in regard.
- E. eager for consideration.

Answer ____

Q5. The “argument” to which Celia has “really applied herself” (line 46) is intended to convince Dorothea to

- A. show greater respect for their dead mother.
- B. give all the jewels to her.
- C. give the most valuable of the jewels to her.
- D. agree to sharing and wearing the jewels.
- E. examine the jewels and lock them up again.

Answer ____

Q6. Although in lines 30–31 Dorothea has said, “we should never wear them, you know,” she changes her opinion because she

- A. is moved by Celia’s appeal to the memory of their mother.
- B. is convinced by Celia’s reference to Madame Poinçon.
- C. realizes that Celia wants to wear the jewels.
- D. sees how becoming the jewels are to Celia.
- E. can appear superior to Celia by refusing to wear them herself.

Answer ____

Q7. In line 77, the word “deprecation” means

- A. protest.
- B. lessening.
- C. indifference.
- D. removal.
- E. agreement.

Answer ____

Q8. The word “trying” in line 98 means

- A. irksome.
- B. attempting.
- C. effortful.
- D. experimental.
- E. determining.

Answer ____

Q9. In lines 97–98, “Puritanic toleration” is a reference to

- A. Celia's awe of Dorothea.
- B. Celia's acceptance of Dorothea's foibles.
- C. Celia's love of jewels and finery.
- D. Dorothea's hypocritical indifference to finery.
- E. Dorothea's self-denial and generosity.

Answer ____

Q10. In the last sentence of the passage, the word "unenthusiastic" refers to

- A. Dorothea's refusal to wear jewels.
- B. Dorothea's giving her permission for Celia to wear jewels.
- C. Celia's attitude toward self-denial.
- D. Celia's attitude toward wearing jewels.
- E. the author's attitude toward Dorothea.

Answer ____

Q11. The inconsistency in Dorothea's reasoning that the passage reveals is her

- A. forgetting about when the jewels were given to her.
- B. losing the keys to the cabinet holding the jewels.
- C. insistence that Christians cannot wear jewels.
- D. wanting Celia to wear jewels but refusing to wear them herself.
- E. deceitful claim that she honors the memory of her mother.

Answer ____

Q12. The purpose of the passage as a whole is to

- A. reveal the likeness of Celia and Dorothea.
- B. expose the submerged ill feelings between Celia and Dorothea.
- C. reveal the differences in the natures of Celia and Dorothea.
- D. demonstrate the dangers of materialism.
- E. satirize the hypocrisy of the two young women.

Answer ____

Answer Keys and Explanation Link

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