

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.

The Widow

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 (not the entire predicate, but the verb); remember that main verbs may have helping verbs that should be underlined as well. 2 pt. each.

- 1) The bereaved widow stood contemplatively by the open door.
- 2) Over the past several weeks, she had quietly watched the dwindling supply of food in her larder.
- 3) Two children of indeterminate age ran past their mother into the street.

Identify the underlined word or words as subject, verb, direct object, modifier (adjective or adverb), phrase, or clause. 2 pt. each.

- 4) The woman whose husband was now gone would need work soon, or a handout.

- 5) Alms from her neighbors or churchwardens had never been appealing.

- 6) The dead husband had bound books for a living, and the widow thought upon the possibility of such work.

- 7) She had helped about the shop and knew the trade well enough.

- 8) Perhaps she would ask the reverend for a bit of work that he might need one along those lines.

- 9) The Reverend Muhlenberg often hired poor tradesmen and tradeswomen as a form of charity.

- 10) Aware of the pride of his churchgoers, the Reverend would not give handouts without good cause.

II. Simple Punctuation

Punctuate the following sentence appropriately. 2 pt. each.

- 11) The widow with winter on the way walked across town to the Lutheran church

12. Hearing a murmuring as soon as she opened the church door the widow despite misgivings
walked toward the minister

- 13) He was praying with another congregant by a small fireplace near the back of the church

- 14) He looked at her the widow of the dead bookbinder

- 15) Did sadness about her eyes rouse pity in the aged cleric

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

- 16) As he closed his psalm book and, looked up at to her, Muhlenberg knew, that she would ask
for work:

- 17) The Widow Ottin cleared her throat and gave the Reverend a curtsy.

- 18) "Reverend Sir I offer you my services, as a bookbinder."
- 19) Before Muhlenberg had buried her husband, a drunk he had made a promise to assist the family.
- 20) Accordingly, he smiled with peaceful benevolence and placed a small order with the woman for stitching of pamphlets; and the rebinding of some small books.

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

- 21) The widow was happier when, she left the church.

- 22) The air smelled clean as she walked toward home and thought about the future.

- 23) Once at home, the widow cleaned her husbands work bench, and assembled binding tools, and supplies.

- 24) She held a piece of sheepskin in her hand, it felt soft and supple.

- 25) She called for her daughter a tall gawky girl and gave instructions for dinner.

III. Ways to think about Punctuation

In the space provided (on this page and the next), discuss the difference between grammatical and rhetorical punctuation. 20 pt.

Explain the way punctuation means in the following sentences. Also suggest whether the punctuation is primarily “grammatical” or “rhetorical.” 2 pt. each.

- 26) Susannah, a lovely young woman, smiled at her mother, and walked into the back of the house.

- 27) Other children now arrived home; the two young ones were joined by two older siblings.

- 28) Each gave their mother a surprising, quizzical look as they saw a small book – a hymnal – in her hands.

- 29) All of them, every single one, had seen their mother in their father's shop; but none of them knew that she could bind books.

- 30) The widow removed damaged portions of the hymnal: scraps of its former binding; all of the former sewing, which would not be needed; and even a few loose pages at the back.

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

- 31) She shaped the sheepskin carefully and called her daughter Susannah for glue.

- 32) Susannah who was the oldest child, often helped her mother with household chores.

- 33) Tall and gawky as she might be she was almost a second mother to the other children and they loved her profoundly.

- 34) She helped them with their studies: and their chores, she talked about them incessantly to whoever would listen.

Punctuate the following sentences in two different but acceptable ways. 2 pt. each.

35 a) In a year or two she would likely marry and move from the house

35 b) In a year or two she would likely marry and move from the house

36. a) For now she helped her mother her siblings and close-by neighbors

36. b) or now she helped her mother her siblings and close-by neighbors

Punctuate the following sentence in three different but acceptable ways. 2 pt.

37. a) Sitting at her bench the widow smiled for the first time in weeks when her eldest daughter stooped to pick a feather from the floor

37. b) Sitting at her bench the widow smiled for the first time in weeks when her eldest daughter stooped to pick a feather from the floor

37. c) Sitting at her bench the widow smiled for the first time in weeks when her eldest daughter stooped to pick a feather from the floor

Why are the following sentences poorly punctuated? How would you punctuate or rewrite them? 2 pt. each.

38. Luckily, the integrity and fortitude, that enabled her to move forward, also helped her to enjoy the lighter side of life.

39. She finished her work, (there wasn't much to do) and then moved to the dining area.

40. The children with bright clean faces smiling at a tune their sister was singing looked up as their mother entered the room!
