

*Part 2: Preparing for the Exam*

**5. d** In the second half of paragraph 33, the author describes the evolution of the stone used to make the crown of Jerry's hat.

**Mark Twain, Corn-Pone Opinions**

**1. d** The story of Jerry illustrates that Twain has been thinking about his subject since he was fifteen years old. His use of detail and dialect demonstrate the impact and staying power of this memory. His admission that he was defying his mother connects with his audience and adds to the feeling that he is being honest. As the essay progresses, Twain develops his own arguments as extensions of his thinking about the topic, but not as extensions of the incident itself.

**2. e** Twain describes Jerry as “the greatest orator in the United States” (para. 1). Jerry’s wiliness is shown through the anecdote of how cleverly he makes sounds with his mouth to keep “his master from coming out to see how the work was getting along,” thereby allowing Jerry to continue speaking.

**3. a** Twain’s depiction of Jerry’s exact pronunciation illustrates dialect.

**4. b** In paragraph 4, Twain outlines Jerry’s ideas of “corn-pone opinions” as those that will not cause damage “in [a man’s] social standing and in his business prosperities.” For option (d), ideas based on “self-approval” and “group approval” tend to be at odds with each other.

**5. d** Twain states that he believes Jerry is right but goes on to enumerate his own interpretation of why people do not think for themselves. Whereas Jerry, as a slave, has limited experience of human society on which to base his claims, Twain draws his explanations from his own experiences within mainstream American society, specifically his observations of women’s fashion and men’s political behaviors. The enumeration of his points serves as a shift from Jerry’s ideas to his own observations, which he outlines in these two points.

**6. b** Twain begins by establishing that Jerry’s sermons about “corn-pone” thinking were delivered “[f]ifty years ago, when I was a boy of fifteen” (para. 1). He first clarifies Jerry’s argument, then amends Jerry’s argument (para. 5), then follows with contemporary observations of women’s fashions and men’s political behavior.

**7. e** The paragraph has several rhetorical questions (e.g., “Why? Was the resentment reasoned out? Was the acceptance reasoned out?”). Parallelism is present in the second and third sentences as well as the sentences at the end of the paragraph about the “empress” and the “nobody.” The conditional statement is Twain’s hypothetical suggestion about Eve in the penultimate sentence, which is also an allusion. There is no definition within the paragraph.

*Multiple-Choice Answers and Rationales*

**8. a** Twain's point in paragraph 7 is that women will adopt a wide range of fashion trends just to fit in, whether that trendsetter is an empress or a nobody. At first, as with the hoopskirt, people may mock the trend, but it will quickly be adopted. His use of Eve as a fashion trendsetter refers to her nakedness in the Garden of Eden, a fashion that would "cruelly" embarrass women at first but that, like the hoopskirt, would be quickly embraced.

**9. a** All of the other statements are part of Twain's argument that people's decision making is based on their feelings and desires to be accepted rather than on any type of rational thinking. Answer (a) illustrates Jerry's clever deception.

**10. c** Through his humor and use of irony, Twain illustrates his amusement toward human behavior throughout the essay. However, his point that people do not think for themselves is a serious criticism of society.