

Solutions for Rumack's Preparation Workbook Language Section: 3.6

Poetry Passage 1

1. The correct answer is (E) early spring. "The passionate wind of spring-time " clarifies that it is indeed spring, however the line that states, "The air is sunny and chill," suggests that it is early spring. This is because in early spring the temperature is generally much cooler than the later period of spring.
2. The correct answer is (B) trembles. The line says that the tree "quivers" like a human heart. The human heart beats in small, quick movements, and trembles is the answer choice that best describes this.
3. The correct answer is (B) It is separated from the other trees. "Lone and tall...the birch tree stands apart" implies that it stands apart, or away, from other trees. If it is "lone," or alone, there are not other trees near it.
4. The correct answer is (D) a person. The speaker describes the movements as "like a human heart."
5. The correct answer is (C) joyful. The speaker of the poem is describing the scene with rhythm and excitement, which is evident when looking the adjectives used (passionate) and the punctuation used (multiple exclamation marks).

Poetry Passage 2

1. **CORRECTION:** The Answer Key states (A) the swallow, but the correct answer is (D) the summer. The pronoun "her" cannot refer to the swallow, as the swallow is identified as male ("his mate will follow) in the second stanza. The first and second stanza talk about the speaker noticing that summer has returned, and from one summer to the last would be one year.
2. The correct answer is (E) the previous summer was better. She suggests this by comparing this summer to the last, "Oh, last summer green things were greener, Brambles fewer, the blue sky bluer." The negative aspects of summer (brambles) were fewer, and the positive aspects (blue skies) were more pronounced.

3. The correct answer is (A) compare the swallow's happiness to her own. The speaker says the swallow is "happy," and then says that she would like to be like the swallow. In poetry, comparisons are rarely literal- the speaker does not want to be an actual bird, but to have/be what the bird represents: happiness with a mate.
4. The correct answer is (E) because she sees a swallow. This is stated in the line, "It's surely summer, for there's a swallow." The speaker is sure it is summer because of the presence of a swallow.
5. The correct answer is (C) her thoughts about love. The final stanza seems to be a metaphor for the relationship she longs for in a mate:

"Oh happy swallow whose mate will follow O'er height, o'er hollow! I'd be a swallow, To build this weather one nest together."

The speaker perhaps longs for the union and safety of loving mate and displays enthusiasm and excitement for the possibility of attaining this.

Poetry Passage 3

1. The correct answer is (C) I and III. He compares his love to a rose in the first line "my luv'e's like a red, red, rose," and compares his love to a song in the third line when saying "my luv'e's like the melodie, That's sweetly play'd in tune." "Melodie" and "tune" are both aspects of a song.
2. The correct answer is (D) the speaker will love her forever because the seas will never dry up. The word "gang" means "go", saying he will love her when the seas go dry. As the speaker is expressing how much he loves her, one can infer that he will love her forever, since it is unlikely that the seas will dry up (or that the rocks will melt in the sun).
3. The correct answer is (E) this information is not given in the poem. Although some physical objects are mentioned (sand, rocks, sea, etc.), they are only used in comparisons of the speakers love, not to describe a location.
4. The correct answer is (B) he will always remain loyal to his love. Throughout the poem, he suggests he will continue his love forever. In the last stanza of the poem, he bids farewell to his love ("fare thee weel") and says he will come to see her even though he will be far away ("tho' it were ten thousand mile"), implying a strong commitment and loyalty to his love.

5. The correct answer is (C) attractive. The terms “fair” and “attractive” are synonyms, and “fair” was used as a word to describe attractiveness a long time ago. The other language in this poem suggests it is not modern, so that words might have different meanings than their modern definitions.