Sonnet 130

by William Shakespeare

DIRECTIONS: Respond to the following statements and/or questions with the BEST answer among those given.

1. Shakespeare’s sonnet 130 is a (an)

a. satire on the deficiencies of the speaker’s mistress

b. belittling of a loved one for the amusement of friends

c. playful expression of faults to irritate the lady

d. confession of love for a harlot

e. comment on the uniqueness and beauty of the speaker’s mistress

2. The last two lines of the sonnet

a. express the true feeling of the speaker

b. seem out of place in the poem

c. express a love for someone whose beauty is of the spirit

d. reveal the speaker as a liar and boor

e. are an illustration of hyperbole

3. The first 12 lines of the sonnet are a (an)

a. ironic comment of female adornment

b. angry description

c. paradoxical evocation

d. parody of love sonnets

e. a play on metaphors

4. Seemingly, all of the following are criticisms of the mistress EXCEPT

a. Coral is more red than her lips.

b. I love to hear her speak.

c. There are no roses on her cheeks.

d. She treads the ground.

e. Music has a more pleasing sound than her voice.

5. By “false compare” the speaker states that

a. the conventional praise of mistresses by poets are romantic lies

b. to win love, one must compare the charms of mistresses with the beauties in nature

c. love poetry must abound in hyperbole

d. the women whom men love must be worshipped as goddesses

e. loves must be privileged to distort truth

6. The speaker in Shakespeare’s sonnet

a. is a complainer

b. is an arrogant and egotistic lover

c. raises the reader’s suspicions about his feelings and then tells honestly how he feels

d. envies the verbal dexterity of his fellow poets

e. engages in a poetic exercise for fun

7. The true intent of the speaker in the sonnet is revealed most by

a. the outrageousness of his metaphors

b. the rare words of praise that creep into his statement

c. his imaginative conceits

d. his sense of fun

e. the contrast between the first twelve lines and the last two

8. The reader of the sonnet must know that the criticism of the mistress is indeed a form of praise because

a. the progress of fault-finding leads to the wrong conclusion

b. the fault-finding is imaginative and humorous

c. there are hidden romantic nuances in the judgments

d. the sequence of fault-finding eases in lines 9-12

e. there are paradoxical hints in the metaphors

9. All of the following are metaphors EXCEPT

a. Her eyes are not the sun.

b. The hairs on her head are black ones.

c. No roses are her cheeks.

d. Music has a more pleasing sound than her voice.

e. The lady I love is rare.

10. An essential element of this sonnet is

a. praise of a mistress

b. finding the blemishes in a loved one

c. a lover’s compromise with reality

d. mockery of a convention in love poetry

e. ambiguity of intention

11. Love poetry of the age frequently contains the “Petrarchan ideal,” that is, the beautiful, blond, blue-

eyed goddess all men desire. Shakespeare implies that this “ideal” is

a. more to be desired than his mistress

b. less to be desired than his mistress

c. foolish to contemplate

d. merely pleasant foolery

e. the impossible dream of every man

12. The tone of the sonnet is

a. happy

b. sad

c. satirical

d. pessimistic

e. mischievous

13. The word “false” in line 14 refers to

a. a lying woman

b. the lying speaker of the poem

c. the Petrarchan ideal

d. his mistress

e. a philandering mate

14. A device in which one uses unusual, exaggerated comparisons is a(an)

a. allegory

b. conceit

c. metaphor

d. apostrophe

e. elegy

15. The speaker’s mistress, based on his own description, can best be described as

a. beautiful

b. ugly

c. ordinary

d. intellectual

e. unfaithful (false)

16. The assumption in line 12 is that other women

a. do not walk

b. walk, but very slowly

c. float above the ground

d. walk on the ground

e. are carried when they need to go somewhere

17. Sonnets invariably ask a question, present a proposal, present a puzzle, make a statement in the first

eight or twelve lines; the proposal here is

a. women can never be understood

b. even though different, my woman is as beautiful as any other

c. even though she is ugly, I still love her

d. I really wish she had straight blond hair and blue eyes.

e. Her eyes, lips, skin are not the best of her.

18. The poetic device in line 1 is a(an)

a. simile

b. metaphor

c. synecdoche

d. apostrophe

e. metonymy