

***Volpone* (ca. 1605)  
By Ben Jonson (England)**

**Directions:** This part consists of selections from prose works and questions on their content form and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

**Note:** Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-9 concern *Volpone* by Ben Jonson

1. Throughout the passage, Volpone is addressing
  - (A) Mosca
  - (B) the sun
  - (C) his gold
  - (D) his beloved
  - (E) himself
2. Which of the following adjectives best describes Volpone's speech?
  - (A) Ironic
  - (B) Idolatrous
  - (C) Mendacious
  - (D) Understated
  - (E) Devious
3. In the simile in line 8, "night" is used to stand for
  - (A) chaos
  - (B) the source of Volpone's riches
  - (C) the evil that wealth can make people commit
  - (D) Volpone's dark robes
  - (E) Volpone's possessions that are not made of gold
4. The phrase "that age which they would have the best" (line 15) refers to
  - (A) youth
  - (B) maturity
  - (C) the Renaissance
  - (D) the Golden Age
  - (E) the Iron Age
5. Lines 22- 23 are based on which of the following?
  - (A) Paradoxical hyperbole
  - (B) Mixed metaphors
  - (C) A syllogism
  - (D) Circular reasoning
  - (E) Dramatic irony
6. In line 24, "to boot" means
  - (A) to reckon with
  - (B) to pay
  - (C) to own
  - (D) instead
  - (E) in addition

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7. Which of the following best paraphrases lines 26 – 27 (“Who can get thee,/ He shall be noble, valiant, honest, wise”)?
- (A) It is better to be noble, valiant, honest and wise than to have riches.
  - (B) A rich person will be esteemed noble, valiant, honest and wise
  - (C) A virtuous person is likely to become wealthy as well.
  - (D) Nobility, valor, honesty and wisdom will make a person happy.
  - (E) Getting riches may cause a person to disregard nobility, valor, honesty and wisdom.
8. Mosca’s comment “Riches are in fortune/ A greater good than wisdom in nature” (lines 28 – 29) does which of the following?
- (A) Asserts that riches are the equivalent of wisdom.
  - (B) Implies that acquiring riches is more natural than acquiring good fortune.
  - (C) Compares fortune to riches.
  - (D) Suggests that wisdom can add riches to nature.
  - (E) Contrasts a gift conferred by fortune with a gift conferred by nature.
9. Which of the following is used most extensively in the passage?
- (A) Religious language
  - (B) The language of finances
  - (C) Pastoral imagery
  - (D) Animal imagery
  - (E) Images of disorder

**END OF SECTION I.**

**IF FINISHED BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY  
CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.**