COMPREHENSION  Darken the letter on your answer sheet of the best answer to the following.

1. Odysseus's encounter with the Cicones after the Greeks leave Troy indicates that the Greeks—
   A. seem to be victims everywhere they go
   B. obey every command Odysseus gives them
   C. are basically a peace-loving group of traders
   D. are violent warriors and plunderers

2. Why did Odysseus warn his men not to eat the lotus plant?
   A. The plant would make the men fall ill and die.
   B. The men would then easily be captured by the Lotus Eaters.
   C. He knew the drug would make the men drown at sea.
   D. The plant would make the men forget their homeland.

3. Why are the Sirens a danger to passing sailors?
   A. The sweet songs of the Sirens lure men to their deaths.
   B. Men fall in love with the Sirens and quarrel among themselves.
   C. The Sirens’ beauty makes men forget their desire to go home.
   D. Their island is guarded by a catastrophic whirlpool.

4. Why is Teiresias considered knowledgeable about the future?
   A. He is already dead and thus sees and knows all.
   B. He comes from Thebes, a place where all are wise.
   C. As a blind man, he is believed to have special insight.
   D. He has been enchanted and given special powers by Circe.

5. How are epithets used in the Odyssey?
   A. As synonyms
   B. As definitions
   C. To characterize people
   D. To create comparisons

6. Which of the following is an example of an epithet?
   A. Divine Calypso
   B. Ornate birds
   C. Sweet days
   D. Great eye socket

7. An epic hero is defined as...
   a. A successful adventurer in a world of danger and temptation.
   b. A poem that shows suffering in many challenges from life.
   c. A common character who gradually becomes heroic.
   d. One who faces adventures in pursuit of virtues we respect.

8. Why does Odysseus explain that “in my heart I never gave consent” during the long time he spent with Calypso and Circe?
   A. He is bitter over Calypso’s and Circe’s power as goddesses.
   B. He intends to show that he remained faithful to Penelope.
   C. His explanation above occurs in an apology to Penelope for his past deeds.
   D. He found the goddesses unappealing.
9. Which question would be most useful in evaluating Odysseus’s strategy for escaping from Polyphemus?
   A. How many of the Greeks did Polyphemus catch and devour?
   B. What tools and objects did Odysseus cleverly employ in his strategy?
   C. Why did Odysseus decide to blind Polyphemus rather than kill him?
   D. Where did Odysseus get the wine he gave so liberally to Polyphemus?

10. The correct chronological order of events of the Odyssey?
   a. Cicones > Cyclops > Scylla > Sirens
   b. Sirens > Charybdis > Calypso > Ithaca
   c. Land of the Dead > Cyclops > Sun Cattle
   d. Sun Cattle > Cyclops > Land of the Dead

11. One episode does NOT suggest the theme of resisting temptation. Which one?
   a. The Sirens
   b. Land of the Dead
   c. Cyclops
   d. The Lotus Eaters

12. Odysseus tells us Scylla is the “far worst I ever suffered.” Why?
   a. With her, he loses the most men.
   b. His foreknowledge of crew deaths creates a painful internal conflict.
   c. She is so terrifically and symbolically hideous and unstoppable.
   d. With her, he is ironically most surprised and helpless compared to other times.

13. What method helps Odysseus himself to avoid the Sirens?
   a. puts wax in his ears
   b. has himself tied to the main mast
   c. doesn’t tell the men about what lies ahead
   d. uses the shield to serve as a mirror

14. The main virtue we see on display at Cyclops’ island?
   a. Resisting temptation
   b. Influence of the gods
   c. Cunning not power
   d. Loyalty + faithfulness

15. Which is the truest Homeric simile?
   a. “You at the tiller, listen, and take in all that I say—the rudders are your duty; keep her out of the combers and the smoke; steer for that headland; watch the drift, or we fetch up in the smother, and you drown us.”
   b. “Athena lent him beauty, head to foot. She made him taller, and massive, too, with crisping hair in curls like petals of wild hyacinth but all red-golden.”
   c. “And I leaned on it turning it as a shipwright turns a drill in planking, having men below to swing the two-handled strap that spins it in the groove. So with our brand we bored that eye socket.”

16. Odysseus learns some important things in Hades. Which one is NOT one of them?
   a. What his death will look like...
   b. How the suitors are eating up his riches & courting his wife...
   c. The trouble with Calypso...
   d. Destruction with the sun cattle...

Keep sailing...
17. It's not chronological! Homer starts his epic with Odysseus...
   a. Curious about Cyclops’ cave  
   b. Landing on Ithaca  
   c. Speaking at a dinner  
   d. Trapped with Calypso

18. Which is the best statement comparing the Cicones and the Sun Cattle episodes?
   a. Both exhibit Odysseus failing to resist temptation.  
   b. Both require austerity and delayed gratification on Odysseus’ part.  
   c. Neither one shows the virtue of leadership on Odysseus’ part.  
   d. Neither one is more deadly than Scylla.

PASSAGE COMPREHENSION: Read the passage below. Choose the best answers for questions #19-26.

Two nights, two days, in the solid deep-sea swell he drifted, many times awaiting death, until with shining ringlets in the East the dawn confirmed a third day, breaking clear over a high and windless sea; and mounting a rolling wave he caught a glimpse of land. What a dear welcome thing life seems to children whose father, in the extremity, recovers after some weakening and malignant illness: his pangs are gone, the gods have delivered him. So dear and welcome to Odysseus the sight of land, of woodland, on that morning. It made him swim again, to get a foothold on solid ground. But when he came in earshot he heard the trampling roar of sea on rock, where combers, rising shoreward, thudded down on the sticking ebb—all sheeted with salt foam. Here were no coves or harborage or shelter, only steep headlands, rockfallen reefs and crags. Odysseus’ knees grew slack, his heart faint, a heaviness came over him, and he said: "A cruel turn, this. Never had I thought to see this land, but Zeus has let me see it—and let me, too, traverse the Western Ocean—only to find no exit from these breakers. No matter how I try it, the surf may throw me against the cliffside; no good fighting there. If I swim down the coast, outside the breakers, I may find shelving shore and quiet water—but what if another gale comes on to blow? Then I go cursing out to sea once more. Or then again, some shark of Amphitritê’s may hurt me, sent by the genius of the deep. I know how he who makes earth tremble hates me.” During this meditation, a heavy surge was taking him, in fact, straight on the rocks. He had been flayed there, and his bones broken, had not gray-eyed Athena instructed him: he gripped a rock-ledge with both hands in passing and held on, groaning, as the surge went by, to keep clear of its breaking. Then the backwash hit him, ripping him under and far out. An octopus, when you drag one from his chamber, comes up with suckers full of tiny stones: Odysseus left the skin of his great hands torn on that rock-ledge as the wave submerged him. And now at last Odysseus would have perished, battered inhumanly, but he had the gift of self-possession from gray-eyed Athena. So, when the backwash spewed him up again, he swam out and along, and scanned the coast for some landspit that made a breakwater. Lo and behold, the mouth of a calm river at length came into view, with level shores unbroken, free from rock, shielded from wind—by far the best place he had found. But as he felt the current flowing seaward he prayed in his heart: “O hear me, lord of the stream: how sorely I depend upon your mercy! Is he not sacred, even to the gods, the wandering man who comes, as I have come, in weariness before your knees, your waters? Here is your servant; lord, have mercy on me.”
19. What is the literal meaning of the word *malignant* as it is used in the passage?

A. Mild  
B. Deadly  
C. Brief  
D. Lingering

20. What tone of voice does Odysseus express in the left column (and top right, too) during his “meditation”?

A. Deep respect  
B. High hopes  
C. Practical realism  
D. Growing hopelessness

21. All the following literary devices are at work in the passage except--

a. Homeric epithets about Poseidon and Athena  
b. Irony found in Odysseus’ plea.  
c. A Homeric simile helping us envision Odysseus being washed to sea.  

22. Homer compares the sighting of land by Odysseus to the relief—

A. soldiers feel when winning a war against a bitter enemy  
B. one feels when returning home after a long time away  
c. children feel when their father recovers from a long illness  
D. one feels after the end of a storm

23. The best place Odysseus finds to come ashore is the—

A. edge of a beach  
B. entrance to a harbor  
C. side of a cliff  
D. mouth of a river

24. At one point, Odysseus swims away from the shore because he wants to—

A. return to Troy’s battlefields  
B. find and battle Poseidon  
C. hold on to his raft  
D. search for a safer place to land

25. Odysseus would have died if he had not possessed—

A. self-control  
B. self-pity  
C. self-esteem  
D. lassitude

26. Odysseus’ final appeal to Poseidon reminds readers of the theme of—

A. revenge  
B. delayed gratification  
C. xenos  
D. cunning over power

GENERAL QUESTIONS

27. All of these indicate Penelope’s total beauty except one. Mark it.

a. “Milk white arms...“  
b. The famous clothing she weaves and wears.  
c. Hundreds seek to marry her.  
d. Her patience with the multiple conflicts she faces.

*Keep sailing...*
28. What did Odysseus mean when he said in the banquet hall that he would hit “a target no man has hit before”?
   A. Odysseus would fire an arrow through twelve iron ax-helve sockets.
   B. Odysseus would knock the drinking cup out of a suitor’s hands.
   C. Odysseus would kill Antinous with a well-aimed arrow.
   D. Odysseus would split a thunderbolt thrown down by Zeus.

29. Homer’s Odyssey was written when?
   A. 400 BC  B. 800 BC  C. 1200 BC  D. 4000 BC

30. Penelope has postponed her decision of a husband by using the trick of
   a. offering suitors wine  c. archery contests with axes
   b. unweaving her shroud  d. disguise

31. Which person below is the least loyal to his/her relationships, considering his/her actions?
   a. Odysseus  b. Penelope  c. Eumaeus  d. Calypso

32. At the end of the Odyssey, Telemachus and Odysseus exclaim about Penelope’s “coldness,” which mainly serves to...
   a. indicate that they are closer to each other relationally than to her.
   b. highlight the complexity of her decision to accept Odysseus back again.
   c. portray their detachment after so much time has passed.
   d. show the agreement in their impatience with her behavior.

33. What is the best conclusion to be drawn about Homer’s perspective as the author?
   a. Homer thinks Odysseus is a weak example of manhood and wants us to learn from his frequent mistakes and frailty.
   b. Homer is atheistic and often employs satire as a criticism of the gods and human faith in them.
   c. Homer is an entertainer using beautiful language, attention to detail, and deeper meanings than just plot flow.
   d. Since Homer was Trojan, he often reveals disapproval for Odysseus’ proud decisions and pillaging in the plot.

34. The truest statement below about XENOS: hosts & guests?
   a. Most episodes show correct xenos behavior for the persons involved.
   b. Telemachus + Penelope need to learn it.
   c. It means guests have more rights than hosts.
   d. It could justify Odysseus’ intense revenge at Ithaca.

35. What sign completely convinces Penelope that her husband has reached home? Mark one.
   a. He is able to string the bow.  c. He kills the suitors.
   b. He is able to thread the axes with an arrow.  d. He knows the details about their bed.

Keep sailing...
36. Which is the supreme virtue used the most often across the Ithaca episode to indicate a character’s goodness or evil?
   a. Cunning over power          c. Respect of the supernatural
   b. Xenos                          d. Ambition and goal setting

37. Which is NOT a way Athena influences events in Ithaca?
   a. Fools lead suitor into drinking wine as Odysseus puts an arrow on the string.
   b. Blinds Penelope to fact that the nurse has recognized Odysseus
   c. Magically hangs her shield over the murder scene
   d. Makes Odysseus handsome for Penelope in final scene

38. What literary device is NOT in play in the passage below?

   “After them the attackers wheeled, as terrible as falcons from eyries in the mountains veering over and diving down with talons wide unsheathed on flights of birds, who cower down the sky in chutes and bursts along the valley—but the pouncing falcons grip their prey, no frantic wing avails, and farmers love to watch those beaked hunters. So these now fell upon the suitors in that hall.”

   A. Homeric imagery  C. Homeric irony
   B. Homeric epithet   D. Homeric simile

39. What is being referred to in these words? “Then I lopped off the silvery leaves and branches, hewed and shaped that stump from the roots up and laid a pliant web between.”

   a. Making the Trojan horse  c. Building the altar to Zeus at the sun cattle island
   b. Shaping the spear for Cyclops’ eye  d. Building Odysseus’ bed

40. Many characters can be interpreted as foils for Odysseus. Which one is NOT a foil to the hero?

   a. Eurycleia, the old nurse...  c. Penelope
   b. Eurylochus, who thinks all crew is lost...  d. Eurymachus