

Meditation VI (1624)
By John Donne (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 1-14 concern "Meditation VI" by John Donne.

1. The passage contains all of the following rhetorical devices EXCEPT
 - (A) paradox
 - (B) repetition
 - (C) contrast
 - (D) apostrophic speech
 - (E) parallel syntax
2. It can be inferred from the passage that the speaker would agree with which of the following statements about fear?
 - (A) Freedom from fear is fully realizable only in the afterlife.
 - (B) Harboring fear is the greatest offense a believer can commit.
 - (C) Fear arises in people who have more weaknesses than most.
 - (D) Fear is as simple to understand as any physical malady.
 - (E) Ignoring fear is the sanest way of confronting it.
3. In the passage's second sentence the speaker uses language that might best describe a
 - (A) fistfight
 - (B) political upheaval
 - (C) rugby match
 - (D) courtroom interrogation
 - (E) footrace
4. It is most likely that the physician "makes his pace slow" (line 4) in order to
 - (A) study the reaction his meticulousness provokes
 - (B) admit that the illness is chronic and must be observed at length
 - (C) remind himself that a careless examination could prove fatal
 - (D) trick his patient into believing that recovery is still possible
 - (E) hide his concern under the cover of medical procedure
5. The Speaker's physician is concerned that his patients fear may
 - (A) make him susceptible to delusions
 - (B) weaken the efficacy of the treatment
 - (C) subvert his desire to continue living
 - (D) cause him to renounce his faith
 - (E) prompt him to refuse medical attention
6. The comparisons in lines 11-17 of fear with the spleen and "wind in the body" suggest that fear is all of the following EXCEPT
 - (A) deceptive
 - (B) pervasive
 - (C) injurious
 - (D) congenital
 - (E) dynamic

Meditation VI (1624)
By John Donne (England)

7. In lines 19-22, the speaker suggests that unauthentic valor is motivated by
- (A) misguided altruism
 - (B) self-destructive ambition
 - (C) self-conscious insecurity
 - (D) financial considerations
 - (E) hypocritical tendencies
8. The sentence beginning "A man that is not afraid of a lion" (lines 22-30) supports the speaker's proposition that fear
- (A) is in fact a trivial emotion
 - (B) is a flaw found in everyone's character
 - (C) is unpredictable and not bound by logic
 - (D) cannot be mastered except by uncommon resolve
 - (E) may be exploited by one who understands it
9. One could at least partially rebut the implication of lines 22-30 by noting that a man who "is afraid of some joint of meat at the table" might
- (A) habitually decline offers of drink as well
 - (B) lack an interest in food
 - (C) prefer to dine in solitude
 - (D) justifiably suspect his host's intentions
 - (E) believe that taking food corrupts the spirit
10. "They" in line 26 refers to
- (A) "drums, and trumpets, and shot" (lines 25-26)
 - (B) "those" (line 26)
 - (C) "the last cries of men" (line 27)
 - (D) "any of these" (line 29)
 - (E) "the enemy" (line 29)
11. A more conventional, but still accurate, replacement for "nor" in line 31 would be
- (A) but
 - (B) and
 - (C) since
 - (D) yet
 - (E) unless
12. "I fear not the hastening of my death, and yet I do fear the increase of the disease" (lines 32-33) appears to be a contradictory statement because
- (A) fear of one thing affects each of the mind's concerns
 - (B) both death and life are insignificant before God
 - (C) death provides relief to believers and non-believers alike
 - (D) not fearing death logically leads to welcoming it
 - (E) worsening illness and approaching death are usually concomitants
13. At the conclusion the speaker finds that he
- (A) is able to contain and temper his fear
 - (B) cannot tame his emotions without the help of others
 - (C) may speed his own recovery by keeping calm and optimistic
 - (D) has regained his belief in God's omnipotence
 - (E) can enjoy life more after having accepted death
14. Which of the following seems LEAST compatible with the speaker's conception of God?
- (A) God is a boundless being.
 - (B) God favors those who praise him.
 - (C) God's presence pervades all things.
 - (D) God ennobles the human soul.
 - (E) God can be a source of solace.