

Aftermath of
the Civil
War Questions
36-50

Study Strategy

When all the answer choices seem correct, see if one may be the main idea or theme and the others supporting details.

35. **The correct answer is (C).** The poet appeals to the reader's sense of sight with references such as "white mares," "golden hoofs," "green porcelain doors," and "vermillion tongue." There are no other outstanding sensory images referring to taste, choice (A); sound, choices (B) and (D); or touch, choice (E).
36. **The correct answer is (B).** The context is that the New England group of poets was beginning to fall apart. As poets, this means that they were beginning to lose their creativity. Although choices (A), (C), (D), and (E) may express some of the feelings and experiences of the New England group, none addresses the core problem of these poets in the manner that choice (B) does.
37. **The correct answer is (D).** This selection is not descriptive, so the mode cannot be description, choice (A). It does not attempt to argue or persuade, so it cannot be persuasive, choice (C), or argumentative, choice (E), writing. Nor does it tell a story; therefore, it is not a narrative, choice (B). It simply presents the facts—exposition, choice (D).
38. **The correct answer is (B).** The sentence cited contains the statement "a reflection of actuality, 'an extension of experience.'" Choice (B) closely matches that thought. There is no discussion of an existential subject, choice (A). Modern poetry is not defined, choice (C). Choices (D) and (E) are similarly not discussed in the excerpt.
39. **The correct answer is (C).** All of these statements are true. The trick here is to figure out which gives the author's main idea. The writer is discussing the beginning of modern American writing. That is what choice (C) states. The other choices, (A), (B), (D), and (E), are facts that support and illuminate the writer's thesis.
40. **The correct answer is (A).** The correct answer is developed in the first paragraph by benchmarking the start of modern poetry with the Civil War. In the second paragraph, a link is shown between the close of the Civil War and the decline of the New England group, also known as the Brahmins. Religious freedom and politics, choice (B), were never shown to be an issue. Political nationalism, industrial growth, and philosophical creativity were also never developed as an influence on the Brahmins, choices (C), (D), and (E).

DIAGNOSTIC

41. **The correct answer is (B).** In the second paragraph, Louis Untermeyer states that some of the Brahmins “occupied themselves with translations.” *Divina Commedia* is such a translation. This makes choice (B) the correct answer. Choice (A) is true, but it is incorrect because it is not relevant to the question. Choices (C), (D), and (E) are not related to the question, and the author does not explore them.
42. **The correct answer is (B).** The context of this expression is another way that Untermeyer shows that the creativity of the Brahmins had been lost. In this case, he is saying that the Brahmins were satisfied with the sounds of old music, an allusion to their focus on translations of old writings. The author is not speaking of sounds *per se*. That eliminates choices (A), (C), and (D). The author is not speaking of philosophical concepts, choice (E).
43. **The correct answer is (A).** This question is from the point of view of the Brahmins, not the author. It probably does not reflect the thoughts of the author. In the third paragraph, Untermeyer writes “To them [the Brahmins], the new men must have seemed like a regiment recruited from the ranks of vulgarity.” This passage is a direct response to the question and is represented by choice (A). Choices (B), (C), (D), and (E) do not express the point of view of the New England poets.
44. **The correct answer is (C).** The passage from the third paragraph is the identification by the author of the change from the Brahmin-influenced era to modern American poetry. This can be most readily seen by Untermeyer’s comment that “America developed a national conscience.” Choices (A) and (D) are true, but do not reflect the writer’s thoughts in this passage. Choices (B) and (E) are neither true nor relevant.
45. **The correct answer is (B).** Although the Brahmins might have been harsh and scathing in their commentary about modern American poets, the passage itself does not have that tone; therefore, choice (A) is incorrect. There is no wit or humor in the excerpt, making choice (D) incorrect. The remaining two answers have some elements that may be seen to be true. A reader may see the article as dry or even irritating, but not condescending, choice (C), or pretentious, choice (E). Only one of these three answer choices has both elements that are true. Choice (B), scholarly and informative, correctly answers the question.

46. **The correct answer is (D).** The author never made a judgment about which type of poetry was superior, so choice (A) is incorrect. The same can be said of choice (B). The Brahmins were not identified as the fathers of modern American poetry, choice (C). The author specifically said that the Civil War produced little quality poetry, eliminating choice (E). The author develops the Civil War as the starting point of modern American poetry in the first two paragraphs, choice (D).
47. **The correct answer is (A).** The author says in the first sentence of the second paragraph “the Civil War . . . produced a vast quantity of poems but practically no important poetry.” Choice (A) mirrors Untermeyer’s commentary. If Untermeyer says that no poetry was produced, that implies that no poets were produced, so that choice (B) cannot be correct. Choices (C), (D), and (E) do not accurately reflect this passage.
48. **The correct answer is (B).** The sentence taken from the end of the concluding paragraph is a reference to the Brahmins’ attempt to keep their style of poetry the dominant form. Untermeyer does not suggest that the poets of transition were deliberate in the execution of their art as indicated in choice (A). The author proposes that the poets of transition resisted the change; therefore, they were aware of it, making choice (C) incorrect. The author states neither of the meanings described in choices (D) and (E).
49. **The correct answer is (E).** In the third sentence of the final paragraph, Untermeyer identifies the new poetic expression as “crude, jangling, and vigorously democratic.” Choice (E) repeats the description as crude, and it relies on the reader to recognize that a democratic form of poetry was cutting edge. The descriptions of the poets in choices (A), (B), (C), or (D) are not consistent with this description or even mentioned by the author.
50. **The correct answer is (B).** Untermeyer describes the Brahmins as educated, but he does not contend that they are mercurial, choice (A). The author leaves the reader with the impression that the Brahmins are anything but lighthearted or easygoing, choices (C) and (D). They are portrayed as brilliant, but not forgiving; thus, choice (E) is incorrect. This leaves choice (B) as the correct answer. Untermeyer does give the impression that the Brahmins were stuffy and intransigent.

Test-Taking Strategy

Be sure an answer is completely correct. A partially correct answer is a partially incorrect answer—and a quarter-point deduction.