



Exercise - Predict Answers First

Directions: Read each passage and answer the questions following it in your own words first. Next, proceed to the multiple choice answers and attempt to select the correct multiple choice answer.

Passage 1:

Heaven has appointed to one sex the superior, and to the other the subordinate station, and this without any reference to the character or conduct of either. It is therefore as much for the dignity as it is for the interest of females, in all respects to conform to the duties of this relation....But while woman holds a subordinate relation in society to the other sex, it is not because it was designed that her duties or her influence should be any the less important, or all-pervading. But it was designed that the mode of gaining influence and of exercising power should be altogether different and peculiar....

A man may act on society by the collision of intellect, in public debate; he may urge his measures by a sense of shame, by fear and by personal interest; he may coerce by the combination of public sentiment; he may drive by physical force, and he does not outstep the boundaries of his sphere. But all the power, and all the conquests that are lawful to woman, are those only which appeal to the kindly, generous, peaceful and benevolent principles.

Woman is to win everything by peace and love; by making herself so much respected, esteemed and loved,

that to yield to her opinions and to gratify her wishes, will be the free-will offering of the heart. But this is to be all accomplished in the domestic and social circle. There let every woman become so cultivated and refined in intellect, that her taste and judgment will be respected; so benevolent in feeling and action; that her motives will be revered;—so unassuming and unambitious, that collision and competition will be banished;—so “gentle and easy to be entreated,” as that every heart will repose in her presence; then, the fathers, the husbands, and the sons, will find an influence thrown around them, to which they will yield not only willingly but proudly....

A woman may seek the aid of cooperation and combination among her own sex, to assist her in her appropriate offices of piety, charity, maternal and Domestic duty; but whatever, in any measure, throws a woman into the attitude of a combatant, either for herself or others—whatever binds her in a party conflict—whatever obliges her in any way to exert coercive influences, throws her out of her appropriate sphere. If these general principles are correct, they are entirely opposed to the plan of arraying females in any Abolition movement.

Predicted Answers: Answer the following question with your predicted answer before proceeding to the multiple-choice answers.

1. What does the author suggest about a combative woman?
2. What point does the author make about the status of women relative to that of men?
3. The author implies that women’s effect on public life is mainly what?
4. In line 2, "station" most nearly means what?
5. In line 13, “peculiar” most nearly means what?

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct multiple-choice answer to the same questions.

1. What does the author suggest about a combative woman?

- A. Society should frown upon her.
- B. She should join the abolition movement.
- C. She should be obliged to exert whatever coercive influences she can.
- D. She will be out of place.

2. What point does the author make about the status of women relative to that of men

- A. Women depend on men for their safety and security, but men are largely independent of women.
- B. Women are inferior to men, but women play a role as significant as that played by men.
- C. Women have inferior rights than men do, but women also have fewer responsibilities.
- D. Women are superior to men, but society requires women to be obedient.

3. The author implies that women's effect on public life is mainly what?

- A. overlooked because men are generally uninterested in women's political ideas.
- B. indirect, because women exert their influence within the home and family life.
- C. inconsequential, because men are able to govern society themselves.
- D. symbolic, because women tend to be more idealistic about politics than men are.

4. In line 2, "station" most nearly means what?

- A. region
- B. studio
- C. district
- D. rank

5. In line 13, "peculiar" most nearly means what?

- A. weird
- B. surprising
- C. unique
- D. infrequent

Exercise Answer Key:

1. D

Evidence (lines 40-45): “but whatever, in any measure, throws a woman into the attitude of a combatant, either for herself or others—...throws her out of her appropriate sphere.” A combative woman is out of her sphere or place.

2. B

Evidence (lines 6-10): “But while woman holds a subordinate relation in society to the other sex, it is not because it was designed that her duties or her influence should be any the less important, or all-pervading.” Women are inferior, but they assume an equally important role.

3. B

Evidence (lines 25-35): “But this is to be all accomplished in the domestic and social circle. There let every woman become so cultivated and refined in intellect...then, the fathers, the husbands, and the sons, will find an influence thrown around them, to which they will yield not only willingly but proudly.” Women can influence public life through their indirect influence on men.

TIP: Many students correctly identified that the author thought a woman's position was inferior to man in the previous question, so it seems reasonable to conclude the author implied a woman's role is less important. However, the text specifically refutes that natural supposition. Watch out for interpretations on the SHSAT and stick to answers that restate or demonstrate the text. Also, if you noticed that answer options A and C are similar in that they both say a woman's effect on public life is inferior, and you realized that similarity is important, then you are on your way to becoming a trained test taker. There cannot be two alike multiple-choice answers that are both correct. There is always only one correct multiple-choice answer. Unless there are additional parts of the answer choices that differ, then the two answers must be wrong.

4. D

Evidence (lines 1-2): “to one sex the superior, and to the other the subordinate station (rank).” “Superior” and “subordinate” indicate rank.

5. C

Evidence (lines 9-12): “But it was designed that the mode of gaining influence and of exercising power should be altogether different and peculiar.” “Peculiar” should be synonymous with the word connected by the and condition in the same sentence, “different.” “Unique” is the correct expression of “different.” Options like weird imply a different connotation like strange or bizarre, not just different.

Discussion & Review of Passage 1:

Compare your predicted answers to the correct multiple-choice answers. Did your predicted answers match the correct answer? Did your predicted answers help you navigate the multiple-choice answers without being deceived by the wording in the multiple-choice answers? Were there any examples where your predicted answers did not align with any of the multiple-choice answers? How did you proceed?

Passage 2:

The investigation of the rights of the slave has led me to a better understanding of my own. I have found the Anti-Slavery cause to be the high school of morals in our land—the school in which human rights are more

5. fully investigated, and better understood and taught, than in any other. Here a great fundamental principle is uplifted and illuminated, and from this central light, rays innumerable stream all around.

Human beings have rights, because they are moral

10. beings: the rights of all men grow out of their moral nature; and as all men have the same moral nature, they have essentially the same rights. These rights may be wrested from the slave, but they cannot be alienated: his title to himself is as perfect now, as is that of Lyman
15. Beecher:¹ it is stamped on his moral being, and is, like it, imperishable. Now if rights are founded in the nature of our moral being, then the mere circumstance of sex does not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman. To suppose that it does, would be to
20. deny the self-evident truth, that the “physical constitution is the mere instrument of the moral nature.” To suppose that it does, would be to break up utterly the relations, of the two natures, and to reverse their functions, exalting the animal nature into a
25. monarch, and humbling the moral into a slave; making the former a proprietor, and the latter its property. When human beings are regarded as moral beings, sex, instead of being enthroned upon the summit, administering upon rights and responsibilities, sinks
30. into insignificance and nothingness. My doctrine then is, that whatever it is morally right for man to do, it is morally right for woman to do. Our duties originate, not from difference of sex, but from the diversity of our relations in life, the various gifts and talents
35. committed to our care, and the different eras in which we live.

¹ Lyman Beecher was a well-known minister and the father of Catharine Beecher

Predicted Answers: Answer the following question with your predicted answer before proceeding to the multiple-choice answers.

1. What is the main idea?
2. What is the author's view of human rights?
3. What is the relationship between passage 1 and passage 2?
4. What claim would the authors of passage 1 and passage 2 agree on?
5. How would the author of passage 1 react to lines 16-19 of passage 2?

Multiple Choice Answers: Circle the correct multiple-choice answer to the same questions.

1. What is the main idea?
 - A. The rights of individuals are not determined by race or gender.
 - B. Both sexes must work together to improve society.
 - C. Morality is the most important difference between human beings and animals.
 - D. Men and women should have equal opportunities to grow.
2. What is the author's view of human rights?
 - A. They vary from culture to culture around the world.
 - B. They retain their moral authority regardless of whether they are recognized by law.
 - C. They sometimes do not adhere to moral responsibilities.
 - D. They have evolved and become more refined throughout time.

3. What is the relationship between passage 1 and passage 2?

- A. Passage 2 highlights certain difficulties of a proposal made in Passage 1.
- B. Passage 2 takes issue with the main argument of Passage 1.
- C. Passage 2 provides a historical background for the viewpoint introduced in Passage 1.
- D. Passage 2 elaborates upon several ideas from passage 1

4. What claim would the authors of passage 1 and passage 2 agree on?

- A. Women have moral duties and responsibilities.
- B. Men often work in the interest of others for political change.
- C. The ethical obligations of women are frequently underappreciated.
- D. Political activism is equally important to women and men.

5. How would the author of passage 1 react to lines 16-19 of passage 2?

- A. sympathy because she feels that human beings owe each other a debt to work together in the world.
- B. agreement because she feels that human responsibilities are a natural product of human rights.
- C. dismay because she feels that women actually have a more difficult role to play in society than men do.
- D. disagreement because she feels that the natures of men and women are fundamentally different.

Answer Key:

1. A

Evidence (lines 9-13 and 16-19): “Human beings have rights, because they are moral beings: the rights of all men grow out of their moral nature; and as all men have the same moral nature, they have essentially the same rights” All men have the same rights. “Now if rights are founded in the nature of our moral being, then the mere circumstance of sex does not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman.” Women have the same rights as men.

2. B

Evidence (lines 12-16): “These rights may be wrested from the slave, but they cannot be alienated: his title to himself is as perfect now... it is stamped on his moral being, and is, like it, imperishable.” Human rights are stamped on our moral being and are imperishable, which implies they persist regardless of the law.

TIP: Many test takers provide a more general answer to this question similar to the previous question like, “They are universal,” to explain the author's view on human rights. However, no answer choices reflect that general idea in this case. Often correct answer choices focus on a more specific example or aspect of the author's view. In many cases, although the predicted answer wasn't on target, the context surrounding the predicted answer will help test takers identify the particular correct answer choice. In either case, the correct answer can be found in the text. It will restate the text or provide an example of what is described in the text as in this example.

3. B

Evidence (big picture-passages comparison): Passage 1 states women are inferior to men and passage 2 states men and women have equal rights. These are opposing claims. They are not illustrating, elaborating or providing historical context for one another.

4. A

Evidence (big picture-passages comparison): Both passages state women have moral duties. Passage 2 states, “My doctrine then is, that whatever it is morally right for man to do, it is morally right for woman to do. Our duties originate, not from difference of sex.” Passage 1 demonstrates women have moral duties: “Woman is to win everything by peace and love; by making herself so much respected, esteemed and loved, that to yield to her opinions and to gratify her wishes, will be the free-will offering of the heart.” Ethical obligations and political change or activism are not indicated in either passage.

5. D

Evidence (big picture-passages comparison): “Now if rights are founded in the nature of our moral being, then the mere circumstance of sex does not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman.” The author of passage 1 stated men are superior, and women are subordinate, so he would disagree with the claim that a man does not have higher rights.

Discussion & Review of Passage 2:

Compare your predicted answers to the correct multiple-choice answers. Did your predicted answers match the correct answer? Did your predicted answers help you navigate the multiple-choice answers without being deceived by the wording in the multiple-choice answers? Were there any examples where your predicted answers did not align with any of the multiple-choice answers? How did you proceed? Note the last few questions included a comparison of the first passage to the second which is modeled after the SAT and not a question type on the current SHSAT but do not be surprised if that changes by the time you take the SHSAT.