The Hollow Men  T. S. Eliot

COMPREHENSION  Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 6 points each)

1. The place where the hollow men are gathered is described as—
   A) a hell of eternal torment
   B) a paradise of bliss
   C) a dry, twilight limbo
   D) an everyday real world

2. What is the main emotion the speaker expresses in the poem?
   A) Religious contrition
   B) Despair at life
   C) Fear of death
   D) Longing for love

3. In Section V, the three stanzas beginning with the word between all convey—
   A) a feeling that the speaker has at last achieved peace of mind
   B) a sense of spontaneity and discovery after the narrator’s doubts in the previous stanza
   C) the terrifying gap between what people think, hope, or imagine and what they do
   D) the speaker’s trust in his fellow human beings as a source of reassurance

4. The lines “The hope only / Of empty men” at the end of Section IV refer to the hope for—
   A) spiritual salvation
   B) long life
   C) health, wealth, and prosperity
   D) artistic achievement

5. What, most likely, is the speaker’s reason for wanting to avoid “Eyes I dare not meet in dreams / In death’s dream kingdom” in Section II?
   A) Like him, they have become hollow men.
   B) Like him, they are really in death’s other kingdom.
   C) Unlike him, they are stone images living in the cactus land.
   D) Unlike him, they have not given in to despair and inactivity.
VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT  Match the definition on the left with the vocabulary word on the right. On the line provided, write the letter of the correct vocabulary word. Words may be used more than once. (10 points; 2 points each)

6. lasting forever  A) supplication
7. strength  B) perpetual
8. humble plea  C) conception
9. power  D) potency
10. the originating of something

VOCABULARY SKILL  Match each type of context clue listed below to a sentence in which it is used. Write the word that is the context clue on the line provided. (10 points; 2 points each)

restatement  comparison  contrast  synonym

11. A neophyte, unlike an experienced worker, needs supervision.

12. A legal tort, or wrongful act, can result in the payment of damages.

13. He was prudent when it came to spending money and careful in other ways as well.

14. The prime minister acted like an emperor and enacted the law by fiat.

15. The rebels took over the palace and deposed the king as the first step in their coup d’etat.

LITERARY FOCUS  Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

16. What is the effect of the allusion “Mistah Kurtz—he dead” at the start of the poem?
   A) It alerts the reader that the poem is set in central Africa.
   B) It prepares the reader for the tone of futility that pervades the poem.
   C) It tells the reader that the poet had read widely in English literature.
   D) It points out the very different characteristics of Kurtz and the hollow men.
Unit 6: Collection 12, Selection Test continued

17. One effect of the parodies of the children's poem in Section V is recognition that—
   A) the hollow men still retain a childlike quality of playfulness
   B) the hollow men have degenerated far from the innocence of childhood
   C) the poem overstates the despair and futility of the post-World War I era
   D) the poem understates the despair and futility of the post-World War I era

18. Eliot most likely included allusions to Dante's *Inferno* in "The Hollow Men" to emphasize—
   A) the intellectual sophistication of the hollow men
   B) that Dante's poems are one way to escape being hollow
   C) the traditional religious beliefs that form the basis of the poem
   D) that the hollow men are indecisive and can enter neither heaven nor hell

**READING FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

19. What is one inference you can draw from the description of the hollow men in Section I of the poem?
   A) That they are more like scarecrows than fully human beings
   B) That they are physically disabled but not mentally disabled
   C) That they stand out from other people in a crowd
   D) That they fought valiantly and nobly in World War I

20. What can you infer from the quotation of the Lord's Prayer in Section V of the poem?
   A) That the hollow men cannot remember the rest of the prayer
   B) That Eliot recommends prayer as a means of improvement
   C) That the hollow men are attempting to pray for salvation
   D) That Eliot equates heaven and the kingdom of England

21. Which inference is the best representation of the poem?
   A) People after World War I looked like scarecrows.
   B) Twentieth-century people lacked spiritual values.
   C) Modern people were cynical and felt hopeless.
   D) Nineteenth-century people were braver.