English Literature

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Who wrote the novel Pride and Prejudice, first published in 1813?
   - A. Jane Austen
   - B. George Eliot
   - C. Elizabeth Gaskell
   - D. Emily Brontë

   Correct answer: A. Jane Austen

   Jane Austen wrote the novel. Its first edition appeared in three volumes in 1813.

2. Which Victorian novelist wrote Oliver Twist?
   - A. Wilkie Collins
   - B. William Makepeace Thackeray
   - C. Charles Dickens
   - D. Thomas Hardy

   Correct answer: C. Charles Dickens

   Dickens wrote the novel about a young orphan. It began appearing in Bentley's Miscellany in 1837.

3. A narrator tells a story about something they experienced and uses I to describe their own actions. What point of view is used?
   - A. Second person
   - B. First person
   - C. Third-person limited
   - D. Third-person omniscient

   Correct answer: B. First person

   A first-person narrator tells the story using I or we, from their own position in the events.

4. What is the usual term for a line or phrase repeated at intervals in a poem?
   - A. Meter
   - B. Stanza
   - C. Couplet
   - D. Refrain

   Correct answer: D. Refrain

   A refrain returns at intervals, such as at the ends of successive stanzas.

5. A magazine publishes a novel in separate installments over several months. What is this method called?

A. Novelization
B. Serialization
C. Anthologizing
D. Translation

Correct answer: B. Serialization
Serialization publishes portions of a work over time. Those installments can later be gathered into a single edition.

6. Which pen name appeared on the first edition of Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre?

A. Currer Bell
B. Ellis Bell
C. Acton Bell
D. George Eliot

Correct answer: A. Currer Bell
Charlotte Brontë used the name Currer Bell on the novel's first edition in 1847.

7. In which language was the surviving medieval manuscript of Beowulf written?

A. Old Norse
B. Middle English
C. Early Modern English
D. Old English

Correct answer: D. Old English
Beowulf survives in a manuscript written in Old English, the earliest recorded stage of the English language.

8. A novel opens with passengers listening to a traveler. The traveler's tale makes up most of the book. What is the structural role of the passengers' scene?

A. It is an epigraph
B. It is a chapter summary
C. It is a frame narrative
D. It is a refrain

Correct answer: C. It is a frame narrative
The outer scene frames the inner story. It explains who tells the story and how the listeners come to hear it.

9. Who wrote the extended essay A Room of One's Own, published in 1929?

A. Virginia Woolf
B. Katherine Mansfield
C. Dorothy Richardson
D. Edith Wharton

Correct answer: A. Virginia Woolf
Virginia Woolf published the essay through the Hogarth Press. It discusses the material conditions that allow women to write.

10. Which Nigerian writer wrote Things Fall Apart, first published in 1958?

A. Ben Okri
B. Wole Soyinka
C. Buchi Emecheta
D. Chinua Achebe

Correct answer: D. Chinua Achebe
Things Fall Apart was Achebe's first novel. It became an influential work of African literature in English.

11. The 1798 collection Lyrical Ballads by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge is closely associated with which movement?

A. Victorian realism
B. English Renaissance humanism
C. British Romanticism
D. Literary modernism

Correct answer: C. British Romanticism
Lyrical Ballads helped shape British Romantic poetry around the turn of the nineteenth century.

12. What term describes unrhymed verse in iambic pentameter?

A. Free verse
B. Blank verse
C. Rhyming couplets
D. Ballad meter

Correct answer: B. Blank verse
Blank verse follows the rhythm of iambic pentameter and leaves the line endings unrhymed.

13. Which collection earned Gwendolyn Brooks the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry?

A. The Bean Eaters
B. A Street in Bronzeville
C. In the Mecca
D. Annie Allen

Correct answer: D. Annie Allen
The Pulitzer Prize recognized Brooks for Annie Allen. She was the first Black author to win a Pulitzer Prize.

14. Which journal first published T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land in October 1922?

A. The Criterion
B. The Dial
C. Poetry
D. The Little Review

Correct answer: A. The Criterion
The Criterion published the poem in its first issue. The Dial published it in the United States the following month.

15. Which John Milton poem first appeared in ten books in 1667 and was reorganized into twelve books in 1674?

A. Samson Agonistes
B. Paradise Regained
C. Paradise Lost
D. Lycidas

Correct answer: C. Paradise Lost
The revised second edition of Paradise Lost split two of the original ten books to produce twelve.