

Directions: This part consists of satire selections and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Passage 1, Questions 1-8. Read the following passage from "A Modest Proposal," by Jonathan Swift (1729) carefully before you choose your answers.

(5) It is a melancholy object to those who walk through this great town, or travel in the country, when they see the streets, the roads and cabin-doors crowded with beggars of the female sex, followed by three, four, or six children, all in rags, and importuning every passenger for an alms. These mothers, instead of being able to work for their honest livelihood, are forced to employ all their time in strolling, to beg sustenance for their helpless infants, who, as they grow up, either turn thieves for want of work, or leave their dear native country to fight for the Pretender in Spain, or sell themselves to the Barbadoes.

(10) I think it is agreed by all parties that this prodigious number of children, in the arms, or on the backs, or at the heels of their mothers, and frequently of their fathers, is in the present deplorable state of the kingdom a very great additional grievance; and therefore whoever could find out a fair, cheap, and easy method of making these children sound and useful members of the commonwealth would serve so well of the public as to have his statue set up for a preserver of the nation.

(15) But my intention is very far from being confined to provide only for the children of professed beggars; it is of a much greater extent, and shall take in the whole number of infants at a certain age who are born of parents in effect as little able to support them as those who demand our charity in the streets.

(20) As to my own part, having turned my thoughts for many years upon this important subject, and maturely weighed the several schemes of other projectors, I have always found them grossly mistaken in their computation. It is true a child just dropped from its dam may be supported by her milk for a solar year with little other nourishment, at most not above the value of two shillings, which the mother may certainly get, or the value in scraps, by her lawful occupation of begging, and it is (25) exactly at one year old that I propose to provide for them, in such a manner as, instead of being a charge upon their parents, or the parish, or wanting food and raiment for the rest of their lives, they shall, on the contrary, contribute to the feeding and partly to the clothing of many thousands.

(30) There is likewise another great advantage in my scheme, that it will prevent those voluntary abortions, and that horrid practice of women murdering their bastard children, alas, too frequent among us, sacrificing the poor innocent babes, I doubt, more to avoid the expense than the shame, which would move tears and pity in the most savage and inhuman breast.

(35) The number of souls in Ireland being usually reckoned one million and a half, of these I calculate there may be about two hundred thousand couples whose wives are breeders, from which number I subtract thirty thousand couples who are able to maintain their own children, although I apprehend there cannot be so many under the present distresses of the kingdom, but this being granted, there will remain an hundred and seventy thousand breeders. I again subtract fifty thousand for those (40) women who miscarry, or whose children die by accident or disease within the year. There only remain an hundred and twenty thousand children of poor parents annually born: the question therefore is, how this number shall be reared, and provided for, which, as I have already said, under the present situation of affairs is utterly impossible by all the methods hitherto proposed, for we can neither employ (45) them in handicraft or agriculture; we neither build houses (I mean in the country),

nor cultivate land: they can very seldom pick up a livelihood by stealing until they arrive at six years old, except where they are of towardly parts although I confess they learn the rudiments much earlier, during which time they can however be properly looked upon only as probationers, as I have been informed by a principal
(50) gentleman in the County of Cavan, who protested to me that he never knew above one or two instances under the age of six, even in a part of the kingdom so renowned for the quickest proficiency in that art.

I am assured by our merchants that a boy or a girl before twelve years old, is no saleable commodity, and even when they come to this age, they will not yield above
(55) three pounds, or three pounds and half-a-crown at most on the Exchange, which cannot turn to account either to the parents or the kingdom, the charge of nutriment and rags having been at least four times that value.

I shall now therefore humbly propose my thoughts, which I hope will not be liable to the least objection.

(60) I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled, and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee, or a ragout.

I do therefore humbly offer it to public consideration, that of the hundred and
(65) twenty thousand children, already computed, twenty thousand may be reserved for breed, whereof only one fourth part to be males, which is more than we allow to sheep, black-cattle, or swine, and my reason is that these children are seldom the fruits of marriage, a circumstance not much regarded by our savages, therefore one male will be sufficient to serve four females. That the remaining hundred thousand

(70) may at a year old be offered in sale to the persons of quality, and fortune, through the kingdom, always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to render them plump, and fat for a good table. A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends, and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt
(75) will be very good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter.

1. Which of the following contributes to the tone of the first paragraph the LEAST?

- (A) "melancholy object" (line 1)
- (B) "crowded with beggars" (lines 2-3)
- (C) "forced to employ" (line 5)
- (D) "helpless infants" (line 6)
- (E) "fight for the Pretender" (line 7)

2. In comparison to the first paragraph, the second and third paragraphs are

- I. less sympathetic to the poor
- II. more logical and less emotional
- III. factual rather than satirical in tone

- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) III only
- (D) I and II only
- (E) I and III only

3. In the fourth and fifth paragraphs (lines 19-33), the narrator asserts all of the following EXCEPT that
- (A) other proposed solutions are based on erroneous numbers and bad calculations
 - (B) poor children are often starving and poorly dressed
 - (C) the shame of being unwed overrules all other considerations
 - (D) most babies need little more than their mother's milk in their first year of life
 - (E) children of one year of age shall become very valuable to their country as well as to their parents
4. "That art" (line 52) refers to
- (A) breeding
 - (B) building houses
 - (C) farming
 - (D) stealing
 - (E) governing
5. In the paragraph beginning in line 60, the narrator implies that Americans are
- (A) extremely knowledgeable
 - (B) reassuring
 - (C) cannibalistic
 - (D) gourmands
 - (E) talented in cooking
6. In the paragraph which begins in line 64, which of the following contributes to the central imagery the LEAST?
- (A) "twenty thousand may be reserved for breed" (lines 65-66)
 - (B) "a circumstance not much regarded by our savages" (line 68)
 - (C) "one male will be sufficient to serve four females" (lines 68-69)
 - (D) "may at a year old be offered in sale" (line 70)
 - (E) "the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish" (lines 73-74)
7. Throughout the passage, the narrator
- (A) is convinced of his superiority and secure in his arrogance
 - (B) is extremely humble and reticent in his presentation
 - (C) wavers between bold certitude and self-effacing humility
 - (D) repeatedly asserts his qualifications and problem-solving abilities
 - (E) boasts that he is the only one to offer solutions to the problem
8. The overall tone of the passage could best be described as
- (A) logical
 - (B) detached
 - (C) scientific
 - (D) humorous
 - (E) satirical

Passage 2, Questions 9-15. Read the following passage from "A Modest Proposal," by Jonathan Swift (1729), carefully before you choose your answers.

- Many other advantages might be enumerated. For instance, the addition of some thousand carcasses in our exportation of barrelled beef; the propagation of swine's flesh, and improvement in the art of making good bacon, so much wanted among us by the great destruction of pigs, too frequent at our tables are no way comparable in taste or magnificence to a well-grown, fat yearling child, which roasted whole will make a considerable figure at a Lord Mayor's feast, or any other public entertainment. But this and many others I omit being studious of brevity.
- (5) Supposing that one thousand families in this city would be constant customers for infants flesh, besides others who might have it at merry meetings, particularly weddings and christenings; I compute that Dublin would take off annually about twenty thousand carcasses, and the rest of the kingdom (where probably they will be sold somewhat cheaper) the remaining eighty thousand.
- (10) I can think of no one objection that will possibly be raised against this proposal, unless it should be urged that the number of people will be thereby much lessened in the kingdom. This I freely own, and it was indeed one principal design in offering it to the world. I desire the reader will observe that I calculate my remedy for this one individual Kingdom of Ireland, and for no other that ever was, is, or, I think, ever can be upon earth. Therefore let no man talk to me of other expedients: Of taxing our absentees at five shillings a pound: Of using neither clothes, nor household furniture, except what is of our own growth and manufacture: Of utterly rejecting the materials and instruments that promote foreign luxury: Of curing the expensiveness of pride, vanity, idleness, and gaming in our women: Of introducing a vein of parsimony, prudence, and temperance: Of learning to love our country, wherein we differ even from Laplanders, and the inhabitants of Topinamboo. Of quitting our animosities and factions, nor act any longer like the Jews, who were murdering one another at the very moment their city was taken: Of being a little cautious not to sell our country and consciences for nothing: Of teaching landlords to have at least one degree of mercy towards their tenants. Lastly, of putting a spirit of honesty, industry, and skill into our shopkeepers, who, if a resolution could now be taken to buy only our native goods, would immediately unite to cheat and exact upon us in the price, the measure and the goodness, nor could ever yet be brought to make one fair proposal of just dealing, though often and earnestly invited to it.
- (15) Therefore I repeat, let no man talk to me of these and the like expedients, till he hath at least a glimpse of hope that there will ever be some hearty and sincere attempt to put them in practice.
- (20) But as to myself, having been wearied out for many years with offering vain, idle, visionary thoughts, and at length utterly despairing of success, I fortunately fell upon this proposal, which as it is wholly new, so it hath something solid and real, of no expense and little trouble, full in our power, and whereby we can incur no danger in disobliging England. For this kind of commodity will not bear exportation, the flesh being of too tender a consistence to admit a long continuance in salt, *although perhaps I could name a country which would be glad to eat up our whole nation without it.*
- (25) After all I am not so violently bent upon my own opinion as to reject any offer, proposed by wise men, which shall be found equally innocent, cheap, easy and effectual. But before some thing of that kind shall be advanced in contradiction to my scheme, and offering a better, I desire the author, or authors, will be pleased maturely to consider two points. First, as things now stand, how they will be able to find food and raiment for a hundred thousand useless mouths and backs? And secondly, there being a round million of creatures in human figure, throughout this
- (30)
- (35)
- (40)
- (45)
- (50)

kingdom, whose whole subsistence put into a common stock would leave them in debt two millions of pounds sterling; adding those who are beggars by profession, to the bulk of farmers, cottagers, and labourers with their wives and children, who are
(55) beggars in effect; I desire those politicians who dislike my overture, and may perhaps be so bold to attempt an answer, that they will first ask the parents of these mortals whether they would not at this day think it a great happiness to have been sold for food at a year old, in the manner I prescribed, and thereby have avoided such a perpetual scene of misfortunes as they have since gone through, by the
(60) oppression of landlords, the impossibility of paying rent without money or trade, the want of common sustenance, with neither house nor clothes to cover them from the inclemencies of weather, and the most inevitable prospect of entailing the like, or greater miseries upon their breed for ever.

I profess in the sincerity of my heart that I have not the least personal interest in
(65) endeavouring to promote this necessary work, having no other motive than the *public good of my country, by advancing our trade, providing for infants, relieving the poor, and giving some pleasure to the rich.* I have no children by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine years old, and my wife past child-bearing.

9. The last sentence in the first paragraph
- (A) serves to reinforce the first sentence of the paragraph
 - (B) is ironic given the content of its paragraph and the following one
 - (C) acts as a brief summation of the paragraph
 - (D) diverts the reader from the horror of the preceding clause
 - (E) is redundant and thus unnecessary to the overall meaning of the paragraph
10. The narrator's statement in lines 13-15 is ironic because
- (A) obviously people would object to a decline in population
 - (B) he is actually advocating something beneficial to the people
 - (C) the kingdom needs to increase its population, not decrease it
 - (D) his proposal would improve the lives of the people in the kingdom
 - (E) the obvious objection to his proposal is its cold-hearted cruelty
11. In lines 18-33, the narrator castigates all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) women
 - (B) Laplanders
 - (C) Jews
 - (D) landlords
 - (E) shopkeepers
12. The tone of the sentence in lines 34-36 could best be described as
- (A) satirical
 - (B) desperate
 - (C) cynical
 - (D) humorous
 - (E) hesitant

13. The irony of the last paragraph lies in the fact that
- (A) although the narrator says he would not benefit since his wife is past child-bearing, he could easily remarry a younger woman
 - (B) the narrator says that he has no personal interest, yet he does since he lives in Ireland
 - (C) although the narrator professes to have only the public good in mind, he would attain great fame if his proposal were adopted
 - (D) the narrator would not profit from the proposal, but neither would he be faced with the prospect of selling his baby
 - (E) the narrator's proposal would help the rich and the merchants as much as it would help the poor people for whom he says he is concerned
14. The narrator uses all of the following rhetorical techniques EXCEPT
- (A) logic
 - (B) syllogistic reasoning
 - (C) repetition
 - (D) allegory
 - (E) rhetorical question
15. The intent of the author of this passage most probably is to
- (A) shock politicians into addressing the problems of the poor
 - (B) express his anger at the poor who begged on the streets
 - (C) entertain his readers with his fantastic proposal
 - (D) offend a society that had rejected and belittled his ideas
 - (E) offer a possible solution to a long-standing problem