



"Curates"

Of late years an abundant shower of curates has fallen upon the North of England: they lie very thick on the hills; every parish has one or more of them; they are young enough to be very active, and ought to be doing a great deal of good. But not of late years  
(5) are we about to speak. We are going back to the beginning of this century: late years - present years - are dusty, sunburnt, hot, arid. We will evade the noon - forget it in siesta, pass the mid-day in slumber - and dream of dawn.

If you think, from this prelude, that anything like a romance is  
(10) preparing for you, reader, you never were more mistaken. Do you anticipate sentiment, and poetry, and reverie? Do you expect passion, and stimulus, and melodrama? Calm your expectations; reduce them to a lowly standard. Something real, cool, and solid lies before you; something unromantic as Monday morning, when all  
(15) who have work wake with the consciousness that they must rise and betake themselves thereto. It is not positively affirmed that you shall not have a taste of the exciting - perhaps towards the middle and close of the meal - but it is resolved that the first dish set upon the table shall be one that a Catholic - ay, even an Anglo-  
(20) Catholic - might eat on Good Friday in Passion Week. It shall be cold lentils and vinegar without oil; it shall be unleavened bread with bitter herbs, and no roast lamb.

Of late years, I say, an abundant shower of curates has fallen upon the North of England; but at that time that affluent rain  
(25) had not descended. Curates were scarce then; there was no Pastoral Aid, no Additional Curates' Society to stretch a helping hand to worn-out old rectors and incumbents, and give them the wherewithal to pay a vigorous young colleague from Oxford or Cambridge. The present successors of the Apostles, disciples of  
(30) Dr. Pusey and tools of the Propaganda, were at that time being hatched under cradle-blankets or undergoing regeneration by nursery-baptism in wash-hand basins. You could not have guessed by looking at any one of them that the Italian-ironed double frills of its net-cap surrounded the brows of a pre-ordained, specially  
(35) sanctified successor of St. Paul, St. Peter, or St. John; nor could you have foreseen in the folds of its long nightgown the white surplice in which it was hereafter cruelly to exercise the souls of its parishioners, and strangely to nonplus its old-fashioned vicar by flourishing aloft in a pulpit the shirt-like raiment which had  
(40) never before waved higher than the reading-desk.

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- Yet even in those days of scarcity there were curates: the precious plant was rare, but it might be found. A certain favored district in the West Riding of Yorkshire could boast three rods of Aaron blossoming within a circuit of twenty miles. You shall see
- (45) them, reader. Step into this neat garden-house on the skirts of Whinbury, walk forward into the little parlor - there they are at dinner. Allow me to introduce them to you: Mr. Donne, curate of Whinbury; Mr. Malone, curate of Briarfield; Mr. Sweeing, curate of Nunnely. These are Mr. Donne's lodgings, being the habitation
- (50) of one John Gale, a small clothier. Mr. Donne has kindly invited his brethren to regale with him. You and I will join the party, see what is to be seen, and hear what is to be heard. At present, however, they are only eating, and while they eat we will talk aside.

\* Line numbers match the 1997 exam course description.

1. In lines 1-4, the primary effect of using clauses that elaborate on one another is to
  - (A) establish the eminence of the curates
  - (B) create a precise narrative setting
  - (C) establish an appropriately solemn tone
  - (D) emphasize the sense of abundance being described
  - (E) lull the reader into an impressionable frame of mind
2. The phrase "ought to be doing" in line 4 does which of the following in the opening sentence?
  - (A) It shifts the focus from generalities to individual cases.
  - (B) It replaces descriptive prose with imaginative speculation.
  - (C) It presents a judgment on the curates.
  - (D) it emphasizes the theoretical rather than the practical.
  - (E) It proposes a discussion of the spiritual duties of modern curates.
3. The word "noon" (line 7) refers most directly to the
  - (A) period in which the narrative will be set
  - (B) period in which the speaker lives
  - (C) beginning of the century in which the speaker lives
  - (D) central portion of the narrative
  - (E) present proliferation of curates

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4. The speaker characterizes a "romance" (line 9) as all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) nostalgic
  - (B) insubstantial
  - (C) fanciful
  - (D) exciting
  - (E) Religious
5. The expectation referred to in lines 9-12 is reinforced most strongly by which of the following phrases?
- (A) "an abundant shower of curates" (line 1)
  - (B) "young enough to be very active" (line 3)
  - (C) "But not of late years" (line 4)
  - (D) "going back to the beginning of this century" (lines 5-6)
  - (E) "dream of dawn" (line 8)
6. From the statement "It is not positively affirmed that you shall not have a taste of the exciting" (lines 16-17), the reader may infer that
- (A) suspense is an integral part of the story
  - (B) some drama may enter the story
  - (C) the reader's expectations will be confirmed by the story
  - (D) the reader's taste is likely to be changed by the story
  - (E) the story depends on melodrama for its effect
7. In the context of the passage, the phrase "cold lentils and vinegar without oil" (line 21) is used as a metaphor for the
- (A) religiosity of Catholics
  - (B) austerity of curates
  - (C) poverty of the previous era
  - (D) serious state of mind of the narrator
  - (E) beginning episode of the speaker's story
8. The speaker implies in the second paragraph that the narrative that follows will most likely be a
- (A) vehement attack on a modern institution
  - (B) straightforward account of ordinary events
  - (C) witty criticism of eminent social figures
  - (D) cautionary tale about a degenerate cleric
  - (E) dramatic account of an unexpected occurrence

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9. The phrases "hatched under cradle-blankets" and "under-going regeneration by nursery-baptism in wash-hand basins" (lines 31-32) imply a contrast between
- (A) believers and disbelievers
  - (B) disciples and mentors
  - (C) younger clergy and older clergy
  - (D) ministers and their congregations
  - (E) Roman Catholics and Anglo-Catholics
10. Which of the following aspects of the "disciples of Dr. Pusey" (lines 29-30) is most clearly emphasized by the description of their preaching style in line 39?
- (A) Their humility and moral rectitude
  - (B) Their bizarre behavior in the eyes of tradition-minded clergy
  - (C) The respect they inspire in their congregations
  - (D) The radical nature of the doctrine they preach
  - (E) The success with which Dr. Pusey's tenets have been promulgated
11. The description of a curate in lines 32-40 has the primary effect of
- (A) augmenting the curate's own view of himself
  - (B) reflecting the speaker's religious intensity
  - (C) indicating the important position in society occupied by the curate
  - (D) suggesting the elaborate pretensions of the curate
  - (E) emphasizing the respect accorded the curate by his parishioners
12. The phrase "rods of Aaron" (lines 43-44) refers specifically to
- (A) curates
  - (B) saints
  - (C) trees
  - (D) Apostles
  - (E) gardens
13. The passage as a whole introduces contrasts between all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) young and old
  - (B) present and past
  - (C) plenitude and scarcity
  - (D) romance and realism
  - (E) virtue and vice

### Answer Key

1) D 2) C 3) B 4) E 5) E 6) B 7) E 8) B 9) C 10) B 11) D 12) A 13) E

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