

English Literature & The Human Body

English Literature · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which classic English novel features a prominent subplot involving the narrator's physical deterioration and eventual death from tuberculosis, a common affliction in the Victorian era?

- A) Pride and Prejudice
- B) Great Expectations**
- C) Wuthering Heights
- D) Jane Eyre

2. In Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', the tragic climax hinges on a misunderstanding related to a potion designed to mimic death. What physiological state was this potion intended to induce?

- A) A coma
- B) A deep, death-like sleep**
- C) Temporary paralysis
- D) Hallucinations

3. The poetry of John Keats, himself a victim of tuberculosis, often contains vivid imagery of physical sensation and mortality. Which of his famous odes directly addresses the fleeting nature of life and the inevitability of physical decline?

- A) Ode to a Nightingale
- B) Ode on a Grecian Urn
- C) To Autumn**
- D) Ode on Melancholy

4. Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' explores themes of life and death, and the creature's existence is a result of artificial reanimation. What is the fundamental biological process that is conceptually reversed or bypassed in the creature's creation?

- A) Photosynthesis
- B) Cellular respiration
- C) Metamorphosis
- D) Natural decomposition**

5. In Charles Dickens' 'A Tale of Two Cities', the character of Dr. Manette suffers from severe psychological trauma after imprisonment. This trauma manifests as a physical ailment that incapacitates him. What is this ailment called?

- A) Dementia
- B) Amnesia**
- C) Hysteria
- D) Catatonia

6. George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' depicts a totalitarian society where physical and psychological control are paramount. The Party's methods aim to suppress natural human drives. Which bodily function is explicitly targeted for manipulation and control through the concept of 'thoughtcrime'?

- A) Digestion
- B) Circulation
- C) Reproduction**
- D) Respiration

7. The novel 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' by Oscar Wilde explores the pursuit of eternal youth and beauty. The titular character's physical body remains unchanged, while his portrait bears the marks of his sins. This directly contrasts with the natural human process of:

- A) Hormonal regulation
- B) Cellular regeneration
- C) Aging and senescence**
- D) Immune response

8. In Alfred Tennyson's 'In Memoriam A.H.H.', the poet grapples with grief. While not explicitly about illness, the poem touches upon the physical and emotional toll of loss, often linked to the human body's response to profound sorrow. This response can lead to:

- A) Increased metabolism
- B) Elevated endorphin levels
- C) Weakened immune system**
- D) Enhanced muscle growth

9. Virginia Woolf's 'Mrs. Dalloway' intricately weaves together the thoughts and experiences of characters over a single day. Clarissa Dalloway's own health concerns, particularly her recurring headaches, reflect a common physiological symptom often exacerbated by psychological stress, a concept explored throughout the novel.

A) Migraines

- B) Asthma attacks
- C) Epileptic seizures
- D) Vertigo

10. The works of D.H. Lawrence often emphasize the importance of instinctual, physical life. His novel 'Sons and Lovers' portrays characters struggling with societal repression and the body's often unspoken needs. The concept of 'sensuality' in Lawrence's work is directly linked to:

- A) Intellectual pursuits
- B) Rational thought processes

C) Physical senses and experiences

- D) Spiritual enlightenment

11. In Thomas Hardy's 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles', the protagonist endures significant hardship. The novel touches upon the physical consequences of poverty and societal pressures, particularly on women's health. The arduous farm labor Tess undertakes directly impacts her:

- A) Cognitive function

B) Physical endurance and well-being

- C) Sensory perception
- D) Emotional stability

12. The plague is a recurring motif in historical literature. In Albert Camus' 'The Plague' (though French, widely influential in English literary circles), the disease is presented as a literal affliction but also a metaphor for an existential human condition. The primary physiological symptom of bubonic plague that gives it its name is:

- A) Fever

B) Bubonic swellings (buboes)

- C) Coughing up blood
- D) Skin rash

13. The poetry of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, particularly 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', features vivid descriptions of physical suffering. The mariner's penance includes extreme thirst, a direct physiological response to dehydration, which affects:

- A) The nervous system
- B) The circulatory system**
- C) The digestive system
- D) The respiratory system

14. In Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's Travels', the Lilliputians are described as minuscule beings. Their physiological proportions would mean their metabolic rate, relative to their body size, is likely to be:

- A) Lower than humans
- B) Similar to humans
- C) Higher than humans**
- D) Unpredictable

15. The concept of 'humors' (blood, phlegm, yellow bile, black bile) was a prevalent medical theory influencing literature for centuries. Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales' indirectly reflects this medical understanding of the body's balance. Imbalance of humors was believed to cause:

- A) Increased intelligence
- B) Emotional and physical illness**
- C) Supernatural abilities
- D) Enhanced memory