

English II

Benchmark I Part A

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Write the letter of the best answer on the line next to the question number.

Read the passage "O. Henry's The Gift of the Magi" before answering numbers 1 through 10.

O. Henry's The Gift of the Magi

Directions: Read this student report, think about what suggestions you would make, and then answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Although O. Henry's famous short story "The Gift of the Magi" has long enjoyed a
- 2 reputation as a holiday classic, its theme of personal sacrifice for the sake of love is
- 3 meaningful year-round. Despite a certain sentimentality and a reliance on coincidence, this
- 4 story is a small gem, possibly the author's best. It is like many other O. Henry stories. Set
- 5 in New York City, "The Gift of the Magi" also exhibits O. Henry's typical interest in ordinary
- 6 people overwhelmed with problems. The plot depends on a surprise twist at the end,
- 7 an O. Henry trademark, and the story closes with a moral. All this may seem quaint,
- 8 like an heirloom of an earlier time, but "The Gift of the Magi" does not lack charm. The
- 9 message remains as fresh today as when it first appears in print over a century ago.
- 10 "O. Henry" is the pen name used by William Sydney Porter, a man whose life was in
- 11 some ways as colorful and surprising as his stories. He served three years embezzling
- 12 money from a bank in prison in Ohio. During that time, he began writing fiction. The
- 13 source of his pen name is not altogether clear; perhaps it came from his habit of
- 14 saying "Oh, Henry" to the family cat. Whatever the explanation, it was as O. Henry

15 that Porter published the stories that would make him one of the most popular fiction
16 writers in the United States.

17 “The Gift of the Magi” tells the story of Jim and Della, who are struggling to make
18 ends meet on Jim’s salary of \$20 per week. Della loves her husband dearly and wants to
19 give him a gift that will show the depth of her affection. She has very little cash, and
20 despairing over what to do, until she decides to sell her beautiful long hair to a wigmaker.

21 With the money from this sale, she purchases a gold chain for Jim’s most prized
22 possession, a valuable watch he inherited from his Father and grandfather. Her
23 only concern is that her husband will be angry that she has cut her hair. When Jim
24 returns home, however, he is not angry, but stunned. His watch was sold in order to
25 buy Della some beautiful combs for her hair!

26 After this unexpected conclusion, the author states, “Of all who give and receive gifts,
27 such as they are wisest.” Jim and Della were wise because each have made a sacrifice
28 that expressed love for the other—a gift from the heart. Literary scholars often dismiss
29 O. Henry as a minor writer of emotional fiction intended merely to entertain
30 mass audiences, but no one can deny that “The Gift of the Magi” expresses a worthy ideal.

Now answer numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the passage "O. Henry's The Gift of the Magi".

- ___1. What is the best change, if any, to make to classic, its in line 2?
- A. classic; its
 - B. classic. Its
 - C. classic its
 - D. no change
- ___2. What is the best change, if any, to make to O. Henry's in line 5?
- A. O. Henrys'
 - B. O. Henries'
 - C. O. Henrys
 - D. no change
- ___3. What is the best way, if any, to rewrite the sentence in lines 4 and 5?
- A. Set in New York City, like many other O. Henry stories.
 - B. Like many other O. Henry stories, it is set in New York City.
 - C. It is like many other O. Henry stories, and it is set in New York City.
 - D. no change
- ___4. What is the best change, if any, to make to appears in line 9?
- A. appearing
 - B. appeared
 - C. had appeared
 - D. no change
- ___5. What is the best way, if any, to rewrite the sentence in lines 11 and 12?
- A. For embezzling money from a bank, he served three years in an Ohio prison.
 - B. In Ohio, he served three years in prison when he had embezzled money from a bank.
 - C. He served three years, having embezzled money from a bank in prison in Ohio.
 - D. no change

- ___6. What is the best change, if any, to make to altogether in line 13?
- A. altogether
 - B. all together
 - C. all-together
 - D. no change
- ___7. What is the best way, if any, to rewrite the sentence in lines 19 and 20?
- A. Having very little cash and despairing over what to do, she decides to sell her beautiful long hair to a wigmaker.
 - B. She has very little cash, in despair over what to do, until she decides to sell her beautiful long hair to a wigmaker.
 - C. Having very little cash and despaired over what to do, until deciding to sell her beautiful long hair to a wigmaker.
 - D. no change
- ___8. What is the best change, if any, to make to Father and grandfather in line 22?
- A. Father and Grandfather
 - B. father and grandfather
 - C. father and Grandfather
 - D. no change
- ___9. What is the best way, if any, to change the passive voice to the active voice in the sentence in lines 24 and 25?
- A. He had sold his watch in order to buy Della some beautiful combs for her hair!
 - B. In order to buy Della some beautiful combs for her hair, his watch was sold!
 - C. The watch was being sold by him in order to buy Della some beautiful combs for her hair!
 - D. no change

10. What is the best change, if any, to make to have made in line 27?

- A. were made
- B. had made
- C. would make
- D. no change

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Read the passage "After Twenty Years" before answering numbers 11 through 19.

After Twenty Years

Directions:

Read this short story by O. Henry. Then answer the questions that follow.

After Twenty Years

1 The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual and not for show, for spectators were few. The time was barely 10 o'clock at night, but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them had well-nigh depeopled the streets.

2 Trying doors as he went, twirling his club with many intricate and artful movements, turning now and then to cast his watchful eye down the pacific thoroughfare, the officer with his stalwart form and slight swagger, made a fine picture of a guardian of the peace. The vicinity was one that kept early hours. Now and then you might see the lights of a cigar store or of an all-night lunch counter; but the majority of the doors belonged to business places that had long since been closed.

3 When about midway of a certain block the policeman suddenly slowed his walk. In the doorway of a darkened hardware store a man leaned, with an unlighted cigar in his mouth. As the policeman walked up to him, the man spoke up quickly.

4 "It's all right, officer," he said reassuringly. "I'm just waiting for a friend. It's an appointment made twenty years ago. Sounds a little funny to you, doesn't it? Well, I'll explain if you'd like to make certain it's all straight. About that long ago there used to be a restaurant where this store stands-'Big Joe' Brady's restaurant."

5 "Until five years ago," said the policeman. "It was torn down then."

6 The man in the doorway struck a match and lit his cigar. The light showed a pale, square-jawed face with keen eyes, and a little white scar near his right eyebrow. His scarf pin was a large diamond, oddly set.

7 "Twenty years ago tonight," said the man, "I dined here at 'Big Joe' Brady's with Jimmy Wells, my best chum, and the finest chap in the world. He and I were raised here in New York, just like two brothers, together. I was eighteen and Jimmy was twenty. The next morning I was to start for the West to make my fortune. You couldn't have dragged Jimmy out of New York; he thought it was the only place on earth. Well, we agreed that night that we would meet here again exactly twenty years from that date and time, no matter what our conditions might be or from what distance we might have to come. We figured that in twenty years each of us ought to have our destiny worked out and our fortunes made, whatever they were going to be."

8 “It sounds pretty interesting,” said the policeman. “Rather a long time between meets, though, it seems to me. Haven’t you heard from your friend since you left?”

9 “Well, yes, for a time we corresponded,” said the other. “But after a year or two we lost track of each other. You see, the West is a pretty big proposition, and I kept hustling around over it pretty lively. But I know Jimmy will meet me here if he’s alive, for he always was the truest, staunchest old chap in the world. He’ll never forget. I came a thousand miles to stand in this door tonight, and it’s worth it if my old partner turns up.”

10 The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, the lids of it set with small diamonds.

11 “Three minutes to ten,” he announced. “It was exactly ten o’clock when we parted here at the restaurant door.”

12 “Did pretty well out West, didn’t you?” asked the policeman.

13 “You bet! I hope Jimmy has done half as well. He was kind of a plodder, though, good fellow as he was. I’ve had to compete with some of the sharpest wits going to get my pile. A man gets in a groove in New York. It takes the West to put a razor edge on him.”

14 The policeman twirled his club and took a step or two.

15 “I’ll be on my way. Hope your friend comes around all right. Going to call time on him sharp?”

16 “I should say not!” said the other. “I’ll give him half an hour at least. If Jimmy is alive on earth he’ll be here by that time. So long, officer.”

17 “Good night, sir,” said the policeman, passing on along his beat, trying doors as he went.

18 There was now a fine, cold drizzle falling, and the wind had risen from its uncertain puffs to a steady blow. The few foot passengers astir in that quarter hurried dismally and silently along with coat collars turned high and pocketed hands. And in the door of the hardware store the man who had come a thousand miles to fill an appointment, uncertain almost to absurdity, with the friend of his youth, smoked his cigar and waited.

19 About twenty minutes he waited, and then a tall man in a long overcoat, with collar turned up to his ears, hurried across from the opposite side of the street. He went directly to the waiting man.

20 “Is that you, Bob?” he asked, doubtfully.

21 “Is that you, Jimmy Wells?” cried the man in the door.

22 “Bless my heart!” exclaimed the new arrival, grasping both the other’s hands with his own. “It’s Bob, sure as fate. I was certain I’d find you here if you were still in existence. Well, well, well! --twenty years is a long time. The old restaurant’s gone, Bob; I wish it had lasted, so we could have had another dinner there. How has the West treated you, old man?”

23 “Bully; it has given me everything I asked it for. You’ve changed lots, Jimmy. I never thought you were so tall by two or three inches.”

24 “Oh, I grew a bit after I was twenty.”

25 “Doing well in New York, Jimmy?”

26 “Moderately. I have a position in one of the city departments. Come on, Bob; we’ll go around to a place I know of, and have a good long talk about old times.”

27 The two men started up the street arm in arm. The man from the West, his egotism enlarged by success, was beginning to outline the history of his career. The other, submerged in his overcoat, listened with interest.

28 At the corner stood a drug store, brilliant with electric lights.

29 When they came into this glare each of them turned simultaneously to gaze upon the other’s face.

30 The man from the West stopped suddenly and released his arm.

31 “You’re not Jimmy Wells,” he snapped. “Twenty years is a long time, but not long enough to change a man’s nose from a Roman to a pug.”

32 “It sometimes changes a good man into a bad one,” said the tall man. “You’ve been under arrest for ten minutes, ‘Silky’ Bob. Chicago thinks you may have dropped over our way and wires us she wants to have a chat with you. Going quietly, are you? That’s sensible. Now, before we go on to the station, here’s a note I was asked to hand you. You may read it here at the window. It’s from Patrolman Wells.”

33 The man from the West unfolded the little piece of paper handed him. His hand was steady when he began to read, but it trembled a little by the time he had finished. The note was rather short.

34 *Bob:*

I was at the appointed place on time. When you struck the match to light your cigar, I saw it was the face of the man wanted in Chicago. Somehow I couldn't do it myself, so I went around and got a plain clothes man to do the job. ---

Jimmy

Now answer numbers 11 through 19. Base your answers on the passage "After Twenty Years".

- ___ 11. Trying doors as he went, twirling his club with many intricate and artful movements, turning now and then to cast his watchful eye down the pacific thoroughfare, the officer, with his stalwart form and slight swagger, made a fine picture of a guardian of the peace.

In this sentence from paragraph 2, what does the word stalwart mean?

- A. frightening
 - B. clumsy
 - C. strong
 - D. nimble
- ___ 12. The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch, the lids of it set with small diamonds.
- The author includes this detail from the story mostly to
- A. warn readers that the waiting man's friend will not show up for the meeting.
 - B. inform readers that the waiting man is wealthy.
 - C. suggest that the waiting man is about to offer the police officer a bribe.
 - D. show that the waiting man is impatient and will soon leave if his friend doesn't arrive.
- ___ 13. Why is Bob waiting on the street corner at night?
- A. He is a fugitive who is waiting for a bus to take him out of town.
 - B. He is an undercover police officer waiting for a crime to be committed.
 - C. The restaurant where he is waiting does not open until 10 o'clock at night.
 - D. He is waiting to meet a friend whom he has not seen for twenty years.
- ___ 14. From the many details in the story we can infer that Bob is
- A. unfamiliar with New York City.
 - B. an unsuccessful businessperson.
 - C. a well-known gangster.
 - D. a victim of circumstances.

- ___15. Does Bob ever meet his old friend Jimmy Wells in the story?
- A. No, they never meet.
 - B. Yes, Jimmy is the first police officer that Bob meets.
 - C. Yes, Jimmy is the plain clothes officer who hands Bob a note.
 - D. Yes, Jimmy owns the hardware store where Bob is waiting.
- ___16. Which sentence from the passage shows Jimmy's reluctance to arrest Bob?
- A. "Did pretty well out West, didn't you?" (paragraph 12)
 - B. "Hope your friend comes around all right." (paragraph 15)
 - C. "I was at the appointed place on time." (paragraph 34)
 - D. "Somehow I couldn't do it myself." (paragraph 34)
- ___17. Which of the following best states the theme of the story?
- A. It is a mistake to try to recapture one's past life.
 - B. Wealthy people are usually criminals.
 - C. People and events are not always what they appear to be.
 - D. It is difficult to recognize a person whom one has not seen in twenty years.
- ___18. Which of the following elements of fiction is used in this story?
- A. satire
 - B. ironic ending
 - C. flashback
 - D. unreliable narrator
- ___19. The quote, "I've had to compete with some of the sharpest wits to get my pile," shows that the man from the West is
- A. sensible.
 - B. arrogant.
 - C. humble.
 - D. truthful.

Read the passage "National Parks Cutting Back on Services, Raising Fees" before answering numbers 20 through 25.

National Parks Cutting Back on Services, Raising Fees

National Parks Cutting Back on Services, Raising Fees

By Tom Kenworthy

1 DENVER- Millions of visitors to national parks across the country this summer will find higher fees, closed facilities, reduced maintenance and fewer rangers to explain the natural wonders because of the squeeze of tight budgets.

2 From Maine to California, park managers are struggling with higher fixed costs and operating budgets that haven't kept pace with inflation.

- In Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, visited by 3 million people annually, has mothballed one of its six visitor centers and consolidated jobs.
- In Montana, Glacier National Park has stopped providing campers with drinkable water at three campgrounds.
- In Pennsylvania, Gettysburg National Military Park cut back winter visiting hours and reduced its permanent staff--losing workers who help maintain the park's 100-plus historic structures and Civil War cannons.
- In Maine, Acadia National Park has not filled 14 jobs, including rangers who provide law enforcement and act as educational guides for tourists.

3 "The problem is the (funding) increases we've been getting are insufficient to keep pace" with higher costs, says Acadia's deputy superintendent, Len Bobinchock.

Fees at 22 parks are going up this year. At Death Valley National Park in California, entrance fees per auto are doubling to \$20. At Glen Canyon National Recreational Area in Arizona, annual park passes will cost \$30, up from \$20.

Entry fees go up		
Price of a daily vehicle pass		
	Old Fee	New Fee
<u>Glacier (Mont.)</u>	\$20	\$25
<u>Grand Canyon (Ariz.)</u>	\$20	\$25
<u>Grand Teton (Wyo.)</u>	\$20	\$25
<u>Yellowstone (Idaho, Mont., Wyo.)</u>	\$20	\$25
<u>Death Valley (Calif., Nev.)</u>	\$10	\$20
<u>Glen Canyon (Ariz., Utah)</u>	\$10	\$15
<u>Joshua Tree (Calif.)</u>	\$10	\$15
<u>Mount Rainier (Wash.)</u>	\$10	\$15
<u>Olympic (Wash.)</u>	\$10	\$15
<u>Shenandoah (Va.)</u>	\$10	\$15

Source: National Park Service

4 “National parks are the soul of America, and we are neither taking care of them nor enabling the Park Service to fully inspire and teach visitors,” says Tom Kiernan, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association, which lobbies for the parks.

5 Last year, more than 273 million people visited the 390 parks, monuments, recreation areas and other sites in the 83-million-acre national park system.

6 A study of 12 popular parks issued last month by the Government Accountability Office, Congress’ investigative arm, found that eight weren’t getting enough funds to keep up with inflation, and all 12 were cutting services, including “visitor center hours, educational programs, basic custodial duties and law enforcement.”

7 Congressional funding for daily park operations was \$1.03 billion in fiscal year 2005, a slight decline from fiscal 2001 when adjusted for inflation, according to the GAO.

8 “These are challenging times,” says National Park Service spokeswoman Elaine Sevy. Park employees “are working very hard to not affect visitors and resource-protection programs.”

Now answer numbers 20 through 25. Base your answers on the passage "National Parks Cutting Back on Services, Raising Fees".

____20. In the first paragraph, the author uses because to show which pattern of organization?

- A. definition
- B. compare/contrast
- C. cause/effect
- D. chronological

____21. The author’s primary purpose in this selection is to

- A. entertain.
- B. persuade.
- C. inform.
- D. express feelings.

____22. The purpose of the chart is to compare

- A. old and new park entry fees.
- B. parks in the East and the West.
- C. previous and current park attendance.
- D. cost and operating budgets.

- ____23. Which statement from the article is an opinion?
- A. "Gettysburg National Military Park cut back winter visiting hours" (paragraph 2).
 - B. "Fees at 22 parks are going up this year" (paragraph 3)
 - C. "National parks are the soul of America" (paragraph 4)
 - D. "Congressional funding for daily park operations was \$1.03 billion" (paragraph 7)
- ____24. Which national park had the largest increase in entry fees?
- A. Grand Canyon
 - B. Death Valley
 - C. Joshua Tree
 - D. Mount Rainier
- ____25. The purpose of the bullet points in the text is to outline
- A. states that contain thriving national parks.
 - B. increases in park admission fees.
 - C. cost-cutting efforts of various parks.
 - D. national parks that are cutting employees.

Read the passage "Advertisement" before answering numbers 26 through 28.

Advertisement



Which one would you choose?

The elephant, the whales? The clean air we breathe?

Maybe the choice isn't so clear. Maybe you'd like a way to keep them all.

Now the world's leading environmental groups are working together.

To find out how you can help, look for us at www.earthshare.org (<http://www.earthshare.org/>)

Now answer numbers 26 through 28. Base your answers on the passage "Advertisement".

- ___ 26. The young girl in the advertisement symbolizes
- A. people who threaten the environment.
 - B. future generations that will inherit the earth.
 - C. victims that are harmed by wild animals.
 - D. scientists who study the environment.
- ___ 27. The elephants in the advertisement symbolize
- A. political parties.
 - B. ancient wisdom.
 - C. endangered species.
 - D. no change

- ____28. The purpose of the advertisement is to
- A. inform.
 - B. persuade.
 - C. entertain.
 - D. describe.