ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE EDEXCEL · UNIT 4 · 25 QUESTIONS

Poetry Since 1789 — 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 **An umbrella shelters two friends from the rain. Which word is an adjective in this sentence: The red umbrella kept them dry?**

- A kept
- B dry
- C them
- D red

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **A candle flickers in a dark room. Which sentence uses a dash correctly for emphasis?**

- A The room - was dark and cold and empty all night.
- B The room was dark - except for one small candle.
- C The - room was dark.
- D The room was - dark.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **A bicycle race is described in a story. Which opening sentence creates the most excitement?**

- A There was a bicycle race on Saturday
- B The bicycle race was quite interesting and nice
- C Bicycles are a common form of transport
- D Go!

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **A kite soars high in a blue sky. Which word is closest in meaning to soar?**

- A fly high
- B sit still on the ground
- C sink slowly into the sea
- D fall down very quickly indeed

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **A letter is the best form for a complaint. What should a formal letter include at the top?**

A A drawing of the broken kettle

B The writer's address

C A joke to make the reader laugh out loud

D The reader's favourite colour

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **A guitar leans against the chair in the corner. Which sentence uses a semicolon correctly?**

A The guitar; was old and worn.

B The guitar was; old and worn.

C The guitar was old; its strings were worn thin.

D The guitar was old; and its strings were worn thin with use.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **What is a sonnet?**

A a poem of fourteen lines

B a poem of four lines

C a long poem that tells a story

D a poem with no rhyme at all

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **What does synthesis mean in reading?**

A bringing ideas together

B copying out the text

C reading only the first line

D splitting a text into single words

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **Who wrote The Destruction of Sennacherib?**

A Lord Byron

B William Blake

C Percy Bysshe Shelley

D John Keats

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **The last hundred metres were the hardest: the air thin, the wind sharp as a knife, the path gone to loose stones. Every step was an argument with my own legs, and twice I stopped and thought about turning back. Then the cloud broke, and the whole range opened below me, white and silent, and I forgot how tired I was. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A sharp as a knife

B twice i stopped and thought about turning back

C the last hundred metres were the hardest

D the air thin, the wind sharp

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **What is the difference between AO1 and AO2?**

- **A** they are the same thing
- **B** AO1 is about the writer's methods, and AO2 is about your response
- **C** AO1 is your response, AO2 is the writer's methods
- **D** AO1 is about context, AO2 is about spelling

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **Why did railways matter so much in the 19th century?**

- **A** they were the only buildings in towns
- **B** they carried no passengers
- **C** they replaced all roads
- **D** they changed travel and trade

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **What is a metaphor?**

A one thing described as another

B a repeated sound at the start of words

C a comparison using the words like or as

D a word that sounds like its meaning

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **What is a refrain?**

A a poem with no rhyme

B a line repeated in a poem

C a line used only once in a poem

D the title of a poem

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **When two writers disagree, what is most useful to compare?**

- A the number of words they each use
- B their reasons and evidence
- C their handwriting
- D their favourite colours

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **What happens in A Wife in London?**

- A a wife writes a happy letter
- B a wife meets her husband again, safe and well
- C a wife moves to London alone
- D a wife learns her husband is dead

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **The last hundred metres were the hardest: the air thin, the wind sharp as a knife, the path gone to loose stones. Every step was an argument with my own legs, and twice I stopped and thought about turning back. Then the cloud broke, and the whole range opened below me, white and silent, and I forgot how tired I was. In the extract, the word ‘broke’ most closely means**

A cleared

B turned to rain

C grew much darker

D fell apart noisily

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **What does AO3 assess in English Literature?**

A your personal response

B the writer's language

C spelling and punctuation

D the context of the text

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **Why does 19th-century writing often sound formal?**

A all writers were rich

B informal language was banned

C formal language was expected in print

D writers then had no other words to use

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **Which of these is onomatopoeia?**

A honey

B sting

C buzz

D bee

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **What is rhythm in a poem?**

A the beat or flow of the words

B the title at the top of the poem

C the poet's name

D the number of lines in the poem

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **What does closed book mean in the exam?**

A you may look things up online

B you may take the text in with you

C you may use your notes

D you cannot take the text in

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **Which of these is alliteration?**

- A silent, silver snow
- B snow fell softly
- C white snow
- D the snow was silent and silver

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **What is Anthem for Doomed Youth about?**

- A young soldiers dying without ceremony
- B a victory parade in London
- C old soldiers retiring in peace after long service
- D a wedding in wartime

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25

In January, the river runs black and fast between banks of frost, and the ducks huddle where the water is slowest. I stand on the bridge and watch the current carry leaves away, quick as messengers, and I think about how the river never stops, not for cold, not for dark, not for anyone. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?

A the current carry leaves away

B in january, the river runs black and fast

C quick as messengers

D i stand on the bridge and watch

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

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

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.