

Answer the groups of questions according to each paragraph which precedes the group:

1. Most people I know have at one time or another been fouled up by their childhood experiences. Patterns tend to sink into the unconscious only to reappear, disguised, unseen, like marionette strings, pulling us this way or that. Whatever ails people—keeps them up at night, tossing and turning—also ails movements no matter how historically huge or politically important. The feminist movement cannot remake consciousness, or reshape the future, without acknowledging and shedding all the unnecessary and ugly baggage of the past. It's easy enough now to see where men have kept us out of clubs, baseball games, graduate school; it's easy enough to recognize the hidden directions that limit Sis to cake-baking and Junior to bridge-building. But along the way we also developed our own hidden prejudices, class assumptions and an anti-male humor and collection of expectations that gave us, like all oppressed groups, a secret sense of superiority. (20%)
- 1) According to this passage, do people's childhood experiences haunt their grown-up life?
  - 2) How is the ailment of movements compared to in this passage?
  - 3) What is the implication of "the hidden directions that limit Sis to cake-baking and Junior to bridge-building" in this passage?
  - 4) According to the author of this passage, are there hidden prejudices in the feminist movement?

2. The intellectual life of the nineteenth century was more complex than that of any previous age. This was due to several causes. First: the area concerned was larger than ever before; America and Russia made important contributions, and Europe became more aware than formerly of Indian philosophies, both ancient and modern. Second: science, which had been a chief source of novelty since the seventeenth century, made new conquests, especially in geology, biology, and organic chemistry. Third: machine production profoundly altered the social structure, and gave men a new conception of their powers in relation to the physical environment. Fourth: a profound revolt, both philosophical and political, against traditional systems in thought, in politics, and in economics, gave rise to attacks upon many beliefs and institutions that had hitherto been regarded as unassailable. (20%)
- 1) What is area involved in the more complex intellectual life of the nineteenth century?
  - 2) What are the fields in which science made enormous new advances in the nineteenth century?
  - 3) What did machine production do to men and their society in the nineteenth century?
  - 4) Did philosophical and political persons in the nineteenth century rebel against traditional beliefs and institutions?

3. There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation. There is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolize. There is a failure here that topples all our success. The fertile earth, the straight tree row, the sturdy trunks, and the ripe fruit. And children dying of pellagra must die because a profit cannot be taken from an orange. And coroners must fill in the certificates—died of malnutrition—because the food must rot, must be forced to rot. The people come with nets to fish for potatoes in the river, and the guards hold them back; they come in rattling cars to get the dumped oranges, but the kerosene is sprayed. And they stand still and watch the potatoes float by, listen to the screaming pigs being killed in a ditch and covered with quicklime, watch the mountains of oranges slop down to a putrefying ooze; and in the eyes of the people there is the failure; and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage. (20%)
- 1) According to this passage, can weeping symbolize the sorrow described here?
  - 2) According to this passage, why did children must die of malnutrition?
  - 3) Did the hungry people get the food which the farmers threw away?
  - 4) What did the author mean by saying "the grapes of wrath are growing heavy for the vintage"?

4. Gossip must be nearly as old as language itself. It was, I imagine, the earliest recreational use of the spoken word. First the cave man learned to describe the location of the plumpest bison, then he began to report and speculate on the doings of his neighbors in the cave next door. And yet, for all its antiquity, gossip has rarely received its due; its very name connotes idleness, time-wasting, frivolity and worse. Gossip is the unacknowledged poor relative of civilized conversation: Almost everyone does it but hardly anyone will admit to or defend it; and of these only the smallest and most shameless fraction will own up to enjoying it. (10%)

- 1) According to the author of this passage, how old is gossip?
- 2) According to this passage, do most people dare to acknowledge their enjoyment of gossip?

5. July came on with that breathless, brilliant heat which makes the plains of Kansas and Nebraska the best corn country in the world. It seemed as if we could hear the corn growing in the night; under the stars one caught a faint crackling in the dewy, heavy-odored cornfields where the feathered stalks stood so juicy and green. If all the great plain from the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains had been under glass, and the heat regulated by a thermometer, it could not have been better for the yellow tassels that were ripening and fertilizing the silk day by day. The cornfields were far apart in those times, with miles of wild grazing land between. It took a clear, meditative eye like my grandfather's to foresee that they would enlarge and multiply until they would be, not the Shimerdas' cornfields, or Mr. Bushy's, but the world's cornfields; that their yield would be one of the great economic facts, like the wheat crop of Russia, which underlie all activities of men, in peace or war. (10%)
- 1) According to this passage, will the corn of the great plain from the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains grow better in greenhouses than in the natural fields?
  - 2) Has the production of corn in the great plain become a great economic fact as the author's grandfather foresaw?
6. One more class until lunch. My head swims with images of a good local diner: great cheeseburgers, a leisurely perusal of the *New York Times*, unlimited coffee refills and, just maybe, a piece of chocolate pie. Now I am conferring with Heather, a shy first grader with a sleepy smile. An ordinary child except for one thing: Heather does not have a last name. Knowing this, I would award her the same celebrity status as other one-name wonders like Cher, Madonna, Marisol, and Aliko, except that it turns out that the girl's truncated name has far more sinister origins. (10%)
- 1) Of what was the author of this passage daydreaming in his/her classroom?
  - 2) Why did the author mention Heather side by side with people like Cher, Madonna, etc.?
7. When we are being dishonest, our behavior often fragments. It comes to pieces like a dismantled jigsaw-puzzle. Instead of all our actions fitting together in a harmonious way, they combine in contradictory assemblages that jar on the observer and tell him something is amiss. To give an oversimplified example: a man gives a friendly smile, but at the same time his fists are tightly clenched. His face says "I am happy," but his hands say "I am angry." How are we to react to such conflicting messages? Do we trust one, both or neither of his actions? To answer this question, it is necessary to make a clear distinction between Ambivalent Signals and Contradictory Signals. In both there is a display of conflicting elements, but in the case of Ambivalent Signals the conflict is the result of a mixed mood. However, a Contradictory Signal is based on a single genuine mood that is over-laid with a deliberate outward lie. (10%)
- 1) What is the common characteristic between Ambivalent Signals and Contradictory Signals?
  - 2) How are Ambivalent Signals and Contradictory Signals different from each other?