

1. ANS: A

Note: This 19th Century passage is from William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, June 26, 1848. This passage comes from Chapter IX, "Family Portraits." One of Thackeray's peers was Charles Dickens, but Thackeray did not write with the same social concerns as Dickens. The full title, *Vanity Fair: A Novel Written Without a Hero*, gives the reader some indication of the span of characterization in the three volumes.

1. The second sentence of the passage begins with "But he was unluckily endowed with a good name and large though encumbered estate" after the introduction that Sir Pitt Crawley might have become very wealthy. Sir Crawley holds a "right" to property by right of inheritance, but Crawley does not have a good head for business practices and wastes "thousands of dollars yearly." He is penny-pinching with the money that should have been spent wisely to keep the estate. The irony is the incongruity of a role of a titled birth where he should have been able to make profits but was "selfish, foolish, and disreputable," choice A. All the other choices give literal examples of his unfortunate business choices. What the reader expects to happen, does happen.

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

MSC: 87% answered correctly

NOT: 1994 #29

2. ANS: E

2. Sir Pitt's parsimonious character manifests in "invincible repugnance to paying anybody, choice E. The narrator details Pitt's skimping on spending with several examples: Sir Pitt would not pay honest agents at his granite-quarry; he did not feed and bought cheap horses for his coach-horse business; and he did not seed enough to grow crops. His hand "would be in anybody's pockets" except his own. Sir Pitt has lost the respect of the businesses and is considered incompetent in his investments, eliminating choice A. Choices B and C are both true, making E the best choice. Sir Pitt was not proud in that the narrator states that Crowley preferred the company of the "lower" classes, but parsimonious means miserly and cheap. Choice D is shows his lack of pride in

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 42% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #30

3. ANS: C

3. In context, the adjective "close" is best interpreted as meaning, choice C. Sir Pitt is overly cautious in spending, a theme that runs throughout the passage. He refuses to sow enough seed and the crop fails "as to grudge almost the seed to the ground." Because he is so stingy, "revengeful" Mother Nature "grudges him the crops. Pitt is not accurate and precise in any of his business endeavors, nor strict and reclusive, nor secretive and rigorous in his character descriptions, choices A, B, and E. He does not restrict his socializing to the privileged class; he is very familiar with farmers and horse-dealers, choice D.

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 54% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #31

4. ANS: B

4. The point of view is the narrator's in this passage. The narrator's choice of the word "satisfaction" of finding four overseers run away taking Pitt's money to America is "an ironic reference to the price Sir Pitt had to pay for his business mismanagement," choice B. Losing fortunes is not a trivial event, choice A. The word satisfaction is neither a euphemism nor an allusion, choices C and D. The best distracter of the set is choice E, except it's the narrator, not Pitt, who takes delight in Pitt's losing his money and overseers.

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 61% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #32

5. ANS: E

5. This question show's Pitt's "duplicitous and capacity for treachery, choice E. Pitt socializes with the tenants and "sell him up the next day." He would laugh with the poacher making the poacher think he was his friend while launching a plan to be rid of him. Pitt does not characterize a haughty disdain for the lower class or display misguided optimism, choices A and B. He takes pleasure in his actions. This question is not about his father, choice C. Pitt's execution does not display awkwardness; it's disastrous, choice D.

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 44% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #33

6. ANS: D

6. The narrator ironically calls Sir Pitt both honorable and delightful, for he is neither, choice D. Sir Pitt does take pleasure in his disgraceful actions. Note that his is a true\ false form of distracter.

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 44% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #34

7. ANS: E

7. The last sentence of the passage states choice E: “What’s the good of being in Parliament...if you must pay your debts.” The narrator’s device litotes or understatement which asserts the affirmative by negative connotation: “his position as senator was not a little useful to him.” It is very useful to him for all the wrong reasons. Choice A has been disproved throughout the passage. Sir Pitt was not devoted, choice B, to the country gentlemen, as already stated. The title “Sir” eliminates his position as a servant, choice C. Pitt was more than adequately compensated by taking advantage of his position, choice D.

PTS: 1 DIF: Easy MSC: 88% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #35

8. ANS: B

8. This question is directly from the lines 48-50-54, “...Mr. Crawley had such a hold over the affections of his father, resulted from money arrangements. The Baronet owed his son a sum of money...which he did not find it convenient to pay.” Choice B is a paraphrase of the quote. Sir Pitt is not devoted out of a sense of moral obligation, choice A. The theme is the miserly and misuse of money. Choice C is a good distracter except he does not pretend to “cherish his son.” Sir Pitt does not indicate any grudge against his son’s mother; he just did not honor the agreement for the marriage, choice D. Sir Pitt pretends to be affectionate, not disdainful, probably out of fear of being turned out of his estate by his son, choice E.

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 51% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #51

9. ANS: A

9. The effect of the last paragraph illustrates, A, “how Sir Pitt’s political and family affairs reflect his character.” Because of his title, he has more opportunity to take advantage of others. Sir Pitt’s character is a result of his title, eliminating choice B. His shortcomings are not beneficial to his political career, choice C, because he continues to flaunt his title without fulfilling the obligations it brings. Mrs. Sharp is just an interested commentator on Sir Pitt’s family, choice D. Mrs. Sharp is introduced with her judgment in the first paragraph to confirm what the narrator reports of Pitt’s character. Sir Pitt does nothing to create a moral transformation; he is the same character throughout.

PTS: 1 DIF: Easy MSC: 76% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #37

10. ANS: D

10. The narrator attributes Sir Pitt's attitude and behavior to social rank and flawed character, choice D. This question and the next were better understood by students with a greater percentage getting the question correct. Sir Pitt's education and religion are not mentioned, choices A and B, in the passage because it's not the narrator's purpose. His purpose is to show Pitt's character as a result of his rank and character. Pitt ancestors could be part of the problem, choice C, but they are not mentioned in the passage. Pitt did not trust anyone in his daily decisions causing his unprofitable projects; we know nothing of his marriage, eliminating choice E.

PTS: 1 DIF: Easy MSC: 79% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #38

11. ANS: E

11. The style of the passage is not without humor, subjectivity, and description, choices A B, and C. The style is not succinct or pithy as the syntax is elaborate or ornate. The sentences are long and parallel, choice D. The best choice since both adjectives have to apply to the prompt is E, witty and analytical. The author employs a narrator that is seemingly objective as he forms his argument about Sir Pitt.

PTS: 1 DIF: Easy MSC: 60% answered correctly
NOT: 1994 #39

12. ANS: C

12. The narrator has a flippant tone, choice C, about Sir Pitt, making his attitude sardonic and condemning with mocking and sarcastic observations and comments. He even creates the character of Miss Sharp to help support his attitude. The narrator does not pity Sir Pitt, choice A. He is not an objective observer, choice B, always giving us his subtle judgment about Pitt. The detached moral disillusionment, eliminating choice D, is emphasized though the reference to the name Debrett, a sentimental reference with his admiration of the British aristocracy (line 45) that the narrator identifies as "we." The narrator could be disgusted, but he does not feel jaded, choice E.

PTS: 1 DIF: Medium MSC: 54% answered correctly