

Please read this test carefully and answer the questions to the best of your ability. It is always wise to glance through a test before beginning to answer questions.

Young JQA

I. Sentence Parts

Find the simple subject and underline it once; just identify the main word that acts as subject, but it's okay to underline the subject plus associated modifiers. Find the main verb and underline it twice; remember that main verbs may have helping verbs which should be underlined as well. 2 pt. each.

1. A young and unsuccessful lawyer, John Quincy Adams was nominated by President Washington as Minister in Residence to The Hague, Netherlands, in 1794.
2. His younger brother Thomas Boyston Adams accompanied him as his secretary.
3. At 28 years old, Adams was the youngest member of the nascent US diplomatic corps.

Identify the underlined word or words as subject, verb, direct object, phrase, or clause. 2 pt. each.

4. At that time, The Hague boasted the third largest population in Holland.

phrase

direct object

5. As the seat of government, importance and prosperity were proclaimed by it.

subject

subject

6. Because its semi-rural nature attracted John Quincy, he haunted its canals, woods, and seascapes.

Clause

VERB

direct object

↙ Punctuate Appropriately.

7. In an ancient jurisdictional quirk the political administration of the town had been divided in two nearly equal pieces.

Both or neither

8. The Binnenhoff the section of The Hague encompassing the parliamentary square and adjacent land was exempt from traditional importation and guild rules and had become a favorable location for book auctions of all sorts.

This rhetorical comma is unnecessary but acceptable

9. The area which John Quincy frequented because of his diplomatic duties was also one of Europe's best book markets at that time

These commas are standard, but the sentence could be written without them.

Correct the punctuation in the following sentences. If you delete punctuation, strike out the punctuation and write "del" above it. 2 pt. each.

10. Raised from childhood, as a bibliophile, the hard-working American would not be able to resist the temptations that arose.

11. He visited two book sales during his first month, he would attend a total of twenty sales in his two and a half years at The Hague.

12. At this first sale, following what was his standard practice, John Quincy attended the pre-sale, the first day, the second day, and the third day of the sale itself.

This is a judgment call
Acceptable with or without.

Briefly, explain why punctuation in the following sentences is incorrect. There may be one error, or more, or none. 2 pt. each.

13. He bought books valued at 46 guilders; two weeks later he made a number of purchases at a second sale.

The use of the colon makes no sense. The clause ^{that} ~~which~~ follows it does not comment upon that which ~~precedes~~ precedes it.

14. At this sale, he spent 449 guilders; Thomas Boylston also attended this sale and noted a great many good books.

Acceptable as is although the first, short clause might be written without the comma. The use of the semicolon, though technically correct, seems suspect. Should these two clauses be tied together or placed in separate sentences?

15. In January 1795 their account book of expenses recorded a first small bill for bookbinding of 9 guilders.

"First" and "small" are consecutive coordinate adjectives and should be separated by a comma. You might also place a comma after "1795."

Explain the way punctuation means in the following sentence. Also suggest whether the punctuation is primarily "grammatical" or "rhetorical." 2 pt. each.

16. Unfortunately, late eighteenth-century Dutch currency, which JQA used to purchase these books, is difficult to translate into modern equivalents.

The opening comma sets off the adverb "Unfortunately." It is rhetorical in its placement, although you might also see it as grammatical. The "which" clause is non-restrictive and is punctuated grammatically.

Explain the use of "that" vs. "which" in the following sentence.

17. Recurring payments that are found in the account book provide help to understand the modern value of the guilder.

The clause opening with "that" is ~~no~~ restrictive. ~~It~~ Its lack of punctuation suggests that as well as ~~the~~ use of the emphatic "that" instead of "which."

Explain the way punctuation means in the following sentences.

18. John Quincy's rented rooms cost 50 guilders per month; his worn shoes cost 4 guilders to replace; and his monthly hair dressing cost another 4 guilders.

Three independent clauses, each presenting similar information, are connected with the grammatical equivalence sign, the semicolon.

19. By paying 449 guilders at that second book sale, he spent nine times the amount of his monthly rent and a hundred times the expense necessary to purchase a pair of shoes.

The first comma separates the introductory phrasing from the main clause.