

from Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, translated by Marie Borroff
from Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory

Selection Test A

Critical Reading Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.

- ___ 1. What detail should be part of a summary of the first half of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*?
- A. The Green Knight visits King Arthur's court during a New Year's Eve feast.
 - B. The Green Knight leaps lightly from his horse to the ground.
 - C. Sir Gawain keeps the braided girdle given him by the lord's wife.
 - D. The Green Knight coughs to clear his throat before speaking to King Arthur's knights.
- ___ 2. What extraordinary event happens in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*?
- A. The Green Knight only scratches Sir Gawain when he swings the ax.
 - B. The Green Knight rides his horse into King Arthur's hall.
 - C. The Green Knight picks up his severed head and rides away.
 - D. Sir Gawain discovers the Green Knight was his host of the night before.
- ___ 3. In *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, who first accepts the Green Knight's challenge?
- A. Sir Gawain
 - B. Sir Bedivere
 - C. Sir Lancelot
 - D. King Arthur
- ___ 4. Which character would be absent from a summary of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*?
- A. the wife of the lord of the castle near Green Chapel
 - B. Queen Guenevere
 - C. King Arthur
 - D. the lord of the castle near Green Chapel
- ___ 5. In *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, why does Sir Gawain apologize to the Green Knight in the final scene?
- A. Sir Gawain is ashamed that he kept the girdle that the Green Knight's wife gave him.
 - B. Sir Gawain feels uncomfortable for thinking the Green Knight meant to kill him.
 - C. Sir Gawain did not keep his part of the bargain made the year before on New Year's Eve.
 - D. Sir Gawain flinched during the moment when the Green Knight swung the ax.

- ___ 6. Which of these elements of the medieval romance are missing from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*?
- A. adventures and excitement
B. damsels in distress
C. knights and kings
D. tests of courage
- ___ 7. In *Morte d'Arthur*, what does Sir Gawain tell King Arthur in a dream?
- A. Mordred will pretend to agree to peace and then attack.
B. Sir Lancelot is coming to join Mordred in fighting King Arthur.
C. King Arthur should not trust Sir Bedivere with his sword.
D. King Arthur will be killed if he fights Mordred the next day.
- ___ 8. In *Morte d'Arthur*, why does Sir Gawain want King Arthur to delay the war with Mordred for a month?
- A. to recover from his wounds
B. to gather a larger, stronger army
C. to give Lancelot time to come to his aid
D. to allow Mordred's hate to die down
- ___ 9. What extraordinary event occurs in *Morte d'Arthur*?
- A. the accidental way in which the battle begins
B. the catching of the sword by a hand in the lake
C. Sir Bedivere's decision to stay with the hermit
D. the battle between King Arthur and Mordred
- ___ 10. In *Morte d'Arthur*, what causes Sir Bedivere to disobey King Arthur's command to throw the sword in the lake?
- A. greed
B. loyalty
C. fear
D. pride
- ___ 11. In *Morte d'Arthur*, when King Arthur is dying, women come to pick him up in a barge. How do they treat him?
- A. as though he deserves respect
B. as though he is contagious
C. as though he is an enemy
D. as though he is very powerful

- ___ 12. At the end of *Morte d'Arthur*, the narrator says he is not sure what happened to King Arthur. Some say he was buried by a hermit who was once the bishop of Canterbury. What do other people say happened to him?
- A. He stayed with the hermit until he died.
 - B. He went to France to find Sir Lancelot.
 - C. He did not die but will live again.
 - D. He was buried in the lake near his sword.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 13. Which sentence uses the italicized vocabulary word correctly?
- A. Sir Gawain *entreated* courage, although he did not feel it.
 - B. King Arthur drew his sword and *adroitly* fought Mordred's army.
 - C. Sir Gawain faced the *largesse* of the Green Knight's challenge.
 - D. The Green Knight *interred* Arthur's knights to accept his challenge.
- ___ 14. Which vocabulary word best describes what the hermit did for King Arthur?
- A. interred, or buried
 - B. imperiled, or endangered
 - C. adjured, or requested
 - D. entreated, or pleaded
- ___ 15. Which word is the closest in meaning to *largesse*?
- A. heaviness
 - B. tallness
 - C. gentility
 - D. generosity

Essay

16. Medieval romances often blend realistic and unusual or magical details. In an essay, describe how these elements are used in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Morte d'Arthur*. Give at least one example of a realistic and a magical detail from each tale. Tell how these details affect the tales and your reaction to them. Do they increase your enjoyment? Do they add a different meaning? How would the tales be different if they lacked the unusual or magical elements? Be sure to use details from the tales to support your response.
17. King Arthur appears in both *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Morte d'Arthur*. In an essay, compare the character of King Arthur in these two medieval romances. How is his character in the two stories alike? How is his character different? Give at least two examples from the texts to support your comparison.
18. **Thinking About the Essential Question: What is the relationship of the writer to tradition?** Both *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Morte d'Arthur* include very traditional versions of the chivalric knight. In an essay, describe how Gawain and Bedivere both exemplify traditional types of knights.