

**Sestina (1965)**  
**By Elizabeth Bishop (United States, Canada, Brazil)**

**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 1-10 concern “Sestina” by Elizabeth Bishop.

1. The mood of the poem is best described as
  - (A) satiric
  - (B) suspenseful
  - (C) reproachful
  - (D) elegiac
  - (E) quizzical
2. In line 10, “known to” is best interpreted as
  - (A) imagined by
  - (B) intended for
  - (C) predicted by
  - (D) typified in
  - (E) experienced by
3. In line 19, “Birdlike” describes the
  - (A) markings on the pages of the almanac
  - (B) whimsicality of the almanac’s sayings
  - (C) shape and movement of the almanac
  - (D) child’s movements toward the almanac
  - (E) grandmother’s movements toward the almanac
4. Between lines 24 and 25 and between lines 32 and 33, there is a shift from
  - (A) understatement to hyperbole
  - (B) realism to fantasy
  - (C) optimism to pessimism
  - (D) present events to recalled events
  - (E) formal diction to informal diction
5. The child’s attitude is best described as one of
  - (A) anxious dismay
  - (B) feigned sympathy
  - (C) absorbed fascination
  - (D) silent remorse
  - (E) fretful boredom
6. All of the following appear to shed tears or be filled with tears EXCEPT the
  - (A) child
  - (B) teacup
  - (C) almanac
  - (D) teakettle
  - (E) grandmother
7. The grandmother and the child in the poem are portrayed primarily through descriptions of their
  - (A) actions
  - (B) thoughts
  - (C) conversation
  - (D) facial expressions
  - (E) physical characteristics

8. Throughout the poem, the imagery suggests that
- (A) both nature and human beings are animated by similar forces
  - (B) most human activities have more lasting consequences than is commonly realized
  - (C) past events have little influence on activities of the present
  - (D) both natural and artificial creations are highly perishable
  - (E) the optimism of youth differs only slightly from the realism of age
9. Which of the following literary devices most significantly contributes to the unity of the poem?
- (A) Use of internal rhyme
  - (B) Use of epigrammatic expressions
  - (C) Use of alliteration
  - (D) Repetition of key words
  - (E) Repetition of syntactic patterns
10. The poet's attitude toward the characters in the poem is best described as a combination of
- (A) detachment and understanding
  - (B) disdain and curiosity
  - (C) envy and suspicion
  - (D) approval and amusement
  - (E) respect and resentment

**END OF SECTION I.**

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