ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE AQA · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

Shakespeare — Practice Test

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 so it can be fixed.

1 **A bicycle leans against the wall by the school gate. Which sentence uses a comma correctly?**

- A After school, I ride my bicycle home.
- B After school I ride, my bicycle home every day
- C After, school I ride my bicycle home
- D After school I ride my bicycle, home

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **A letter has been written to complain about a broken kettle. Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?**

- A It is the shops fault.
- B Its the shops fault, and I want a refund today
- C It is the shop's fault.
- D Its the shop's fault.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **A birthday cake with candles stands on the table. Which sentence uses a colon correctly?**

- A The cake had three flavours: chocolate, lemon and coffee.
- B The cake: had three flavours.
- C The: cake had three flavours.
- D The cake had: three flavours of chocolate, lemon and coffee.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **Autumn leaves cover the garden path in gold and red. Which sentence uses a metaphor?**

- A The path was covered in leaves.
- B The leaves fell from the trees.
- C Autumn leaves are red and gold.
- D The path wore a coat of gold.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **A teapot pours tea into a cup on the kitchen table. Which sentence is in the passive voice?**

- A The teapot sits on the kitchen table
- B Grandma is pouring tea for everyone
- C Grandma poured the tea into the cup
- D The tea was poured by Grandma.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **A market stall is piled high with bright fruit. Which phrase uses alliteration?**

- A buy fruit from me
- B fresh, fragrant fruit
- C fruit for sale today at the market
- D the fruit is very nice

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **Who kills Macbeth at the end of the play?**

A Lady Macbeth

B Macduff

C Banquo

D Malcolm

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **What is iambic pentameter?**

A four pairs of syllables, with the stress on the first

B a short line with no rhythm at all

C five pairs of syllables, stress on the second

D ten rhyming lines in a row

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **What does personification mean?**

A giving human qualities to a thing

B comparing two things with like or as

C repeating a word for effect

D asking a question

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **What does AO1 assess in English Literature?**

A your response with evidence

B the context of the time

C spelling and punctuation

D how writers use language, form and structure

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **The hall was bright with a hundred candles, and the long tables groaned beneath the weight of meat and bread. Music floated from the minstrels' corner, sweet as honey on the tongue, while the guests laughed and drank, and the lord at the high table raised his golden cup to his friends. Yet in the shadows by the door, a stranger stood apart, his face a mask of stone, watching the feast in silence. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

- A the lord at the high table raised his golden cup to his friends
- B the guests laughed and drank
- C the hall was bright with a hundred candles
- D sweet as honey on the tongue

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **What is a flashback?**

- A a scene that looks into the future
- B the first scene of a story
- C the last scene of a story
- D a scene from the past

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **Were women allowed to act on the Jacobean stage?**

A no, boys played the women's parts

B yes, women played all the parts on stage

C no, only the king could act

D yes, but only queens and ladies

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **What is the significance of sleep in Macbeth?**

A Macbeth cannot sleep after the murder

B sleep makes Macbeth strong

C Macbeth sleeps better than ever before in his life

D sleep cures Macbeth's guilt

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **What is a stage direction?**

A the title of the play

B a list of the actors

C an instruction about movement and setting

D a line spoken aloud by the main character

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **Which of these is a simile?**

A lions are brave

B a lion's roar

C brave as a lion

D the brave lion

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **The hall was bright with a hundred candles, and the long tables groaned beneath the weight of meat and bread. Music floated from the minstrels' corner, sweet as honey on the tongue, while the guests laughed and drank, and the lord at the high table raised his golden cup to his friends. Yet in the shadows by the door, a stranger stood apart, his face a mask of stone, watching the feast in silence. What mood does the extract create?**

- A uneasy
- B delighted
- C peaceful
- D joyful

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **Which is the best order for a story opening?**

- A start with a list of characters
- B start with the answer key
- C set the scene, then introduce a problem
- D give the ending away in the first line, then explain it

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **What was the Globe Theatre?**

A Shakespeare's company's theatre

B a palace built for King James the First

C the first school in London for poor children

D a market in the city of London

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **Who tells Macbeth that he will be king?**

A Banquo his best friend

B the three witches

C the king himself in person

D Lady Macbeth his wife

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **What is a simile?**

A a comparison that says one thing is another

B a question that needs no answer

C a list of three things

D a comparison using like or as

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **What is context?**

A the words and phrases a writer chooses to use

B the number of chapters in the book

C the events of the plot in order

D the time, place and ideas around a text

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **The old king sat upon his throne, his crown heavy upon his brow, and listened to the lords who crowded round him. Their words were smooth as silk, yet the court was a nest of snakes, for all knew that the king was failing and the throne would soon be empty. Outside, the rain beat upon the windows, and the night wore on, slow and cold. What mood does the extract create?**

A playful

B tense

C peaceful

D joyful

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **What is a cyclical structure?**

A it ends where it began

B it has no ending

C it tells events in a straight line

D it jumps around in time

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25

Who were the groundlings?

A the lords who owned the theatre

B the men who wrote the plays

C people who stood to watch for a penny

D the actors who played the kings and queens

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

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

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.