Scientific Perspectives in English Literature

English Literature · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which 1818 novel by Mary Shelley is historically cited as being influenced by Luigi Galvani's experiments in galvanism?

A) The Last Man
B) Frankenstein
C) Valperga
D) Lodore

2. H.G. Wells, a pioneer of science fiction, held a Bachelor of Science degree in which subject from the Normal School of Science?

A) Physics
B) Chemistry
C) Biology
D) Geology

3. In the 'Canterbury Tales', which character claims that the study of astronomy and 'natural magic' has provided them with knowledge of the stars?

A) The Clerk
B) The Franklin
C) The Physician
D) The Miller

4. Which English poet was a member of the Royal Society and wrote 'Micrographia', a foundational text in the study of microscopy?

A) John Dryden
B) Robert Hooke
C) Alexander Pope
D) Thomas Shadwell

5. Samuel Taylor Coleridge's lectures on 'The Theory of Life' were deeply influenced by the biological theories of which scientist?

A) John Hunter
B) Erasmus Darwin
C) Humphry Davy
D) Carl Linnaeus

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6. The 17th-century author Margaret Cavendish explored early concepts of microscopic life and atomism in which work?

A) The Blazing World
B) Poems and Fancies
C) Observations upon Experimental Philosophy
D) Nature's Pictures

7. Thomas Malthus, whose 'An Essay on the Principle of Population' influenced Victorian literature, was primarily concerned with the relationship between population growth and what?

A) Technological advancement
B) Food supply
C) Urbanization
D) Global trade

8. In 'Gulliver's Travels', Jonathan Swift satirizes the experiments performed at the Academy of Lagado, which was a parody of which institution?

A) The Royal Society
B) The British Academy
C) The French Academy of Sciences
D) The Royal Observatory

9. Which author's work 'The Time Machine' (1895) applies the concept of the fourth dimension as a physical coordinate in space-time?

A) Jules Verne
B) H.G. Wells
C) Arthur Conan Doyle
D) Aldous Huxley

10. The 'Darwinian' struggle for existence is a central theme in which 1891 novel by Thomas Hardy?

A) Tess of the d'Urbervilles
B) Jude the Obscure
C) The Mayor of Casterbridge
D) Far from the Madding Crowd

11. Which English novelist was the daughter of a prominent mathematician and logician, reflecting scientific rigor in her work?

A) George Eliot
B) Ada Lovelace
C) Mary Anne Evans
D) Charlotte Brontë

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12. The study of phrenology, a pseudo-scientific theory about skull shape and personality, is a recurring theme in which Charlotte Brontë novel?

A) Jane Eyre
B) Villette
C) Shirley
D) The Professor

13. Which literary figure was a close associate of Humphry Davy and coined the term 'scientist' in 1833 to describe those who pursue scientific knowledge?

A) William Wordsworth
B) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
C) William Whewell
D) John Keats

14. Alfred Tennyson's 'In Memoriam A.H.H.' is noted for anticipating which scientific concept prior to the publication of 'On the Origin of Species'?

A) General Relativity
B) Evolutionary change
C) Plate Tectonics
D) Quantum Mechanics

15. In which work does John Milton describe the heliocentric versus geocentric models of the universe, referencing the theories of Galileo?

A) Samson Agonistes
B) Paradise Regained
C) Paradise Lost
D) Comus

16. Which 19th-century author wrote 'The New Chemistry' and contributed to the popularization of chemical science among the literary public?

A) Josiah Parsons Cooke
B) Michael Faraday
C) Charles Babbage
D) John Dalton

17. The Victorian 'sensation novel' genre often utilized which scientific field to explain criminal behavior?

A) Psychiatry
B) Toxicology
C) Forensic anatomy
D) All of the above

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18. Joseph Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness' has been argued by critics to engage with which scientific theory regarding societal degeneration?

A) Lamarckism
B) Social Darwinism
C) Mendelian Genetics
D) Entropy

19. Which English author and polymath wrote 'The Bridgewater Treatises', a series of works attempting to reconcile natural theology with scientific discovery?

A) William Whewell
B) Charles Babbage
C) William Buckland
D) Thomas Chalmers

20. In 'Brave New World', Aldous Huxley references which biological process to describe the mass production of human embryos?

A) Bokanovsky's Process
B) The Pavlovian Method
C) Genetic Mapping
D) Cloning

21. Erasmus Darwin, a grandfather of Charles Darwin, wrote his evolutionary theories in which poetic format?

A) Epic blank verse
B) Heroic couplets
C) Sonnet sequence
D) Free verse

22. Which scientific instrument is prominently featured in the works of early 18th-century writers as a symbol of rational inquiry?

A) The Telescope
B) The Sextant
C) The Barometer
D) The Pendulum Clock

23. The 'Great Chain of Being' was a scientific and philosophical framework challenged by which movement in 19th-century literature?

A) Romanticism
B) Naturalism
C) Modernism
D) Realism

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24. Which Victorian novelist corresponded with Charles Darwin regarding the scientific accuracy of natural history descriptions?

A) Charles Dickens
B) George Eliot
C) Thomas Hardy
D) Robert Louis Stevenson

25. Which English writer was a pioneer in the 'New Woman' fiction, often incorporating themes of heredity and biological determinism?

A) Sarah Grand
B) George Gissing
C) Olive Schreiner
D) Virginia Woolf

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