



6. Shakespeare Quiz

1. In which of the following decades were Shakespeare's sonnets written?

- a) 1580s
- b) 1590s**
- c) 1600s
- b) 1610s

2. In what year were Shakespeare's sonnets first published?

- a) 1600
- b) 1609**
- c) 1619
- d) 1630

3. How many sonnets does Shakespeare's collection contain?

- a) 154**
- b) 160
- c) 164
- d) 170

4. Which is the last sonnet of part one of the collection?

- a) 120
- b) 122
- c) 124
- d) 126**

5. Which of these events took place in the same year that Shakespeare's sonnets were published?

- a) The Dutch signed a twelve year truce with Spain ushering in the Golden Age of the Dutch Republic
- b) Galileo demonstrated his first telescope to Venetian lawmakers
- c) Cosimo II de Medici became the Grand Duke of Tuscany
- d) All of the above**

6. Which of the following authors did Shakespeare's sonnets influence?

- a) John Dryden
- b) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- c) John Keats
- d) All of the above**

7. Which of the following poets referred to the "dark lady" sonnet sequence as "abominably harsh, obscure & worthless"?

- a) Miguel de Cervantes
- b) Thomas Campion
- c) Ben Jonson
- d) William Wordsworth**

8. Which Latin concept explored by Shakespeare in his sonnets refers to a state which lies between eternity and the temporal existence of material beings?

- a) Aelus
- b) Aegae
- c) Aevum**
- d) Aedivum

9. It is thought that the publisher of the collection used an unauthorised manuscript. What was his name?

- a) Henry Thorpe
- b) Frederick Thorpe
- c) Thomas Thorpe**
- d) James Thorpe

10. The sonnets include a dedication to a mystery man. What are the initials of his name?

- a) Mr. W. H.**
- b) Mr. A. R.
- c) Mr. P. S.
- d) Mr. W. S.

11. What is the structure of the majority of the sonnets in the collection?

- a) Three quatrains and a final couplet in trochaic pentameter
- b) Five quatrains and a final couplet in iambic hexameter
- c) Two quatrains and a final couplet in iambic tetrameter
- d) Three quatrains and a final couplet in iambic pentameter**

12. Every English foot contains one long syllable plus one or two short syllables. A long syllable is how much longer than a short one?

- a) **Double the length**
- b) Three times the length
- c) Four times the length
- d) Five times the length

13. The beginning of which quatrain normally marks the “volta” in Shakespeare’s sonnets?

- a) The fourth
- b) The second
- c) The first
- d) **The third**

14. St. Augustine and Shakespeare are considered forerunners of a group of philosophers which included Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus. What is the name of this group?

- a) Essentialists
- b) **Existentialists**
- c) Fatalists
- d) Materialists

15. Which of the following adjectives best describes the nature of the present according to St. Augustine and Shakespeare?

- a) Unvarying
- b) Illusive
- c) **Ephemeral**
- d) Perplexing

16. Which words are missing in the following phrase from “The Confessions Of Saint Augustine”?

“(…) if nothing passed away, time were not; and if nothing were coming, a time to come were not; and if nothing were, time were not.”

- a) past, future
- b) **past, present**
- c) present, past
- d) future, present

17. The first seventeen sonnets of the collection are traditionally called what?

- a) **The procreation sonnets**
- b) The procrastination sonnets
- c) The propagation sonnets
- d) The promulgation sonnets

18. Who is the addressee of part one?

- a) A fair lady
- b) A rival poet
- c) A dark lady
- d) A fair youth**

19. Who is the addressee of part two?

- a) A fair lady
- b) A rival poet
- c) A dark lady**
- d) A fair youth

20. Which of the two characters in the collection are having an affair?

- a) The rival poet and author
- b) The dark lady and fair youth**
- c) The author and fair youth
- d) The dark lady and rival poet

21. Which of the characters of the collection is overtly sexually desired by the speaker?

- a) The fair youth
- b) The dark lady**
- c) The rival poet
- d) None of the above

22. Which of the following is a theme dealt with in Shakespeare's sonnets?

- a) Love
- b) Mortality
- c) The passage of time
- d) All of the above**

23. In his sonnets, Shakespeare refers to two ways to achieve a kind of immortality. What are they?

- a) Charity and penitence
- b) Organ donation and embalming
- c) Literature and fatherhood**
- d) Sculpture and music

24. Which word does Shakespeare always rhyme with youth in the sonnets, whenever either word occurs at the end of the line?

- a) Forsooth
- b) Proof
- c) Truth**
- d) Uncouth

25. Sonnets 18, 60 and 73 all elaborate on the Ovidian concept “Tempus edax rerum”. What does this mean?

- a) Time, that devours all things**
- b) Time, that always returns
- c) Time, that keeps moving
- d) Time, that stops all things

26. With sonnet 18 ("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day"), the tone of the sonnets changes towards what?

- a) Indifference
- b) Joviality
- c) Light-heartedness
- d) Romantic intimacy**

27. In the fourth verse of sonnet 18, we can find vocabulary belonging to which of the following semantic fields?

- a) Travel
- b) Military
- c) Economics**
- d) Food

28. The “eye of heaven” in the fifth verse of sonnet 18 refers to what?

- a) God
- b) The sun**
- c) The moon
- d) A raincloud

29. In the following verse from sonnet 18, what are possible interpretations of the word “untrimmed”?

By chance or nature's changing course untrimmed

- a) With a lack of decoration and frills
- b) Like the sails on a ship which have not been adjusted to catch the wind properly
- c) Unruly or disorganised
- d) All of the above**

30. The phrase “nature’s changing course” refers to the fact that the only thing which is constant in nature is change itself. What is the name of a figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms in this way?

- a) Antanagoge
- b) Simile
- c) Parataxis
- d) Oxymoron**

31. What is the referent of the definite pronoun “this” in the last verse of sonnet 18?

*So long lives **this** and **this** gives life to thee*

- a) The sonnet**
- b) Their anger
- c) The youth’s good looks
- d) Nature

32. What is the meaning of “eternal summer” in the ninth verse of sonnet 18?

*But thy **eternal summer** shall not fade*

- a) Confidence
- b) Love
- c) Youth**
- d) Happiness

33. We can find alliteration of which letter in the final couplet of sonnet 18?

- a) S**
- b) P
- c) L
- d) N

34. In sonnet 60, Shakespeare highlights the fact that time both gives life and kills (“And Time that gave doth now his gift confound”). This seemingly self-contradictory statement is an example of which rhetorical device?

- a) Simile
- b) Paradox**
- c) Hyperbole
- d) Eponym

35. Which of the following ways of dying was seen as physical and moral annihilation by many classical authors, including Shakespeare?

- a) Death by combat
- b) Starving
- c) Drowning**
- d) Getting old

36. The first verse of sonnet 60 (“Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore”) is an example of which rhetorical figure?

- a) Simile**
- b) Metaphor
- c) Paradox
- d) Anadiplosis

37. In the second verse of sonnet 60, Shakespeare refers to “our minutes”. Some critics believe that this is a deliberate pun (60 minutes in an hour). What is the technical term for this?

- a) Paronomasia**
- b) Paranomesia
- c) Paranormasia
- d) Paranormesia

38. In sonnet 60, what is the cyclic rhythm of waves compared to?

- a) The rhythm of the words in the sonnet
- b) The speaker’s heartbeat
- c) The changing seasons of the year
- d) The passing of time in our lives**

39. Which dimensions of time are explored in sonnet 60?

- a) Chronological
- b) Physiological
- c) Psychological
- d) a) and c) are correct**

40. In the sixth verse of sonnet 60, the verb “to crawl” refers to what? (“Nativity (...) crawls to maturity”)

- a) Slowness
- b) Resistance
- c) A baby’s way of moving
- d) All of the above**

41. In the tenth verse of sonnet 60, what are the “parallels” in “beauty's brow”?

- a) Similarities
- b) Doubts
- c) Wrinkles**
- d) Eyes

42. In the twelfth verse of sonnet 60, what does time’s scythe represent?

- a) Harvest
- b) Death**
- c) Life
- d) Winter

43. The first verse of sonnet 73 (“That time of year thou mayst in me behold”) is an example of which rhetorical figure?

- a) Hyperbole
- b) Paradox
- c) Metaphor**
- d) Simile

44. The use of the first person pronoun “me” gives an autobiographical tone to sonnet 73. How many times does it appear in total?

- a) 2
- b) 3**
- c) 4
- d) 5

45. Which of the following verbs of perception does not appear in sonnet 73?

- a) Regard**
- b) Perceive
- c) See
- d) Behold

46. In the fourth verse of sonnet 73, what do the “Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang” refer to?

- a) The closure of Catholic convents and monasteries as a result of Henry VIII’s Act of Supremacy**
- b) The closure of Protestant convents and monasteries as a result of Henry VIII’s Act of Supremacy
- c) The closure of Catholic convents and monasteries as a result of Henry VII’s Act of Supremacy
- d) The closure of Catholic convents and monasteries as a result of Henry VII’s Act of Union

47. In the eighth verse of sonnet 73, what is “death's second self”?

- a) Night
- b) Life
- c) Time**
- d) The Devil

48. Which of the following symbols does not appear in sonnet 73?

- a) Green leaves**
- b) Fire
- c) Ashes
- d) Death bed

49. What do the last two sonnets of the collection imply that lust can lead to?

- a) A venereal disease**
- b) Lies
- c) A broken heart
- d) Insanity

50. What is the title of the narrative poem written in rhyme royal which was published as an appendix to the original edition of Shakespeare's sonnets?

- a) A Lover's Concern
- b) A Lover's Conceit
- c) A Lover's Complaint**
- d) A Lover's Complacency