

# College Admission

## PSAT-8-9

### PSAT 8/9 Exam

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## Question: 1

Mr. Rochester's "after-dinner mood," as found in lines 7-8, can best be described as which of the following?

- A. Mellow
- B. Depressed
- C. Jubilant
- D. Generous

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The first paragraph describes his mood as less stern and gloomy, though still "preciously grim." So we could say that his mood is mellow, though not fully jubilant (C). Since his mood is described as less gloomy, depressed is not the best choice (B). He is described as "more self-indulgent," but not necessarily generous (D).

## Question: 2

What is the author's probable intent in describing Mr. Rochester's eyes in lines 14-19?

- A. To show that he is good-looking
- B. To show that he is powerful
- C. To show that he is capable of emotion
- D. To show that he can see well

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The author describes Mr. Rochester's "massive" head and "granite-hewn" features, but follows by describing his eyes that are almost "soft." This shows that while he appears impassive and powerful (B), he actually has depths of emotion. While his eyes are described as fine, the emphasis in this description is not that he is good-looking (A). Also, fine does not mean that he can literally see well (D).

## Question: 3

What is Mr. Rochester's attitude regarding Jane Eyre, as seen in lines 31-42?

- A. He is annoyed and repulsed.
- B. He is surprised and intrigued.

- C. He is puzzled and concerned.
- D. He is reproving and dismissive.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Mr. Rochester remarks that she is "singular," or unique, because she seems quiet and demure but is able to make a stinging remark. He is surprised by her answer to his previous question and wants to know more about her. He is not annoyed, despite her seeming insult, and is attracted rather than repulsed, so answer choice A is incorrect. He is puzzled but not concerned (C). He does not reprimand Jane, at least not seriously, and is intrigued rather than dismissive (D).

### Question: 4

What does Mr. Rochester mean by "stick[ing] a sly penknife under my ear" (lines 53-54)?

- A. Delighting in insulting his appearance
- B. Seeming to apologize but actually furthering the insult
- C. Threatening his well-being
- D. Damaging his hearing

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Jane Eyre has just apologized for criticizing Mr. Rochester's appearance, following her apology with the comment that "beauty is of little consequence," which only emphasizes that she does not see beauty in him. He jokingly complains that the apology followed by a further insult is painful, like being pricked by a knife that got past his defenses. There is no indication that she delights in giving insults (A). She does not use a literal knife to threaten him (C) or damage his hearing (D).

### Question: 5

As used in line 23, the word "physiognomy" most nearly means:

- A. Eyes
- B. Face
- C. Clothing
- D. Character

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Physiognomy refers to a person's facial features or expression.

### Question: 6

What is the central idea of this selection?

- A. The two characters are slyly insulting each other.
- B. The author is showing the great contrast between the two characters.
- C. The two characters are battling to see who will be the dominant one in the relationship.
- D. The two characters are drawing conclusions as to each other's character based on appearance and conversation.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Jane Eyre, the narrator, is silently observing Mr. Rochester and noticing that he looks more cheerful and that his eyes show a depth of feeling. When he notices her looking, he also observes her appearance and comments on what he learned from her looks and conversation. While Mr. Rochester seems to think Jane is insulting him (A) it is unintentional on her part. This passage does show some contrast between the characters (B), but that is not the main idea. The characters are not battling for power (C); Jane clearly says in lines 68-69 that she "intended no pointed repartee."

### Question: 7

What could you conclude about Mr. Rochester's expectations of Jane as a young female in a subservient position (governess)?

- A. To be meek and unassuming
- B. To be clever and witty
- C. To be knowledgeable and talkative
- D. To be beautiful and accomplished

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The evidence in this selection indicates that Mr. Rochester expected Jane to be quiet and unassuming. He says that she appears to be "quaint, quiet, grave, and simple...with [her] eyes generally bent on the carpet" (lines 33-35) and is surprised at her direct speech.

### Question: 8

Suppose a subsequent passage indicated that Mr. Rochester spent a great deal of time caring for a young child. Which of the following selections in the current passage best provides background for this?

- A. Lines 32-35 ("you have ... carpet")
- B. Lines 24-25 ("You examine ... handsome?")
- C. Lines 16-19 ("a certain... feeling.")
- D. Lines 54-55 ("Go on... pray?")

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The description of Mr. Rochester's eyes in the first paragraph shows that while he seems stern and cold, not like a person who would spend time with a child, he actually has the capability of feeling tender emotion.

### Question: 9

While driving through McDonald's is a relatively modern construct, the concept of restaurants have existed for millennia.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. had existed
- C. has existed
- D. exists

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The subject of the clause (concept, not restaurants) is singular, so have (A) is incorrect. This sentence is in present tense, so choice B is incorrect. It is referring to ongoing events that began in the past, so present perfect tense is needed rather than simply present tense (D).

### Question: 10

In these early restaurants, waiters referred to as "pot masters," took orders from a "menu" of demonstration dishes.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. waiters, referred to as "pot masters"
- C. waiters, referred to as pot masters
- D. waiters referred to as "pot masters"

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The clause referred to as "pot masters" is dependent, so it either needs a comma both before and after or neither. Since choices A, B, and C each have only one comma, they are incorrect.

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