

Selection Test

Score

The Pit and the Pendulum (page 268)

Recall and Interpret (35 points total; 7 points each)

Write the letter of the best answer.

- _____ 1. At the beginning of the story, the prisoner is in a state of
 - a. delirium.
 - b. dejection.
 - c. delight.
 - d. indecision.

- _____ 2. The narrator of the story never reveals
 - a. why he so fears the pit.
 - b. what crime he has been convicted of.
 - c. how he is saved from the pendulum.
 - d. the actual size of his dungeon.

- _____ 3. During the story, the narrator communicates all of the following feelings EXCEPT
 - a. guilt.
 - b. hope.
 - c. terror.
 - d. disgust.

- _____ 4. How does the reader know, despite the suspense, that the prisoner will survive?
 - a. The inquisitors aimed to frighten, not to kill.
 - b. The prisoner is narrating the tale.
 - c. Most horror stories have a happy ending.
 - d. The prisoner is both courageous and clever.

- _____ 5. The narrator is certain that his eventual fate will be death because he knows
 - a. what kind of people his persecutors are.
 - b. that if the pendulum does not kill him, fear will.
 - c. that he committed the crime for which he was accused.
 - d. that he will choose that fate over continued uncertainty.

Vocabulary Practice (25 points total; 5 points each)

For each boldface word, write the letter of the word that has nearly the same meaning.

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|----------------------------|---------------|
| _____ 6. impede | a. spread |
| _____ 7. deduce | b. closeness |
| _____ 8. lethargy | c. obstruct |
| _____ 9. diffuse | d. conclude |
| _____ 10. proximity | e. drowsiness |

Selection Test (continued)

Analyze and Evaluate (20 points total; 10 points each)

In “The Pit and the Pendulum,” Poe creates suspense—a feeling of curiosity, or even dread, about what is going to happen next. Answer the questions about the story in the boxes below.

11. What aspects of the story did you find especially suspenseful?

12. How did these details make you feel about the narrators’s situation?

BIG IDEA Connect (20 points)

Use a separate sheet of paper to answer the following essay question.

13. Using details from “The Pit and the Pendulum,” describe how Poe continuously maintains an atmosphere of terror.