



Honors English 9 Proficiency Test

Initial Date: Wednesday, May 5 from 3:30-5 p.m.

Makeup Date: Wednesday, May 12 from 4-4:30 p.m.*

Eligibility and Test Information:

- This test is for incoming freshmen who wish to enroll in Honors English 9. All students are eligible to take this test, however we recommend it for students who meet the following criteria:
 - Scored at or above the 75% percentile on the reading and verbal sections of the HSPT (if scores are available)
 - Have a strong interest in English, including reading and writing.
- The Honors English test will take one hour (additional time is scheduled for giving instructions and getting settled). Students also taking the Honors World History test will be able to complete both exams in one hour. Students also taking the Honors Biology test should expect to spend one hour and fifteen minutes testing for multiple exams.

Topics include:

1. Students will be asked to read a passage or article, discern what is important, and articulate what the passage is about.
2. The multiple choice portion assesses basic reading comprehension skills including: reading a nonfiction or literary passage or poem, identifying the author's meaning, identifying specific evidence to support a claim, and interpreting meaning from context clues.

**Please make every effort to test on one of these dates. If you are unable to, please contact Dr. Duwel, aduwel@presentationhs.org.*



Honors English and Honors World History Proficiency Test Practice Questions

The following four questions represent the types of questions you may see on the Proficiency Test for Honors English and Honors World History. The written portion of these tests is similar in nature to the written portion on the Honors Biology I test. Both tests are an assessment of skills, not content.

Use this passage from "The Things They Carried" to answer the following two questions:

"Grief, terror, love, longing -- these were intangibles, but the intangibles had their own mass and specific gravity, they had tangible weight. They carried shameful memories. They carried the common secret of cowardice barely restrained, the instinct to run or freeze or hide, and in many respects this was the heaviest burden of all, for it could never be put down, it required perfect balance and perfect posture" (O'Brien 368).

1. What is the main idea, or theme of this passage?
 - a. The boys are all scared of death.
 - b. Falling over is a constant fear in war.
 - c. Living life to the fullest will stop regrets when in a combat zone.
 - d. The emotional weight is more than the physical weight of their gear.
 - e. The leaders must focus on the tasks at hand for the safety of their men.

2. What particular phrases lead you to believe this?
 - a. The repetition of the word "carried"
 - b. The lack of respect for physical objects
 - c. "The instinct to run, freeze or hide"
 - d. "Grief, terror, love, longing"



Use the following passage from "The Interpreter of Maladies" to answer the next two questions:

"I beg your pardon, Mrs. Das, but why have you told me this information?" Mr. Kapasi asked when she had finally finished speaking, and had turned to face him once again.

'For God's sake, stop calling me Mrs. Das. I'm twenty-eight. You probably have children my age.'

'Not quite.' It disturbed Mr. Kapasi to learn that she thought of him as a parent. The feeling he had toward her, that had made him check his reflection in the rearview mirror as they drove, evaporated a little" (Lahiri 65).

3. Why does Mr. Kapasi check his reflection in the rearview mirror so often according to this passage?
 - a. He becomes self-conscious about his physical appearance to Mrs. Das.
 - b. He wants to remember what his own young daughters look like.
 - c. He is worried that the children will unlock the door and open it while he drives.
 - d. He is fearful Mrs. Das will abandon him at any time, rejecting his newfound affection for her.
 - e. He looks back on his own life constantly with regrets.
4. What realization does Mr. Kapasi have about Mrs. Das and himself?
 - a. He realizes that she sees him as a father figure, and he was wrong about her "romantic" comment; she is not interested in him romantically at all.
 - b. He cannot understand her problem of her boredom with her husband and life.
 - c. They are so different, they cannot relate to one another.
 - d. She is an American, they live too far apart to care for one another.

Key:

1. D, 2. A, 3. A, 4. A

Updated 3/30/2021