IOWA ENGLISH 12 · UNIT 1 · 5 QUESTIONS

British Literature — Practice Test

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Source I - The Letter from the Coast

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

Dearest Thomas, I write from a small house above the harbor, where the gulls cry from dawn until the lamps are lit. The voyage home was longer than I had promised, and I missed two letters from you, which waited here in a bundle tied with twine.

Do not think me ungrateful for your advice. I followed it in part, and it saved me from a poor bargain in the port market. Yet I must tell you plainly that I cannot follow it in full, for the work I have chosen asks me to stay here through the winter, when the boats are few and the road inland is often closed.

If you visit in spring, you will find me in the same house, with the same view, and with a steadier mind than the one that left you last autumn. I remain, as ever, your faithful friend, Eleanor.

1 **According to Source I, what is the main idea of the letter?**

- **A** Eleanor asks Thomas to buy a house in the port market
- **B** Eleanor explains why she stayed by the harbor and invites Thomas to visit in spring
- **C** Eleanor complains that Thomas never writes to her
- **D** Eleanor announces that she is leaving England forever

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2 **According to Source I, why did Eleanor follow Thomas's advice only in part?**

- A because her chosen work asks her to stay through winter, so she cannot follow it in full
- B because she lost his letters at sea
- C because she dislikes Thomas
- D because the harbor house was sold

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3 **According to Source I, the tone of the letter is best described as**

- A angry and threatening
- B silly and careless
- C warm, honest, and respectful
- D cold and formal throughout

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4 **Fort Sumter, a low stone fort on a small island in Charleston harbor, sits in calm water. According to Source I, what detail shows Eleanor's life by the harbor?**



A she travels inland every day

B she owns a printing press

C she works in a London theater

D gulls cry from dawn until lamps are lit

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Source II - A Town Changed by the Mill

Use this reading for question 5.

When the mill opened beside the river, the town changed in a single generation. Cottages that had housed farm workers filled with mill hands, and the lane to the church grew busy at dawn and again at dusk. Wages were steadier than farm pay, but hours were long and the air in the mill was thick with dust.

Some townspeople praised the change. Shops sold more goods, and families could plan beyond the next harvest. Others warned that children worked too long and that the river, once clear, now ran dark after rain. The town council argued for years about rules for hours, safety, and clean water, while the mill bell kept marking the day.

5 **According to Source II, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** The mill brought steadier wages but also long hours, dust, and pollution, dividing opinion in the town
- **B** The mill closed the town church
- **C** Farm workers refused to work in mills
- **D** The river was never used by the town

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. A

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