
The relevance of the literary personality—a writer's distinctive attitudes, concerns, and artistic choices—to the analysis of a literary work is being scrutinized by various schools of contemporary criticism. Deconstructionists view the literary personality, like the writer's biographical personality, as irrelevant. The proper focus of literary analysis, they argue, is a work's intertextuality (interrelationship with other texts), subtexts (unspoken, concealed, or repressed discourses), and metatexts (self-referential aspects), not a perception of a writer's verbal and aesthetic "fingerprints." New historicists also devalue the literary personality, since, in their emphasis on a work's historical contexts, they credit a writer with only those insights and ideas that were generally available when the writer lived. However, to readers interested in literary detective work—say scholars of classical (Greek and Roman) literature who wish to reconstruct damaged texts or deduce a work's authorship—the literary personality sometimes provides vital clues.

- 1 The passage is primarily concerned with
- A discussing attitudes toward a particular focus for literary analysis
 - B describing the limitations of two contemporary approaches to literary analysis
 - C pointing out the similarities among seemingly contrasting approaches to literary analysis
 - D defending the resurgence of a particular focus for literary analysis
 - E defining a set of related terms employed in literary criticism
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For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

- 2 It can be inferred from the passage that on the issue of how to analyze a literary work, the new historicists would most likely agree with the deconstructionists that
- A The writer's insights and ideas should be understood in terms of the writer's historical context.
 - B The writer's literary personality has little or no relevance.
 - C The critic should primarily focus on intertextuality, subtexts and metatexts.
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- 3 In the context in which it appears, "credit a writer with" most nearly means
- A trust a writer with
 - B applaud a writer for
 - C believe a writer created
 - D presume a writer had
 - E accept a writer for

Verbal Reasoning Section 2

23 Minutes

- 4 In the 1630s, directors of the Dutch West India Company received reports of minor problems from their agents with _____, as the company was wealthy enough not to be overly concerned about small frustrations.

(A) trepidation
(B) consternation
(C) gratitude
(D) equanimity
(E) exhilaration

- 5 A key characteristic in the author's presentation of his character's dreary life is _____: paragraphs are short, sentences are laconic, patterns of repetition and circularity are evoked by means of symbolic shorthand.

(A) redundancy
(B) economy
(C) hyperbole
(D) concision
(E) exaggeration
(F) restraint

- 6 Although streams of solar particles cause beautiful auroras—the northern and southern lights—sometimes their consequences are less _____: their electromagnetic effects, for instance, can overload power grids and damage orbiting satellites.

(A) spectacular
(B) significant
(C) benign
(D) consequential
(E) innocuous
(F) palpable

- 7 Regardless of the putative decline of (i) _____ in contemporary culture, such (ii) _____ remains essential to civil discourse. It allows people to avoid embarrassing or maligning an adversary, and it serves as a form of irony that draws attention to a problem that can scarcely be exaggerated.

(i)	(ii)
(A) understatement	(D) inventiveness
(B) originality	(E) objectivity
(C) partisanship	(F) restraint

- 8 Calasso is not an academic, but the head of a distinguished publishing house in Milan. So being (i)_____ literary intellectual, he feels no obligation to adhere to the rules of the academy: he does not (ii)_____ the academic buzzwords and does not (iii)_____ the prestige networks of a persistently self-regarding, insular, and entrenched academic world.

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
(A) a freewheeling	(D) reject	(G) ignore the presence of
(B) a stodgy	(E) recite	(H) do obeisance to
(C) an unappreciated	(F) evaluate	(I) undermine the authority of

This passage is adapted from an essay published in 2010.

- Line* As I write, the Large Hadron Collider, the world's biggest atom-smasher at
 (5) CERN in Geneva, has switched on with almost unprecedented media jamboree. Asked about the practical value of it all, Stephen Hawking has said that "modern society is based on advances in pure science that were not foreseen to have practical applications." It's a common claim, and it subtly reinforces the hierarchy that Medawar identified: technology and engineering are the humble offspring of
 (10) pure science, the casual cast-offs of a more elevated pursuit. I don't believe that such pronouncements are intended to denigrate applied science as an intellectual activity; they merely speak into a culture in which that has already happened. Pure science undoubtedly does lead to applied spin-offs, but this is not the norm.
 (15) Rather, most of our technology has come from **explicit and painstaking efforts** to develop it. And this is simply a part of the scientific enterprise. A dividing line between pure and applied science makes no sense at all, running as it does in a convoluted path through disciplines, departments, even individual scientific papers and careers. Research aimed at applications fills the pages of the leading journals in physics, chemistry, and the life and Earth sciences; curiosity-driven
 (20) research with no real practical value is abundant in the "applied" literature of the materials, biotechnological, and engineering sciences. The fact that "pure" and "applied" science are useful and meaningful terms seduces us sometimes into thinking that they are real, absolute, and distinct categories.

- 9 In the context of the passage, the mention of the Large Hadron Collider primarily serves to
- (A) demonstrate the attention that is paid to what some consider pure science
 - (B) introduce a change in the prevailing attitude toward science
 - (C) call into question the currently existing priorities for scientific research
 - (D) illustrate the contributions that applied science has made to pure science
 - (E) cast doubt on the hierarchy identified by Medawar

- 10 According to the passage, the “explicit and painstaking efforts” are
- (A) part of the same overall endeavor as pure science research
 - (B) the foundation of the techniques that allow advances in pure science
 - (C) needed before the findings of pure science have practical benefit
 - (D) in danger of dying out because of the attractions of pure science
 - (E) ultimately of greater importance than the great majority of work in pure science

- 11 The passage implies that the statement made by Stephen Hawking has which shortcoming?
- (A) It overstates the importance of technology for modern society.
 - (B) It fails to recognize the distinct goals of pure and applied science.
 - (C) It ignores the work involved in turning initial insights into useful technology.
 - (D) It treats somewhat unusual cases as if they were the general rule.
 - (E) It inappropriately understates the value of pure science.

- 12 According to one view, works of literary fiction should faithfully reflect social reality, and adherents to this view tend to assume that social reality has only one face: a damaged and dysfunctional one. This view has had less impact on the musical arts, however. Composers are free to write music that is (i) _____ without being condemned for their (ii) _____. Yet writers, by contrast, are expected to (iii) _____ if they wish to be taken seriously.

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
(A) joyful	(D) frivolousness	(G) affirm idealism
(B) austere	(E) inaccessibility	(H) eschew optimism
(C) esoteric	(F) pretentiousness	(I) embrace realism

- 13 The anthropologist _____ the claim that the Neanderthal remains must represent an immediate family because they belong to the same mitochondrial lineage, noting that some chimpanzees with identical mitochondrial are not closely related.

(A) misapplied
(B) queried
(C) expanded
(D) substantiated
(E) surmised

- 14 The lack of (i)_____ the poetry of the postwar decades has led not, as one might have expected, to (ii)_____ poetry, but to a curious closure in which all poets and forms of poetry are (iii)_____ and alone, not even respected establishment poets, command excitement.

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
(A) interest in	(D) pluralistic debate on	(G) marginalized
(B) consensus about	(E) popular acceptance of	(H) revered
(C) innovation in	(F) any experimentation in	(I) tolerated

Tea is rich in compounds called polyphenols, which are similar to certain compounds known to help prevent cancer. Among people in Japan, those who drink over ten cups of tea per day have lower rates of stomach cancer than others.

Line On average, people in Japan drink much more tea than people in the United States
 (5) and have lower rates of lung cancer. It is therefore likely that polyphenols also help prevent cancer.

- 15 Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the argument?
- (A) Smoking, a known cause of lung cancer, is more common in Japan than it is in the United States.
 - (B) Few people in the United States drink more than ten cups of tea per day.
 - (C) Stomach cancer is much more common in Japan than it is in the United States.
 - (D) Soy products, which are known to help prevent cancer, are more widely used in Japan than in the United States.
 - (E) Coffee, which like tea is a source of caffeine, is more popular in the United States than in Japan.