ENGLISH 11 · ALASKA

English 11
Practice Test

Unit 1: American Literature

25 Questions

Original practice test based on the Alaska curriculum. Work through each question, then check your answers at the end.

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

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Question 1

What is the difference between a topic and a theme?

A) A topic is always a full sentence, while a theme is one word.

B) A topic is a subject, while a theme is a message about that subject.

C) A topic is the setting, while a theme is the plot.

D) There is no difference between them.

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Question 2

In literature, symbolism is best defined as what?

A) The repetition of a sound at the start of words.

B) A direct comparison using like or as.

C) The use of an object or image to represent a larger idea.

D) The exact dictionary meaning of a word.

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Question 3

Irony occurs when what happens?

A) The outcome is the opposite of what was expected.

B) A story ends happily for every character.

C) The author repeats a phrase for emphasis.

D) Two characters speak at the same time.

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Question 4

An allusion is best defined as what?

A) A long speech by a single character.

B) A list of sources at the end of a book.

C) A drawing included in a novel.

D) A reference to another work, event, or famous figure.

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Question 5

An unreliable narrator is a narrator who does what?

A) Tells the story in strict chronological order.

B) Cannot be fully trusted because of bias, youth, or limited knowledge.

C) Speaks only in dialogue.

D) Never appears in the story.

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Question 6

First person point of view most often has which effect on a reader?

A) The reader sees events only through the narrator's limited knowledge.

B) The reader knows the thoughts of every character.

C) The reader never learns the narrator's name.

D) The reader controls how the story ends.

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Question 7

In literature, tone most often refers to what?

A) The feeling the reader gets from a passage.

B) The speed at which a story is told.

C) The author's attitude toward the subject.

D) The number of characters in a story.

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Question 8

In literature, mood most often refers to what?

A) The author's attitude toward the subject.

B) The main idea of a poem.

C) The length of a story's chapters.

D) The feeling or atmosphere a reader gets from a passage.

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Question 9

Transcendentalist writers in American literature most often believed which idea?

A) Truth is found only in ancient texts.

B) Nature and individual intuition can reveal deep truth.

C) Cities are the only source of wisdom.

D) People should obey tradition without question.

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Question 10

Puritan writing in early America is best known for which style and focus?

A) A plain style focused on spiritual matters.

B) A musical style focused on dancing.

C) A playful style focused on romance.

D) A scientific style focused on inventions.

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Question 11

American Romantic writers most valued which of the following?

A) Strict rules for grammar and spelling.

B) The growth of factories and cities.

C) Emotion, imagination, and nature over cold reason and industry.

D) The study of ancient languages.

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Question 12

Realism in American literature is best described as what?

A) Stories that feature magic and mythical creatures.

B) Poems written only in strict rhyme.

C) Plays performed without any setting.

D) Stories that depict ordinary life accurately and honestly.

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Question 13

Naturalism in American literature is best described as what?

A) Stories in which every character always succeeds.

B) Stories in which large forces such as nature, society, or heredity shape a person's fate.

C) Poems about nature written for children.

D) Plays with no conflict at all.

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Question 14

Modernist American writers often used which technique?

A) A fragmented structure that reflects uncertainty and change.

B) Long sermons that teach a single moral.

C) Simple plots with no conflict at all.

D) Stories told only by animals.

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Question 15

The Harlem Renaissance is best described as what?

A) A political movement in colonial America.

B) A style of frontier poetry in the 1800s.

C) A flourishing of African American art and literature in the 1920s.

D) A group of Puritan sermons.

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Question 16

In The Great Gatsby, the green light at the end of Daisy's dock most often symbolizes what?

A) Gatsby's wealth and parties.

B) The danger of sailing at night.

C) The growth of American industry.

D) Gatsby's hopes and dreams for the future.

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Question 17

In The Scarlet Letter, the scarlet letter A worn by Hester Prynne most often represents what at the start of the novel?

A) Wealth earned from farming.

B) Public shame for breaking a moral law.

C) Freedom to travel anywhere.

D) Skill at making clothes.

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Question 18

A central theme of The Crucible, a play about the Salem witch trials, is best stated as what?

A) Fear and hysteria can lead a community to accuse innocent people.

B) Hard work always brings wealth.

C) Travel is the best way to learn history.

D) Young people should avoid all rules.

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Question 19

An author who writes a character's speech to match the speech patterns of a particular region is most likely using what?

A) Symbolism.

B) Irony.

C) Dialect.

D) Allusion.

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Question 20

Henry David Thoreau′s Walden is best known for which idea?

A) Cities are the best place to find wisdom.

B) People should never spend time alone.

C) Wealth is the main goal of life.

D) A person can live more deliberately by simplifying life close to nature.

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Question 21

Walt Whitman′s Leaves of Grass is best known for which feature?

A) Strict rhyming sonnets about kings.

B) Free verse poems celebrating the self and American democracy.

C) Plays about life in colonial towns.

D) Essays arguing against all poetry.

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Question 22

In Moby Dick, Captain Ahab's hunt for the white whale most often represents what?

A) An obsession that consumes a person's life.

B) A love of fishing for food.

C) A plan to become wealthy from trade.

D) A wish to explore new cities.

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Question 23

Southern Gothic literature is best described as what?

A) Stories set only in northern cities.

B) Poems praising farm work.

C) Stories set in the American South featuring decay, troubled characters, and dark humor.

D) Plays with no setting at all.

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Question 24

Writers called the Lost Generation, writing after World War I, are best known for expressing what?

A) Joy about colonial life.

B) Praise for Puritan sermons.

C) Advice on farming methods.

D) Disillusionment after war and rapid change.

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Question 25

A character fights against an unfair law in her town. This is an example of which type of conflict?

A) Character against nature.

B) Character against society.

C) Character against self.

D) Character against technology.

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ANSWER KEY

1.	B	**10.**	A	**18.**	A
2.	C	**11.**	C	**19.**	C
3.	A	**12.**	D	**20.**	D
4.	D	**13.**	B	**21.**	B
5.	B	**14.**	A	**22.**	A
6.	A	**15.**	C	**23.**	C
7.	C	**16.**	D	**24.**	D
8.	D	**17.**	B	**25.**	B
9.	B				

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