

Punctuation: History & Craft
A PREP-TEST FORT THE 1ST EXAMINATION

The actual test will be about twice as long as this prep-test.

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 that should be underlined as well.

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.

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

Punctuation: History & Craft
A PREP-TEST FORT THE 1ST EXAMINATION

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

Following a Guide to Punctuation, punctuate the following sentences.

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

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

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

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.

Punctuation: History & Craft
A PREP-TEST FORT THE 1ST EXAMINATION

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.

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.

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

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

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.

Punctuation: History & Craft
A PREP-TEST FORT THE 1ST EXAMINATION

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.

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.

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.
