

Humanities CLEP Prep Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Whom is often credited with creating written the first recognizable work of literature?**
 - A. Homer**
 - B. Plato**
 - C. Euripides**
 - D. Virgil**
- 2. Who wrote "The Canterbury Tales"?**
 - A. Geoffrey Chaucer**
 - B. William Shakespeare**
 - C. Milton**
 - D. Dante Alighieri**
- 3. Which century marked the beginning of the Renaissance?**
 - A. 12th century**
 - B. 15th century**
 - C. 18th century**
 - D. 21st century**
- 4. In which country was the Renaissance primarily centered?**
 - A. Spain**
 - B. France**
 - C. England**
 - D. Italy**
- 5. In a Greek tragedy, what is a pivotal moment in which the protagonist's destiny is profoundly affected by a predicament?**
 - A. Denouement**
 - B. Catharsis**
 - C. Peripeteia**
 - D. Climax**

- 6. What writer wrote "Brave New World"?**
- A. Aldous Huxley**
 - B. J.D. Salinger**
 - C. William Golding**
 - D. Fyodor Dostoyevsky**
- 7. What is the earliest surviving example of Indian miniature painting?**
- A. The Moguli School**
 - B. The Bhagavata Purana**
 - C. The Ramayana**
 - D. The Ajanta Caves**
- 8. The American Declaration of Independence was adopted in what year?**
- A. 1776**
 - B. 1787**
 - C. 1794**
 - D. 1812**
- 9. Who wrote "The Prince"?**
- A. Sigmund Freud**
 - B. Niccolò Machiavelli**
 - C. Plato**
 - D. Thomas Hobbes**
- 10. What is the foundation of Hinduism?**
- A. Atman**
 - B. The Tao**
 - C. Allah**
 - D. The Bible**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Whom is often credited with creating written the first recognizable work of literature?

- A. Homer**
- B. Plato**
- C. Euripides**
- D. Virgil**

Homer is often credited with creating the first recognizable work of literature, known as The Iliad. Plato is a philosopher and did write several philosophical works, but his works are not considered literature. Euripides is a Greek tragedian and his works were mostly plays, which is also not considered literature. Virgil was an ancient Roman poet, but The Aeneid, his most famous work, was heavily influenced by previous Greek works. Therefore, Homer is the most likely candidate for being the first to create a recognizable work of literature.

2. Who wrote "The Canterbury Tales"?

- A. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- B. William Shakespeare**
- C. Milton**
- D. Dante Alighieri**

"Explanation The correct answer is A: Geoffrey Chaucer. This answer is correct because Geoffrey Chaucer is widely recognized as the author of "The Canterbury Tales." While William Shakespeare is a well-known playwright, he did not write "The Canterbury Tales." Similarly, Milton and Dante Alighieri were both medieval writers, but neither are credited with writing "The Canterbury Tales." Therefore, the other options are incorrect."

3. Which century marked the beginning of the Renaissance?

- A. 12th century**
- B. 15th century**
- C. 18th century**
- D. 21st century**

The Renaissance was a cultural and intellectual movement that began in the 14th century in Italy and spread throughout Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was marked by a revival of art, literature, and science. Option A is incorrect because the 12th century was characterized by the High Middle Ages, a period of feudalism and crusades, and did not see the rise of the Renaissance. Option C is also incorrect because it was during the 18th century that the Enlightenment, known for its focus on reason and logic, emerged in Europe. Option D is incorrect because we are currently in the 21st century and the Renaissance has long since passed.

4. In which country was the Renaissance primarily centered?

- A. Spain**
- B. France**
- C. England**
- D. Italy**

The Renaissance was a cultural and intellectual movement that began in Italy during the 14th century and lasted until the 17th century. This period of time saw a revival of classical learning, art, and architecture, and Italy was at the forefront of these developments. While Spain, France, and England were also significant centers of cultural and artistic activity, they were not the primary center for the Renaissance. Therefore, the correct answer is D, Italy.

5. In a Greek tragedy, what is a pivotal moment in which the protagonist's destiny is profoundly affected by a predicament?

- A. Denouement**
- B. Catharsis**
- C. Peripeteia**
- D. Climax**

A. Denouement refers to the resolution of the plot in a Greek tragedy, not the moment that profoundly affects the protagonist's destiny. B. Catharsis is the emotional release experienced by the audience after the resolution of the conflict, not the moment that affects the protagonist's destiny. D. Climax is the highest point of tension and action in the play, but not necessarily the moment that affects the protagonist's destiny. Peripeteia, on the other hand, is a specific term used in Greek tragedy to signify the reversal of the protagonist's fortune and the turning point that shapes their fate. This pivotal moment is crucial to the overall structure and impact of the tragedy.

6. What writer wrote "Brave New World"?

- A. Aldous Huxley**
- B. J.D. Salinger**
- C. William Golding**
- D. Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

Aldous Huxley is the writer who wrote "Brave New World". None of the other writers listed are associated with this book. J.D. Salinger is best known for "The Catcher in the Rye", William Golding wrote "Lord of the Flies", and Fyodor Dostoyevsky is known for "Crime and Punishment" and "The Brothers Karamazov". Therefore, A is the correct answer.

7. What is the earliest surviving example of Indian miniature painting?

- A. The Moguli School**
- B. The Bhagavata Purana**
- C. The Ramayana**
- D. The Ajanta Caves**

The Bhagavata Purana is considered the earliest surviving example of Indian miniature painting as it dates back to the 14th century. The other options, while also being significant in Indian art history, do not date back as far as the Bhagavata Purana. Option A, the Moguli School, was established in the 16th century. Option C, the Ramayana, has been depicted in Indian art for centuries but the earliest surviving miniature paintings of this epic can be traced back to the 16th century. Option D, the Ajanta Caves, are a collection of Buddhist cave temples and paintings dating back to the 1st century BCE, but they are not considered miniature paintings in the traditional sense.

8. The American Declaration of Independence was adopted in what year?

- A. 1776**
- B. 1787**
- C. 1794**
- D. 1812**

The American Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 because it was a time of great political and social upheaval in the American colonies. The colonists were unhappy with British rule and sought independence, leading to the formation of the Declaration. Option B, 1787, refers to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, not the Declaration of Independence. Option C, 1794, was during the time of the French Revolution and not related to the American Declaration of Independence. Option D, 1812, is the year the U.S. declared war on Britain, known as the War of 1812, but is not the year of the Declaration of Independence. Therefore, the correct answer is 1776.

9. Who wrote "The Prince"?

- A. Sigmund Freud**
- B. Niccolò Machiavelli**
- C. Plato**
- D. Thomas Hobbes**

"The Prince" was written by Niccolò Machiavelli, not by Sigmund Freud, Plato, or Thomas Hobbes. While all four individuals were influential philosophers and thinkers, only Niccolò Machiavelli is credited as the author of "The Prince". Sigmund Freud was an Austrian neurologist, Plato was an ancient Greek philosopher, and Thomas Hobbes was an English political philosopher. None of these individuals wrote "The Prince". Therefore, the correct answer is Niccolò Machiavelli.

10. What is the foundation of Hinduism?

A. Atman

B. The Tao

C. Allah

D. The Bible

Hinduism is a complex religion with various philosophies and beliefs, but at its core, Hinduism is based on the concept of Atman. Atman refers to the individual soul or self, which is believed to be a part of the universal and eternal soul, Brahman. Atman is the ultimate goal of Hindu spiritual practices, as individuals strive to achieve a state of self-realization and reunite with Brahman. Options B, C, and D do not align with Hindu beliefs and are therefore incorrect. The Tao is a concept in Chinese philosophy, Allah is the God of Islam, and the Bible is the sacred text of Christianity.