



Test Prep

CLEP-Composition-and-Literature

American Literature, English Literature, Humanities

QUESTION & ANSWERS

Question: 1

Exam A

Which of the following was NOT common in early Puritan literature?

Section: American Literature

- A. Poetry
- B. Sermons
- C. Theological tracts
- D. Short stories
- E. Histories

Answer: D

Explanation/Reference:

Puritan writing reflected their disapproval of lighthearted amusement. Short stories were not common in early Puritan literature.

Question: 2

Which Boston preacher was known in part for his narratives of the Salem witch trials?

- A. Cotton Mather
- B. William Bradford
- C. Anne Bradstreet
- D. Roger Williams
- E. Michael Wigglesworth

Answer: A

Explanation/Reference:

Cotton Mather was pastor of the Old North Church in Boston and author of over 500 works including *The Wonders of the Invisible World*, a discussion of witches and the supernatural.

Question: 3

The writings of Jonathan Edwards are most closely associated with which one of the following?

- A. The Harlem Renaissance
- B. Romanticism
- C. Realism and Naturalism
- D. The Great Awakening
- E. Abolitionism

Answer: D

Explanation/Reference:

Jonathan Edwards was one of the principal figures of the Great Awakening, the religious revival that took place in the 1730s-1740s. In his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Edwards attacked what he believed to be a dangerous trend towards rationalism and away from piety.

Question: 4

Which of the following is NOT a literary device typical of Native American literature?

- A. Repetition
- B. Sarcasm
- C. Incremental development
- D. Ritual beginnings and endings
- E. Enumeration

Answer: B

Explanation/Reference:

Sarcasm is not typical of Native American Literature. The other answer choices were used extensively in Native American writing.

Question: 5

To whom was William Bradford referring to when he used the term "Saint" to describe some of his fellow voyagers at sea?

- A. The first sailors to join the voyage
- B. Those who died before reaching America
- C. His fellow Puritans
- D. The clergymen aboard ship
- E. The ship's crew

Answer: C

Explanation/Reference:

William Bradford, author of *The Plymouth Plantation*, was aboard the Mayflower ship that brought the first Puritan settlers to America. Bradford and the other Puritans aboard the Mayflower referred to themselves as "Saints" and those of other faiths who shared the ship with them as "Strangers." The Mayflower Compact described in Bradford's writings was in part a social contract between these two groups of settlers

Question: 6

The author of *Common Sense* was

- A. James Madison
- B. Langston Hughes
- C. Alexander Hamilton
- D. Thomas Jefferson
- E. Thomas Paine

Answer: E

Explanation/Reference:

Thomas Paine published *Common Sense* in 1776. In it, he argued that the colonies had outgrown the need for English rule and should be granted independence.

Question: 7

Ichabod Crane is the main character in which of the following works?

- A. *Leaves of Grass*
- B. *The Gilded Age*