ENGLISH 12 · ALASKA

English 12
Practice Test

Unit 1: British 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

Which term names the Anglo Saxon poet who sang stories aloud in a hall for listeners

A) a monk

B) a scop

C) a jester

D) a chronicler

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Question 2

Which value is most central to the hero code shown in Beowulf

A) rule by a single king alone

B) loyalty to a lord shown through brave deeds

C) wealth gained by avoiding danger

D) silence about all past battles

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Question 3

Alliterative verse of the kind used in Beowulf is marked mainly by

A) a chorus sung after each stanza

B) lines of exactly ten syllables

C) the repetition of initial sounds in stressed words in a line

D) a fixed rhyme at the end of every line

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Question 4

In Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, the General Prologue mainly does which of the following

A) it retells one long battle

B) it gives directions for the road to London

C) it lists the laws of London

D) it introduces each pilgrim with vivid detail before the tales begin

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Question 5

Why is it important that Chaucer wrote in Middle English rather than only in Latin or French

A) because it made literature open to ordinary English readers of his time

B) because Latin was unknown in England

C) because French books were banned

D) because he could not read Latin

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Question 6

A medieval romance most often centers on

A) a king writing tax records

B) a knight on a quest shaped by codes of honor and courtly love

C) a merchant counting coins in a market

D) a monk copying laws in silence

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Question 7

In the story of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, the Green Knight's challenge mainly tests

A) Gawain's knowledge of Latin

B) Gawain's wealth

C) Gawain's honor and courage when he must keep a dangerous promise

D) Gawain's skill at farming

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Question 8

Which rhyme pattern describes a Shakespearean sonnet

A) abba abba cde cde

B) aabb ccdd eeff gg

C) abab abab abab cc

D) abab cdcd efef gg

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Question 9

In Hamlet, the speech in which Hamlet weighs whether to live or die mainly shows

A) Hamlet's inner conflict and troubled thought

B) Hamlet's skill as a soldier

C) Hamlet's love of travel

D) Hamlet's plan to leave Denmark at once

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Question 10

In Othello, the tragedy grows mainly from

A) a storm at sea

B) jealousy fed by lies and mistrust

C) a dispute over land

D) a lost letter about taxes

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Question 11

Milton's Paradise Lost is best understood as a poem about

A) a war between two English kings

B) a voyage to the New World

C) disobedience, the fall of humankind, and the search for hope after loss

D) the building of a cathedral

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Question 12

A metaphysical conceit, as used by John Donne, is

A) a list of saints

B) a rhyme used only in songs

C) a short prayer at the start of a poem

D) an extended and surprising comparison between unlike things

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Question 13

Jonathan Swift's essay proposing an absurd solution to poverty in Ireland is best read as

A) satire that attacks cruel attitudes toward the poor

B) a history of Irish kings

C) a recipe book

D) a serious plan for farming

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Question 14

A heroic couplet, used by Alexander Pope, is

A) a single line repeated three times

B) two rhymed lines of iambic pentameter

C) four lines with no rhyme

D) a song with a chorus

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Question 15

William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience mainly contrast

A) kings and queens

B) city life and farm life only

C) childlike trust and wonder with adult hardship and doubt

D) summer and winter weather

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Question 16

William Wordsworth's poetry most often finds value in

A) court gossip

B) scientific reports

C) factory work

D) nature, memory, and quiet feeling

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Question 17

In Coleridge's poem about an old mariner, the killing of a sea bird mainly leads to

A) guilt, punishment, and a hard lesson about respect for living things

B) a new trade route

C) a pardon from the king

D) a feast for the crew

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Question 18

Shelley's poem about a ruined statue in a desert mainly teaches that

A) statues last forever

B) proud power fades and is forgotten

C) deserts are good places for farms

D) kings should build larger statues

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Question 19

In Keats's ode about a nightingale, the bird's song mainly prompts thought about

A) the price of grain

B) a journey to London

C) beauty, time, and human mortality

D) how to catch birds

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Question 20

A Byronic hero is best described as

A) a loyal servant with no doubts

B) a comic fool

C) a cheerful farmer

D) a brooding outsider who defies custom yet draws sympathy

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Question 21

In Tennyson's poem about Ulysses, the aged hero mainly urges his listeners to

A) keep striving and seeking even in old age

B) avoid the sea forever

C) obey every order without question

D) retire in comfort and forget the past

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Question 22

In Browning's poem in which a duke shows a visitor a portrait of his late wife, the form is

A) a stage play with five acts

B) a dramatic monologue in which the speaker reveals his own character

C) a ballad sung by a chorus

D) a letter written by the wife

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Question 23

Dickens's A Christmas Carol mainly shows a miser changed by

A) finding buried treasure

B) winning a lottery

C) visions of past, present, and future that lead him to generosity

D) moving to a new city

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Question 24

Virginia Woolf's stream of consciousness style mainly presents

A) a debate in parliament

B) stage directions only

C) a list of historical dates

D) the flow of a character's thoughts and feelings without strict order

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Question 25

In a Shakespearean sonnet, how many lines are in the final rhymed couplet

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ANSWER KEY

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

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