CLEP American Literature Practice Test

Time—90 Minutes
100 Questions

For each question below, choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. Which of the following was NOT common in early Puritan literature?
   (A) Poetry
   (B) Sermons
   (C) Theological tracts
   (D) Short stories
   (E) Histories

2. Which Boston preacher was known in part for his narratives of the Salem witch trials?
   (A) Cotton Mather
   (B) William Bradford
   (C) Anne Bradstreet
   (D) Roger Williams
   (E) Michael Wigglesworth

3. The writings of Jonathan Edwards are most closely associated with which one of the following?
   (A) The Harlem Renaissance
   (B) Romanticism
   (C) Realism and Naturalism
   (D) The Great Awakening
   (E) Abolitionism

4. Which of the following is NOT a literary device typical of Native American literature?
   (A) Repetition
   (B) Sarcasm
   (C) Incremental development
   (D) Ritual beginnings and endings
   (E) Enumeration

5. To whom was William Bradford referring to when he used the term “Saint” to describe some of his fellow voyagers at sea?
   (A) The first sailors to join the voyage
   (B) Those who died before reaching America
   (C) His fellow Puritans
   (D) The clergymen aboard ship
   (E) The ship’s crew

6. The author of Common Sense was
   (A) James Madison
   (B) Langston Hughes
   (C) Alexander Hamilton
   (D) Thomas Jefferson
   (E) Thomas Paine

7. Ichabod Crane is the main character in which of the following works?
   (A) Leaves of Grass
   (B) The Guilded Age
   (C) “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
   (D) “Rip Van Winkle”
   (E) Last of the Mohicans

8. Who has earned the nickname “The Father of the American Novel”?
   (A) Washington Irving
   (B) Edgar Allan Poe
   (C) Ralph Waldo Emerson
   (D) Charles Brockden Brown
   (E) Henry David Thoreau
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9. Who wrote the first American slave autobiography after obtaining his freedom?
   (A) Josiah Henson
   (B) Frederick Douglass
   (C) Nat Turner
   (D) William Wells Brown
   (E) Olaudah Equiano

10. May not and ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: “Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness; but they cried unto the Lord, and he heard their voice, and looked on their adversity, etc. Let them therefore praise the Lord, because he is good, and his mercies endure forever. Yea, let them which have been redeemed of the Lord, show how he hath delivered them from the hand of the oppressor. When they wandered in the desert wilderness out of the way, and found no city to dwell in, both hungry, and thirsty, their soul was overwhelmed in them. Let them confess before the Lord his loving kindness, and his wonderful works before the sons of men.”

   The above passage was written by
   (A) William Bradford
   (B) Jonathan Edwards
   (C) Hannah Webster Foster
   (D) Jupiter Hammon
   (E) William Hill Brown

11. May not and ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: “Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness; but they cried unto the Lord, and he heard their voice, and looked on their adversity, etc. Let them therefore praise the Lord, because he is good, and his mercies endure forever. Yea, let them which have been redeemed of the Lord, show how he hath delivered them from the hand of the oppressor. When they wandered in the desert wilderness out of the way, and found no city to dwell in, both hungry, and thirsty, their soul was overwhelmed in them. Let them confess before the Lord his loving kindness, and his wonderful works before the sons of men.”

   In the passage above, what form of oppression is the author writing about?
   (A) Economic
   (B) Religious
   (C) Racial
   (D) Environmental
   (E) Gender

12. The Bear that breathes the northern blast
   Did numb, torpedo-like, a wasp
   Whose stiffened limbs encramped, lay bathing
   In Sol’s warm breath and shine as saving,
   Which with her hands she chafes and stands
   Rubbing her legs, shanks, thighs, and hands.
   Her petty toes, and fingers’ ends
   Nipped with this breath, she out extends
   Unto the sun, in great desire
   To warm her digits at that fire.

   Which of the following best describes the activity of the wasp in the passage above?
   (A) Sunbathing
   (B) Cleaning
   (C) Praying
   (D) Eating
   (E) Stretching

13. Censorship by which of the following helped to determine the content of early American literature?
   (A) Protestants
   (B) Catholics
   (C) Unitarians
   (D) Evangelicals
   (E) Agnostics
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14. Which of the following authors is NOT classified as a member of the Romantic period in American fiction?
   (A) Walt Whitman
   (B) James Fenimore Cooper
   (C) Nathaniel Hawthorne
   (D) Edgar Allan Poe
   (E) Emily Dickinson

15. The main characters in the poems and short stories of Edgar Allen Poe can best be described as
   (A) reckless tricksters
   (B) streetwise hustlers
   (C) pious clergymen
   (D) clever businessmen
   (E) madmen

16. In Nathaniel Hawthorne’s short story “The Birthmark,” Aylmer commits a fatal error when his
   (A) faith in science causes him to try to improve on nature
   (B) disapproval of church leaders weakens his faith in God
   (C) hand shakes during surgery
   (D) greed causes him to lose his business
   (E) trust in his assistant brings about failure

17. An interpretation of the characters Hester Prynne, Reverend Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth as representing Eve, Adam, and Satan, respectively, is an example of
   (A) irony
   (B) allegory
   (C) paradox
   (D) simile
   (E) pathos

18. Keeping time, time, time,
    In a sort of Runic rhyme,
    To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
    In the above passage, the author is describing the
   (A) ticking of grandfather clock
   (B) chanting of the faithful
   (C) cries of wild geese
   (D) ringing of bells
   (E) the hoof beats of horses

19. Keeping time, time, time,
    In a sort of Runic rhyme,
    To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells
    Who is the author of the above passage?
   (A) Gerard Manley Hopkins
   (B) Edgar Allan Poe
   (C) Harriet Beecher Stowe
   (D) Charles Brockden Brown
   (E) Ralph Waldo Emerson

20. How was the envelope in the story “The Purloined Letter” hidden?
   (A) In plain sight
   (B) In a safe
   (C) In a book
   (D) Behind a painting
   (E) Beneath a floor board

21. Which American author created detective fiction?
   (A) Herman Melville
   (B) Harriet Beecher Stowe
   (C) Raymond Chandler
   (D) Edgar Allan Poe
   (E) Dashiell Hammett
22. The former viewed nature as comprehensible and a source of divine inspiration and a new spirit of American individualism, while the later saw it as a savage force—beautiful but alien and perilous.

The above text most likely refers to which two authors?
(A) Nathaniel Hawthorne and John Greenleaf Whittier
(B) Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman
(C) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Henry David Thoreau
(D) Ralph Waldo Emerson and Herman Melville
(E) Oliver Wendell Holmes and William Cullen Bryant

Questions 23–26 refer to the following poem.

Nature, the gentlest mother,
Impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest,—
Her admonition mild
In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel
Or too impetuous bird.

In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel
Or too impetuous bird.
How fair her conversation,
A summer afternoon,—
Her household, her assembly;
And when the sun goes down
Her voice among the aisles
Incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket,
The most unworthy flower.

When all the children sleep
She turns as long away
As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky,
With infinite affection
And infiniter care,
Her golden finger on her lip,
Wills silence everywhere.

23. The word “child” in line 2 probably refers to
(A) the author’s child
(B) all children
(C) the squirrel in line 7
(D) all living things
(E) the elements

24. The use of the word “aisles” in line 13 brings in the imagery of a
(A) church
(B) railroad car
(C) cornfield
(D) supermarket
(E) sea

25. The “lamps” mentioned in line 20 are probably
(A) fireflies
(B) street lamps
(C) stars
(D) house lights
(E) campfires

26. “Her golden finger on her lip” (line 24) is an example of
(A) rhyme
(B) ellipsis
(C) alliteration
(D) personification
(E) metonymy
27. I am a rather elderly man. The nature of my avocations for the last thirty years has brought me into more than ordinary contact with what would seem an interesting and somewhat singular set of men of whom as yet nothing that I know of has ever been written:—mean the law-copyists or scriveners.

The sentence above was written by

(A) Herman Melville
(B) Margaret Fuller
(C) Rebecca Harding Davis
(D) Walt Whitman
(E) George Washington Harris

28. Which author’s polemical anti-slavery novel was first published as episodes in the weekly *The National Era*?

(A) Elizabeth Stuart Phelps
(B) Harriet Beecher Stowe
(C) Booker T. Washington
(D) Charlotte Perkins Gilman
(E) W.E.B. DuBois

29. All of the following are known primarily as poets active during the American Romantic period EXCEPT

(A) Lowell
(B) Longfellow
(C) Emerson
(D) Whitman
(E) Dickinson

30. Our age is retrospective. It builds the sepulchres of the fathers. It writes biographies, histories, and criticism. The foregoing generations beheld God and nature face to face; we, through their eyes. Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe? Why should not we have a poetry and philosophy of insight and not of tradition, and a religion by revelation to us, and not the history of theirs?

The passage above is from the work of

(A) Ralph Waldo Emerson
(B) Mark Twain
(C) Edith Wharton
(D) Louisa May Alcott
(E) Kate Chopin

31. Which Boston Brahmin poet published *The Courtship of Miles Standish* in 1858?

(A) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(B) Oliver Wendell Holmes
(C) John Greenleaf Whittier
(D) Emily Dickinson
(E) Henry David Thoreau

32. What is the setting for the protagonist’s walk with the devil in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *Young Goodman Brown*?

(A) The gardens of a country estate
(B) A path in the forest
(C) The streets of a slum community
(D) A church graveyard
(E) The halls of a courthouse

33. Which American president was the inspiration for Walt Whitman’s *O Captain! My Captain!*

(A) Andrew Jackson
(B) George Washington
(C) Ulysses S. Grant
(D) Thomas Jefferson
(E) Abraham Lincoln
34. Which of the following was the preeminent female essayist of the Transcendentalist period in American literature?
   (A) Edith Wharton
   (B) Phillis Wheatley
   (C) Margaret Fuller
   (D) Emily Dickinson
   (E) Ellen Glasgow

35. Which of the following is set among a cannibalistic tribe in the Marquesas Islands of the South Pacific?
   (A) Typee
   (B) Moby Dick
   (C) The Marble Faun
   (D) A Paumanok Picture
   (E) Thanatopsis

Questions 36 and 37 refer to the following passage.

The Prairie States
   A NEWER garden of creation, no primal solitude,
   Dense, joyous, modern, populous millions, cities and farms,
   With iron interlaced, composite, tied, many in one,
   (5) By all the world contributed—freedom’s and law’s and thrift’s society,
   The crown and teeming paradise, so far, of time’s accumulations,
   To justify the past.

36. “iron interlaced” in line 3 refers to
   (A) the steel industry
   (B) slaves
   (C) railroads
   (D) telephone system
   (E) the Internet

37. Which of the following best describes the author’s opinion of the prairie states?
   (A) They are rich and prosperous.
   (B) They are full of industry and agriculture.
   (C) They are faint copies of a lost paradise.
   (D) They are sustained by the institution of slavery.
   (E) They represent America’s diversity, union, and strength.

38. Which poem describes the narrator’s “sorrow for the lost Lenore”?
   (A) To One in Paradise
   (B) The Raven
   (C) A Clear Midnight
   (D) I Thought I was not Alone
   (E) The Conqueror Worm

39. Stephen Crane, Jack London, and Theodore Dreiser are best categorized as
   (A) Romantics
   (B) Transcendentalists
   (C) Naturalists
   (D) Realists
   (E) Modernists
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40. The cold passed reluctantly from the earth, and the retiring fogs revealed an army stretched out on the hills, resting. As the landscape changed from brown to green, the army awakened, and began to tremble with eagerness at the noise of rumors. It cast its eyes upon the roads, which were growing from long troughs of liquid mud to proper thoroughfares. A river, amber-tinted in the shadow of its banks, purled at the army’s feet; and at night, when the stream had become of a sorrowful blackness, one could see across it the red, eyelike gleam of hostile camp-fires set in the low brows of distant hills.

The passage above opens
(A) James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Pioneers*
(B) John Dos Passos’s *1919*
(C) Earnest Hemingway’s *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
(D) Stephen Crane’s *The Red Badge of Courage*
(E) William Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*

41. Which of the following novels tells the story of a young man’s social and financial failure and ends with his execution?

(A) *An American Tragedy*
(B) *The Great Gatsby*
(C) *Absalom Absalom*
(D) *The Financier*
(E) *As I Lay Dying*

42. Aunt Polly, Becky Thatcher, and Injun Joe are characters in the writing of

(A) Wallace Stevens
(B) Robert Penn Warren
(C) Langston Hughes
(D) Mark Twain
(E) Thomas Wolfe

43. In Mark Twain’s novels, what role does Judge Thatcher play in Huck Finn’s life?

(A) He controls Huck’s money.
(B) He is Huck’s adopted father.
(C) He enters the conviction at Huck’s trial.
(D) He rules that Huck is to live with Tom Sawyer.
(E) He does not know Huck.

44. Which of the following is NOT a recognizable theme in Henry James’s *Daisy Miller*?

(A) Reality may differ from appearance
(B) Knowledge as evil versus inexperience as innocence
(C) Natural impulse versus cultured behavior
(D) Problems of communication
(E) American materialism versus European spirituality

45. Well, it was touching to see the queen blush and smile, and look embarrassed and happy, and fling furtive glances at Sir Launcelot that would have got him shot in Arkansas, to a dead certainty.

The above quotation is from the work of

(A) Henry James
(B) Willa Cather
(C) Mark Twain
(D) Carl Sandburg
(E) Stephen Crane

46. The main character of Chopin’s *The Awakening* is

(A) Edna Pontellier
(B) Ántonia Shimerda
(C) Constance Ogden
(D) Rosa Coldfield
(E) Milly Jones
47. Which of the following stories portrays a woman’s descent into insanity while being given a “rest cure” after the birth of her child?
   (A) “The Yellow Wallpaper”
   (B) “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky”
   (C) “Paul’s Case”
   (D) “A White Heron”
   (E) “A Night in Acadie”

48. Which of the following is NOT an essential element in American Realistic fiction?
   (A) An emphasis on real experiences
   (B) Characters who are more important than plots
   (C) Attacks on Romanticism and Romantic writers
   (D) An examination of idealism and the foundations of morality
   (E) Gender and race relations

49. A novel is in its broadest definition a personal impression of life; that, to begin with, constitutes its value, which is greater or less according to the intensity of the impression. But there will be no intensity at all, and therefore no value, unless there is freedom to feel and say.

   As presented above, which of the following best describes the author’s theory of the novel?
   (A) Novels must deal with impressive subjects that move the reader.
   (B) Without form a novel may be entertaining, but it is not literature.
   (C) Characters and plots must be impressive and larger than life.
   (D) Free expression and personal insight matter more than form.
   (E) A novel should describe the events of an individual life.

50. The passage was most likely written by
   (A) Upton Sinclair
   (B) Emily Dickinson
   (C) Mark Twain
   (D) Henry James
   (E) F. Scott Fitzgerald

51. Which American author wrote about the Alaskan Gold Rush in the Yukon?
   (A) Jack London
   (B) Stephen Crane
   (C) Frank Norris
   (D) Anne Bradstreet
   (E) Willa Cather

52. What literary device does Mark Twain use to attack slavery and religion in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?
   (A) Sarcasm
   (B) Metonymy
   (C) Simile
   (D) Metaphor
   (E) Foreshadowing

53. Which of the following stories concerns an execution carried out during civil war?
   (A) “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”
   (B) ”A Good Man is Hard to Find”
   (C) ”The Story Teller”
   (D) “The Luck of Roaring Camp”
   (E) “The Killers”

54. The autobiography of Booker T. Washington is
   (A) *The Souls of Black Folk*
   (B) *Invisible Man*
   (C) *Up from Slavery*
   (D) *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
   (E) *Native Son*
55. Which novelist and critic wrote the successful play *The Mouse Trap* in 1889 that was set in the Boston Back Bay neighborhood?

(A) William Dean Howells  
(B) William Faulkner  
(C) Henry James  
(D) Mark Twain  
(E) Frederick Douglass

56. The increased regional nature of American fiction in the 1800s was caused by all of the following EXCEPT

(A) a desire to realistically expose the problems caused by modern living  
(B) a reaction to the homogenizing effect of industrialization  
(C) wider magazine circulation  
(D) greater female readership  
(E) a lack of good transportation options

57. The fictional village of Starkfield, setting of Edith Wharton’s *Ethan Frome*, is located in which state?

(A) Louisiana  
(B) California  
(C) Massachusetts  
(D) New York  
(E) Florida

58. Which of the following was a political radical who argued for women’s rights and against capitalism?

(A) Flannery O’Connor  
(B) Pearl S. Buck  
(C) Dorothy Parker  
(D) Eudora Welty  
(E) Emma Goldman

59. Which author associated manhood and maturity with nonconformity?

(A) Henry David Longfellow  
(B) Willa Cather  
(C) Mark Twain  
(D) Carl Sandburg  
(E) Ralph Waldo Emerson

60. All of the following wrote of heroes wandering the open roads of America EXCEPT

(A) James Fenimore Cooper  
(B) Henry James  
(C) Walt Whitman  
(D) Jack Kerouac  
(E) John Steinbeck

Questions 61 and 62 refer to the following passage.

And now he died. Perhaps it was the smoked sausage he had eaten that morning – which may have been made out of some of the tubercular pork that was condemned as unfit for export. At any rate, an hour after eating it, the child had begun to cry with pain, and in another hour he was rolling about on the floor in convulsions. Little Kotrina, who was all alone with him, ran out screaming for help, and after a while a doctor came, but not until Kristoforas had howled his last howl. No one was really sorry about this except poor Elzbieta, who was inconsolable. Jurgis announced that so far as he was concerned the child would have to be buried by the city, since they had no money for a funeral; and at this the poor woman almost went out of her senses, wringing her hands and screaming with grief and despair. Her child to be buried in a pauper’s grave!
61. The passage above is most representative of what American literary movement?
   (A) Modernism
   (B) Muckraking
   (C) Romanticism
   (D) Puritanism
   (E) Transcendentalism

62. The passage was written by
   (A) Upton Sinclair
   (B) John Steinbeck
   (C) Sinclair Lewis
   (D) Theodore Dreiser
   (E) Robert Penn Warren

63. “So far as Mr. Washington apologizes for injustice, North and South, does not rightly value the privilege and duty of voting, belittles the emasculating effects of caste distinctions and opposes the higher training and ambition of our brighter minds . . . we must unceasingly and firmly oppose [him].”
   Who is the author of the above passage critiquing Booker T. Washington’s position on African-American rights?
   (A) Malcolm X
   (B) W. E. B. DuBois
   (C) Ida B. Wells
   (D) Benjamin W. Arnett
   (E) Langston Hughes

64. Why can’t *Black Elk Speaks* be viewed as an authoritative text of Sioux culture?
   (A) Black Elk’s revelations were tainted by the errors of translators, transcribers, and the author.
   (B) Black Elk was not a Sioux.
   (C) The surviving text is incomplete and portions impossible to read.
   (D) Black Elk’s own knowledge of Sioux culture was limited.
   (E) Black Elk’s own views changed dramatically once he lived apart from his own culture and adapted to living in an urban setting.

65. Which influential epic poem symbolizes Western civilization as a dry desert needing the rain of spiritual renewal?
   (A) Gertrude Stein’s “Tender Buttons”
   (B) Ezra Pound’s “The Cantos”
   (C) Robert Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
   (D) Wallace Stevens’s “Harmonium”
   (E) T.S. Elliot’s “The Waste Land”

66. Which writer who described his poetic style as objectivist aimed to bring an almost photographic clarity to his work with concrete images?
   (A) William Carlos Williams
   (B) Wallace Stevens
   (C) Ezra Pound
   (D) T.S. Elliot
   (E) E.E. Cummings

Questions 67–69 refer to the following poem.

For I have known them all already, known them all:—
(50) Have known the evenings, mornings, afternoons,
I have measured out my life with coffee spoons;
I know the voices dying with a dying fall
Beneath the music from a farther room.
   So how should I presume?
(55) And I have known the eyes already, known them all—
The eyes that fix you in a formulated phrase,
And when I am formulated, sprawling on a pin,
When I am pinned and wriggling on the wall, Then how should I begin
(60) To spit out all the butt-ends of my days and ways?
   And how should I presume?
67. The mood of the passage above is best described as
   (A) regretful and resigned
   (B) somber but optimistic
   (C) apologetic but proud
   (D) ecstatic and vivacious
   (E) tired and unknowing

68. What does the narrator mean when he says, “I have measured out my life with coffee spoons”?
   (line 51)
   (A) He has taken several spoonfuls of poison and awaits his death.
   (B) He is a waiter and the coffee spoons represent the profession he hates.
   (C) He uses the symbol of coffee spoons to represent his dull existence.
   (D) He is obsessed with his weight and worries about every spoonful he eats.
   (E) He regrets that he cannot drink alcohol, unlike the others at the party.

69. The imagery of lines 57–58 is borrowed from what hobby?
   (A) Sewing
   (B) Insect collecting
   (C) Wrestling
   (D) Pennant collecting
   (E) Flower arranging

70. Which modern poet wrote poetry while working as an insurance executive?
   (A) Ezra Pound
   (B) Wallace Stevens
   (C) Langston Hughes
   (D) E.E. Cummings
   (E) Hart Crane

71. In a Station of the Metro
   The apparition of these faces in the crowd;
   Petals on a wet, black bough.
   Which poetic form does the above poem most closely match in subject and rhythm?
   (A) Haiku
   (B) Free verse
   (C) Limerick
   (D) Rondel
   (E) Epic

72. Which poet wrote the epic poem “Paterson” about his hometown of Paterson, N.J.?
   (A) William Carlos Williams
   (B) Edgar Allen Poe
   (C) Langston Hughes
   (D) Emily Dickinson
   (E) Anne Bradstreet

73. in Just-spring when the world is mud- luscious the little
   lame balloonman
   whistles far and wee and eddy and bill
   come
   running from marbles and
   piracies and it’s
   spring
   The above passage is the work of
   (A) E.E. Cummings
   (B) Robinson Jeffers
   (C) Hart Crane
   (D) Marianne Moore
   (E) F. Scott Fitzgerald
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74. What is symbolized by “the valley of ashes” in Fitzgerald’s novel *The Great Gatsby*?
(A) The phoenix-like rebirth of a new America
(B) The moral and social decay caused by the mindless pursuit of wealth
(C) The rich soil of the American imagination
(D) The environmental conscience of American capitalism
(E) The wildfires of American consumerism

75. Yoknapatawpha County appears in the works of
(A) Black Elk
(B) William Faulkner
(C) Ernest Hemingway
(D) Wallace Stevens
(E) Gertrude Stein

76. Which African-American poet integrated the rhythms of blues and jazz into his/her poetry?
(A) Margaret Walker
(B) Jupiter Hammon
(C) Claude McKay
(D) Phillis Wheatley
(E) Langston Hughes

77. Which of the following novels traces the rise and fall of a Southern politician?
(A) *All the King’s Men*
(B) *Innocents Abroad*
(C) *Invisible Man*
(D) *As I Lay Dying*
(E) *Henderson the Rain King*

78. John Dos Passos, Dashiell Hammett, Ernest Hemingway, and others campaigned against the growth of fascism in Europe by volunteering to help
(A) England during World War I
(B) Italy during World War I
(C) France during World War I
(D) the Red Army during the Russian Revolution
(E) the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War

79. Conflicts between characters with traditional Southern values and the aggressive, rapidly-changing world of modern America forms one of the major themes in
(A) Tennessee Williams’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*
(B) Richard Wright’s *Native Son*
(C) Thomas Wolfe’s *Look Homeward, Angel*
(D) Zora Neale Hurston’s *Mules and Men*
(E) Katherine Anne Porter’s *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*

80. Which Eugene O’Neill play is an autobiographical account of his Irish-American family?
(A) *Beyond the Horizon*
(B) *Long Day’s Journey into Night*
(C) *Strange Interlude*
(D) *Anna Christie*
(E) *Bound East for Cardiff*

81. What New York neighborhood became the center of African-American culture during the 1920s?
(A) Harlem
(B) Brooklyn
(C) Queens
(D) The Lower East Side
(E) Greenwich Village

82. Sinclair Lewis’s tale of a middle class businessman’s discontent is entitled
(A) *Our Mr. Wrenn*
(B) *Arrowsmith*
(C) *Babbitt*
(D) *Main Street*
(E) *The Jungle*
Questions 83–87 refer to the following passage.

There was no God in his heart, he knew; his ideas were still in riot; there was ever the pain of memory; the regret for his lost youth yet the waters of disillusion had left a deposit on his soul, responsibility and a love of life, the faint stirring of old ambitions and unrealized dreams. But oh, Rosalind! Rosalind!...

“It’s all a poor substitute at best,” he said sadly. And he could not tell why the struggle was worth while, why he had determined to use to the utmost himself and his heritage from the personalities he had passed.... He stretched out his arms to the crystalline, radiant sky. “I know myself,” he cried, “but that is all.”

83. What does the author mean by the word “riot” (line 2)?
(A) He was confused.
(B) He had humorous thoughts.
(C) He had violent thoughts.
(D) He had thoughts of protest.
(E) He remembered the riot.

84. The phrase “had left a deposit on his soul” is best paraphrased as
(A) concealed his true personality
(B) lifted his spirit
(C) washed away his troubles
(D) given him important lessons
(E) made him cynical

85. What does the speaker mean when he says, “It’s all a poor substitute at best”? (line 8)
(A) The character understands that losing Rosalind was a poor substitute for the understanding of himself he has gained.
(B) Rosalind is left with only a poor substitute of what she might have had with him.
(C) The “crystalline sky” is a poor substitute for the loss of Rosalind.
(D) He was a poor substitute for a better man in the struggle he has just undergone.
(E) He has learned from his experience but he feels a greater sense of loss.

86. This passage is most likely the conclusion of a(n)
(A) historical novel
(B) novel of education
(C) science fiction novel
(D) detective novel
(E) western novel

87. Who is the author of this passage?
(A) F. Scott Fitzgerald
(B) William Faulkner
(C) Ernest Hemingway
(D) John Dos Passos
(E) Henry James

88. Which of the following novels traces the development of a young Jewish boy growing up in Chicago during the Great Depression?
(A) Portnoy’s Complaint
(B) The Adventures of Augie March
(C) Fear of Flying
(D) Humboldt’s Gift
(E) Mr. Sammler’s Planet
CLEP AMERICAN LITERATURE PRACTICE TEST

89. In which novel are African-American boys cruelly tormented in the “Battle Royal”?
   (A) Invisible Man
   (B) Wise Blood
   (C) The Dean’s December
   (D) The Tenants
   (E) The End of the Road

90. The Beat poet who revolutionized American poetry with Howl was
   (A) Jack Kerouac
   (B) William Burroughs
   (C) Gregory Corso
   (D) Michael McClure
   (E) Allen Ginsberg

91. In his work Fire Next Time, James Baldwin argues for
   (A) an end to separation between the races
   (B) the right of workers to organize
   (C) reform of the American educational system
   (D) peace in Southeast Asia
   (E) an end to political corruption in Washington

92. In which of the following novels does the protagonist Tyrone Slothrop undergo physiological conditioning to be able to detect things others cannot?
   (A) Gravity’s Rainbow
   (B) The Crucible
   (C) Nobody Knows My Name
   (D) I Am Joaquin
   (E) Pictures of Fidelman

93. Which author is known as “the Chekhov of the Suburbs” for his writings about the social mores and emotional yearnings of upper-middle class suburban families?
   (A) John Cheever
   (B) Norman Mailer
   (C) Vladimir Nabokov
   (D) J.D. Salinger
   (E) Philip Roth

94. Holden Caulfield is the creation of which author?
   (A) Sam Shepard
   (B) Louise Erdrich
   (C) Sylvia Plath
   (D) Joyce Carol Oates
   (E) J.D. Salinger

95. Betty Friedan’s work—which inspired the woman’s movement in the 1960s—is entitled
   (A) Sexual Politics
   (B) Vindication of the Rights of Women
   (C) The Feminine Mystique
   (D) A Room of One’s Own
   (E) The Laugh of the Medusa

96. Which Toni Morrison novel tells of Milkman Dead’s search for identity?
   (A) The Color Purple
   (B) Song of Solomon
   (C) Beloved
   (D) Black Boy
   (E) Another Country

97. Which author wrote Grendel, a retelling of the Old English epic Beowulf from the monster’s point of view?
   (A) John Gardner
   (B) Bernard Malamud
   (C) Anne Tyler
   (D) Truman Capote
   (E) Carson McCullers

98. Harry Angstrom is the protagonist of which of the following works?
   (A) Rabbit Run
   (B) Raise High the Roof-Beam, Carpenters
   (C) Lonesome Dove
   (D) The Housebreaker of Shady Hill
   (E) A Love Story
CLEP AMERICAN LITERATURE PRACTICE TEST

99. Which author wrote the semi-autobiographical *Pnin* about an ineffectual professor?
   (A) Vladimir Nabokov
   (B) Jamaica Kincaid
   (C) Elie Wiesel
   (D) Stephen King
   (E) Amy Tan

100. All of the following are poets known for their work after World War II EXCEPT
   (A) John Berryman
   (B) Anne Sexton
   (C) Sylvia Plath
   (D) Theodore Roethke
   (E) Carl Sandburg