

COMPONENT B

The University of the State of New York

COMPONENT RETEST

IN

ENGLISH

COMPONENT B MODULE 3

Friday, April 26, 2002 — 9:00 to 9:50 a.m., only

The last page of this booklet is the answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions. Fold the last page along the perforations and, slowly and carefully, tear off the answer sheet. Then fill in the heading of your answer sheet. For this section of the examination, you are to answer all five multiple-choice questions and write two responses, as directed.

When you have completed the examination, you must sign the statement printed on your answer sheet, indicating that you had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that you have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination. Your answer sheet cannot be accepted if you fail to sign this declaration.

DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION BOOKLET UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN.

Directions: Read the passages on the following pages (a short story excerpt and a poem). Write the number of the answer to each multiple-choice question on your answer sheet. Then write your responses to questions 6 and 7 in the space provided on your answer sheet. You may use the margins to take notes as you read.

Passage I

Little Dog

Not that she thought about it very much. Miss Briggs was too used to facing the world alone, minding her own business, and going her own way. But one summer, while returning from Michigan, where she had taken her two weeks' rest, as she came through Cleveland, on her way from the boat to the station there, she happened to pass a dog shop with a window full of fuzzy little white dogs. Miss Briggs called to the taxi man to stop. She got out and went in. When she came back to the taxi, she carried a little white dog named Flips. At least, the dealer said he had been calling it Flips because its ears were so floppy.

"They just flip and flop," the man said, smiling at the tall middle-aged woman.

"How much is he? Miss Briggs asked, holding the puppy up.

"I'll let you have him for twenty-five dollars," the man said.

Miss Briggs put the puppy down. She thought that was a pretty steep price. But there was something about Flips that she liked, so she picked him up again and took him with her. After all, she allowed herself very few indulgences. And somehow, this summer, Miss Briggs sort of hated going back to an empty flat—even if it did overlook the park.

Or maybe it was because it overlooked the park that had made it so terrible a place to live lately. Miss Briggs had never felt lonely, not *very* lonely, in the old house after her mother died. Only when she moved to the flat did her loneliness really come down on her. There were some nights there, especially summer nights, when she thought she couldn't stand it, to sit in her window and see so many people going by, couple by couple, arms locked, or else in groups, laughing and talking. Miss Briggs wondered why she knew no one, male or female, to walk out with, laughing and talking. She knew only the employees where she worked, and with whom she associated but little (for she hated to have people know her business). She knew, of course, the members of the Women's Civics Club, but in a cultural sort of way. The warmth of friendship seldom mellowed her contacts there. Only one or two of the clubwomen had ever called on her. Miss Briggs always believed in keeping her distance, too. Her mother used to say she'd been born poor but proud, and would stay that way until the end.

"Folks have to amount to something before Clara takes up with them," old Mrs. Briggs always said. "Men'll have a hard time getting Clara."

Men did. Now, with no especial attractions to make them keep trying, Miss Briggs, tall and rail-like, found herself left husbandless at an age when youth had gone.

40 So, in her forty-fifth year, coming back from a summer boardinghouse
in Michigan, Miss Briggs bought herself a little white dog. When she got home,
she called on the janitor and asked him to bring her up a small box for Flips.
The janitor, a tow-headed young Swede, brought her a grapefruit crate from the
A & P. Miss Briggs put it in the kitchen for Flips.

45 She told the janitor to bring her, too, three times a week, a dime's worth of
dog meat or bones, and leave it on the back porch where she could find it when
she came home. On other nights Flips ate dog biscuits.

—Langston Hughes

From THE WAYS OF WHITE FOLKS by Langston Hughes
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Passage II

Family Dog

A succession of Newfoundlands
of diminishing nobility
and with names like English maids—
Flossie, Rosie, Nelly—
5 gave way, long after I'd left,
to this hyperactive black lab
who (like me?) never grew up,
always the exuberant puppy
to almost everyone's annoyance,
10 and whose name—Jess—is so much
like my own that when I'm home
and hear my father call the dog
or say his name in irritation
when he's gotten in the garbage
15 or chewed up someone's shoe,
I'm forced to relive an unpleasant
split second I lived many times
as a teenager, when my father
and I were chronic enemies—
20 a quick shock through my heart
and the thought, *Oh God, what
have I done now?* Followed now
by the realization, *It's only the dog,*
a sigh of relief, a quiet laugh . . .
25 I'm almost always fooled,
as if the pitch of my father's voice
triggered some switch
in my nervous system, my body
still wired for sound
30 decades later, bringing back,
before I have time to think,
the fear, the rancor,
things I would rather forget,
the way a dog forgets
35 and always comes back, comes home
when his name is called,
knowing his master loves him.

—Jeffrey Harrison

Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions (1–5): Select the best suggested answer to each question and write its number in the space provided on the answer sheet. The questions may help you think about ideas and information you might want to use in your written responses. You may return to these questions any time you wish.

Passage I (story excerpt): Questions 1–3 refer to Passage I.

- 1 People have a hard time getting close to Miss Briggs because she
 - 1 is too busy caring for her dog
 - 2 is terribly shy with new people
 - 3 has impossibly high standards
 - 4 spends all her time in the apartment
- 2 The word “indulgences” in line 16 means
 - 1 pets
 - 2 luxuries
 - 3 experiences
 - 4 connections
- 3 Miss Briggs probably bought the dog because she
 - 1 wanted to take care of animals
 - 2 thought it would keep her company
 - 3 needed protection while living alone
 - 4 thought that a dog would help her gain friends

Passage II (poem): Questions 4–5 refer to Passage II.

- 4 One theme of the poem is the
 - 1 amusing mistakes of a loving family
 - 2 lessons we can learn from our parents
 - 3 importance of pets in a family’s life
 - 4 tension between a father and a son
- 5 The narrator recounts a time when he thought his father was yelling at *him* rather than at the dog in order to show that
 - 1 he does not understand animal behavior
 - 2 he still feels like a child around his father
 - 3 humans and animals have very little in common
 - 4 animals can be better friends to us than people

Short-Response Questions

Directions (6–7): Write your responses to questions 6 and 7 in the space provided on the answer sheet.

6. Write a well-developed paragraph in which you use ideas from both passages to establish a controlling idea about the importance of pets. Develop your controlling idea using specific examples and details from each passage.

7. Choose a specific literary element (e.g., theme, characterization, structure, point of view, etc.) or literary technique (e.g., symbolism, irony, figurative language, etc.) used by **one** of the authors and, using specific details from that passage, show how the author uses that element or technique to develop the passage.

