To Kill a Mockingbird Unit Test

Write the letter of the persuasive technique used in the blank next to the message. Not every technique will be used.

1. My opponent’s healthcare policy is ridiculous. My opponent is so rich that he has never had to worry about paying a doctor.
   - a. Ad hominem
   - b. Begging the question
   - c. Bandwagon
   - d. Emotional appeal
   - e. Ethical appeal
   - f. Logical appeal
   - g. Red herring
   - h. Straw man
   - i. Testimonial

2. Our class should not have to write the paper. I’m so tired of all this bureaucratic red tape and paper overload. It’s time we started to cut back on our excesses.

3. Person 1: I think that *Twilight* should be an option for student independent reading.
   Person 2: My opponent says that all ninth grade classes should read *Twilight* together in literature circles. Too many students have read *Twilight* already for this to be a good use of class time.

4. Person 1: Driving without shoes is wrong because it’s illegal.
   Person 2: Why is it wrong to drive without shoes?
   Person 1: Because it’s illegal.

5. Edgar Allan Poe: I only use Skilcraft pens to write my poetry. Nothing else will put me in the poetry writing mood.

6. As the five-time highest collector in the annual canned food drive, I think you can trust me to tell you how to collect large numbers of cans.

7. Don’t let our Gloucester’s puppies go hungry! Support the dog food drive!

8. Because every student who studied for the test passed the exam, and those who did not study failed, I argue that studying is an important way for students to perform well on exams.
9. A friend listens to a political debate with you and notices, “The candidate never proved anything in her answer. She just kept talking in circles.” You explain to your friend that this is called:
   a. begging the question
   b. emotional appeal
   c. red herring
   d. straw man

10. When you substitute a weaker position that is easier to argue against for your opponent’s actual position, and then argue against the weaker position, this persuasive fallacy is called:
   a. begging the question
   b. emotional appeal
   c. red herring
   d. straw man

Read the following excerpt and answer the following questions:

“What’s needed is more time in classrooms, not less. Our school calendar, with its six-and-a-half-hour day and 180-day year, was designed for yesterday’s farm economy, not today’s high-tech one. While many middle-class families now invest in tutoring and extra learning time, less-privileged children are left on the sidelines, which only widens gaps in achievement and opportunity. Two years ago President Obama said that the “challenges of a new century demand more time in the classroom.” Plenty of research suggests that one of the strongest indicators of scholastic achievement is the amount of actual time devoted to learning. Therefore, we need to move schools toward longer days and years. Ideally, increasing learning time by 30 percent would mean more individualized support; a more well-rounded education in a broader array of subjects, from science and foreign languages to arts and robotics; and less unsupervised after-school and summer time. For parents, it would mean a school day better aligned with the typical work day.”  

Luis Ubinas & Chris Gabrieli

11. The authors’ overall position is most nearly:
   a. Schools should have more subjects, like arts and robotics.
   b. Students should have longer school days and longer school years.
   c. Schools should align their school days better with parent work days.
   d. Schools should help move our economy from a farm economy to a high-tech economy.

12. All of the following details support the author’s position except:
   a. Increasing learning time would allow for more individualized support.
   b. Increasing learning time would allow students to take a wider array of subjects.
   c. Increasing learning time would cut back on the amount of time students are unsupervised.
   d. Increasing learning time would benefit middle-class families more than less privileged ones.

13. The purpose of this piece is most likely to:
   b. Explain to readers the current educational situation.
   c. Convince readers that they should support longer school days and years.
   d. Entertain readers with descriptions of what could happen to schools in the future.
The New York Times newspaper recently published a debate about whether people can be happy living alone. Read the following perspectives on living alone and respond to the following questions.

**Perspective #1 (by Julie Slatterly)**

The growing trend for American adults to live alone is one I can understand. After all, it means never having to negotiate over who cleans the bathroom or at what temperature to keep the bedroom. But is living alone healthier?

The trend toward living alone and even living together without a marriage commitment is a drifting change, based on our desire for immediate comfort and happiness. But it ends up destroying the beauty of the human experience.

Sharing all of life with another person is difficult – but it matures us. Only the presence of another person can reveal our selfishness and prompt us toward learning the art of compromise and working together.

The alternative is to retreat into our own world, where we are so absorbed with personal comfort that we can't be bothered to hear the concerns of another person or be inconvenienced to consider someone else's needs. Is this what we really want?

Just as our bodies were made for exercise, our souls were made for relationship. Is it easier to loaf on the couch instead of going for a run? Sure. But what stresses a muscle also allows for strength and survival...We grow stronger as a result of the pressures we overcome together when we embrace relationships and community.

There are so many ways to live and love. The sentimentalized image of Mom, Dad and the kids gathered around the hearth has had its day. A new American experiment has begun. We’re not all going nuclear anymore.

Among the innovators are people of all ages who are single at heart. They are not single because they have issues or because they have not yet found a partner. They are not looking. Single is who they really are. Many are in the market for places of their own. So, too, are plenty of divorced and widowed people and single parents whose children have grown...

Are we all just crying out for more solitude and separation?

I think not. What we are really seeking is the optimum balance of time alone and time together. It is the social and personal quest that transcends marriage, family status, age, race and just about every other demographic characteristic...

Sometimes people are jolted into shared living by economic challenges or natural disasters. Young adults or parents with small children move in with their own parents. Friends welcome friends into their homes to ride out the rough patch. The new doubled-up arrangements can be experienced as little more than a hardship. Occasionally, though, the sailing is so smooth and warm that all agree to continue. When people organically develop their own experiments in living, the results can be far more fulfilling than the solutions unpacked from the same old boxes from the past...

**Perspective #2 (by Bella DePaulo)**

There are so many ways to live and love. The sentimentalized image of Mom, Dad and the kids gathered around the hearth has had its day. A new American experiment has begun. We’re not all going nuclear anymore.

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Use the passages provided on the hand-out to answer questions 14-21

14. Slatterly asserts that, while it is easier to loaf on the couch instead of going for a run, “what stresses a muscle also allows for strength and survival.” She uses this analogy between exercise and relationships to argue which of the following?

   a. Americans today should be both exercising more and getting into more relationships.
   b. Americans today should seek out more difficult relationships to strengthen themselves.
   c. The difficulties that arise in relationships are what strengthen the people who are part of them.
   d. The difficulties that arise in relationships can be addressed by exercise, such as going for a run.

15. Depaulo argues, “When people organically develop their own experiments in living, the results can be far more fulfilling than the solutions unpacked from the same old boxes from the past.” “The same old boxes from the past” refers to:

   a. Traditional living arrangements
   b. Housing blueprints from the 1970s
   c. The tradition of living in communes
   d. The people with whom we have grown up

16. The perspectives of Slatterly (Perspective 1) and Depaulo (Perspective 2) differ in which way?

   a. Slatterly argues that we should commit to others to learn how to be less selfish, while Depaulo argues that we should live alone because we are crying out for more solitude.
   b. Slatterly argues that we should live together for immediate comfort and happiness, while Depaulo argues that we should live alone because we are crying out for more solitude.
   c. Slatterly argues that we should commit to others to learn how to be less selfish, while Depaulo argues that we should live with others if we determine that it is the best balance of solitude and community.
   d. Slatterly argues that we should live alone because we will not argue about things like cleaning the bathroom, while Depaulo argues that we should live with others if we determine that it is the best balance of solitude and community.

17. Based on her argument, what advice would you predict Depaulo to give to a recent high school graduate from Gloucester?

   a. Investigate different living situations to discover which is the best blend for you.
   b. Join a commune of other like-minded individuals to discover the joys of community.
   c. Move back home with your family so that you can get to know your parents as fellow adults.
d. Find someone you want to commit to so that you can reap the rewards of persisting in relationships with others.

_____18. Based on her argument, what advice would you predict Slatterly would give to a recent high school graduate from Gloucester?

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   b. Join a commune of other like-minded individuals to discover the joys of community.
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   d. Find someone you want to commit to so that you can reap the rewards of persisting in relationships with others.

_____19. Which phrase from the perspectives is most likely written to evoke an emotional response in the reader?

a. “Many are in the market for places of their own.”
   b. “But it ends up destroying the beauty of the human experience.”
   c. “So, too, are plenty of divorced and widowed people and single parents whose children have grown.”
   d. “The trend toward living alone and even living together without a marriage commitment is a drifting change.”

_____20. Describe how Slatterly organizes her argument in her first three paragraphs:

a. She asserts that her side is the best, explains why, and then argues for her position.
   b. She acknowledges the benefits of the other side, asserts that it is faulty, and then argues for her position.
   c. She lists some benefits of her side, asserts that it is best, and then acknowledges the benefits of the other side.
   d. She asserts that the other side is faulty, argues for her position, and then acknowledges the benefits of the other side.

_____21. To learn more about the issue, you check out a book from the library about the history of living arrangements in United States. You are especially interested in learning about retirement homes. The best way to find this information would be:

a. skimming the text to see if the word “retirement” appears.
   b. searching for “retirement homes” and related terms in the index.
   c. exchanging the book and searching for one that has “retirement homes” in the title.
   d. searching the Internet to see if anyone has posted more information about the book.
22. If you were to write a paper investigating whether or not to live in a retirement home, the best organizational pattern for your paper would be:
   a. cause and effect
   b. spatial description
   c. chronological narration
   d. advantages and disadvantages

Answer the following questions based on your reading of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

23. Jem and Scout get into recurring fights with their peers and, sometimes, their family members because of what?
   a. Atticus decides to defend Tom Robinson.
   b. They often have to stick up for their friend Dill.
   c. Jem and Scout like to play near Boo Radley’s house.
   d. The Finch family is wealthier compared to other Maycomb families.

24. Mrs. Dubose’s strange behavior during the times when Jem and Scout went to read to her can best be accounted for by:
   a. Her bouts of Alzheimer’s.
   b. Her withdrawals from morphine.
   c. Her dislike for the reading choices of Jem.
   d. Her unfamiliarity with the customs of the American South.

25. Bob Ewell attacks Scout and Jem after the pageant, but the children are rescued by:
   a. Boo Radley
   b. Link Deas
   c. Tom Robinson
   d. Walter Cunningham

26. One of the reasons that Tom Robinson does not receive a fair verdict is:
   a. Atticus did not believe his story, and thus did not try very hard to defend him.
   b. Atticus was frightened to properly defend Tom Robinson because of the threats neighbors made to his children.
   c. Jurors upheld the words of Mayella and Bob Ewell over those of Tom Robinson because of their racial prejudices.
   d. Jurors upheld the words of Mayella and Bob Ewell over those of Tom Robinson because Mayella and Bob were wealthy, upstanding citizens.
27. Atticus tells Aunt Alexandra that he’s “in favor of Southern womanhood as much as anybody, but not for preserving polite fiction at the expense of human life.” Using your knowledge of the historical context of the novel, what do you think Atticus refers to with the term “polite fiction”?

a. The idea that white women were delicate and sexually pure.
b. The idea that white women were manipulative and disloyal.
c. The idea that white women were courageous and always told the truth.
d. The idea that white women were particularly smart and capable of being fair jurors.

28. The events of *To Kill a Mockingbird* have parallels with the true story of the Scottsboro Boys in that:

   a. The Scottsboro Boys were black males who led the move to integrate the first high school in Little Rock.
b. The Scottsboro Boys were white males who attempted to lynch the inmates of the local courthouse.
c. The Scottsboro Boys were the white males who made up a jury that unfairly convicted a black male.
d. The Scottsboro Boys were black males who were unfairly accused and convicted of raping white females.

29. When Calpurnia speaks one way to the Finch children and switches to a different way of speaking at church, this is an example of:

   a. Dialect
   b. Idiom
   c. Style shifting
   d. The linguistic continuum

30. Based on your understanding of our discussions in class, does the rabid dog that Atticus shoots best symbolizes:

   a. The dangers of living in a small town
   b. The crazed nature of racial prejudice
   c. The loyalty of the Finch family to one another
   d. The strange events that take place, like the snowstorm and fire

31. Before Scout and Jem set out for the pageant, Scout tells the reader, “After that, it didn’t matter whether they went or not. Jem said he would take me. Thus began our longest journey together.” This is an example of what literary technique?

   a. Foreshadowing
   b. Flashback
   c. Imagery
   d. Metaphor
32. Read what Aunt Alexandra and Calpurnia have to say in the text about Walter Cunningham:

When Scout asks why she cannot play with Walter, Aunt Alexandra responds, ‘Because—he—is—trash, that’s why you can’t play with him. I’ll not have you around him, picking up his habits and learning Lord-knows what.’ (256)

When Walter comes over for lunch and Scout is rude to him, Calpurnia tells her, ‘Don’t matter who they are, anybody sets foot in this house’s yo’ comp’ny, and don’t you let me catch you remarkin’ on their ways like you was so high and mighty!’ (27)

These examples show that Aunt Alexandra and Calpurnia represent different

   a. Moods
   b. Points of view
   c. Sub-plots
   d. Themes

33. Through *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee suggests that:

   a. It’s important for individuals to take a stand against the evil in the world.
   b. It’s important for individuals to not disturb the peace of their communities.
   c. It’s important for individuals to not involve themselves in the affairs of others.
   d. It’s important for individuals to shield their children from being exposed to violence.

34. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in the South during the Great Depression. The onset of the Great Depression helps explain why:

   a. Tom Robinson’s wife has a hard time finding work after the accusation.
   b. Some of the townspeople think that Miss Maudie is sinful for not going to church.
   c. Black children are not allowed to go to school with white children like Jem and Scout.
   d. Almost everyone in Maycomb struggles to make ends meet, including the Finch family.

35. In the beginning of the text, Aunt Alexandra believes that:

   a. Atticus should not defend Tom Robinson because Tom Robinson is most likely guilty.
   b. Atticus should not defend Tom Robinson because defending black people will hurt the family’s reputation.
   c. Atticus should defend Tom Robinson because he feels that it is the right thing to do.
   d. Atticus should defend Tom Robinson because Tom Robinson has done many helpful things for Atticus over the years.
36. Mr. Underwood, the newspaper editor, feels what about Tom Robinson’s death?
   a. sadness, because he feels that Tom was innocent.
   b. anger, because he feels that Tom was killed unfairly.
   c. happiness, because he feels that justice has finally been served.
   d. relief, because he feels that the town can now move on from the trial.

37. Heck Tate insists that Bob Ewell’s death be portrayed as an accidental suicide because he feels that:
   a. Jem would be held responsible for the death, and it would hurt Jem’s future.
   b. Jem would be held responsible for the death, and Jem is too young to understand.
   c. Boo Radley would be held responsible for the death, and it would hurt Boo’s future.
   d. Boo Radley would be held responsible for the death, and he would be subjected to unwanted attention.

38. Heck Tate tells Atticus, “There’s a black boy dead for no reason, and the man responsible for it’s dead. Let the dead bury the dead this time, Mr. Finch. Let the dead bury the dead.” The line “Let the dead bury their own dead” is a line from a passage in the Bible. This is an example of what?
   a. allusion
   b. personification
   c. metaphor
   d. simile

For the following editing questions, choose the version of the sentence that makes the requested change. If no change is necessary, select option d, which restates the original sentence.

39. Choose the version of the following sentence that switches the voice from passive to active:

   *To Kill a Mockingbird* was reported to be the favorite book of many students in the 1980s.

   a. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was reported by students from the 1980s to be their favorite book.
   b. In the 1980s, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was reported to be the favorite book of students.
   c. Many students in the 1980s reported that *To Kill a Mockingbird* was their favorite book.
   d. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was reported to be the favorite book of many students in the 1980s.
40. Choose the version of the following sentence that correctly punctuates it:

The film *To Kill a Mockingbird* stars Gregory Peck, one of America’s favorite actors.

a. The film *To Kill a Mockingbird* stars Gregory Peck one of America’s favorite actors.
b. The film *To Kill a Mockingbird* stars Gregory Peck; one of America’s favorite actors.
c. The film *To Kill a Mockingbird* stars Gregory Peck: one of America’s favorite actors.
d. The film *To Kill a Mockingbird* stars Gregory Peck, one of America’s favorite actors.

41. Choose the version of the following sentence that correctly punctuates it.

If you like reading about trials, *Monster* is a far better book than, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; certainly, it covers the trial scene in far more depth.

a. If you like reading about trials, *Monster*, is a far better book than *To Kill a Mockingbird*, certainly it covers the trial scene in far more depth.
b. If you like reading about trials, *Monster* is a far better book than *To Kill a Mockingbird*; certainly, it covers the trial scene in far more depth.
c. If you like reading about trials, *Monster* is a far better book than *To Kill a Mockingbird*; certainly; it covers the trial scene in far more depth.
d. If you like reading about trials, *Monster* is a far better book than, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; certainly, it covers the trial scene in far more depth.
30 point in-class essay *(30 minutes)*

You may refer to your novel.

Your essay should include at least three body paragraphs, an introduction with a thesis statement about your character, and a conclusion. Your introduction only needs to be functional, not catchy.

Consider the questions below and select a character about which you have much to say. In essay format discuss the following questions. You may want to devote one paragraph of your essay to each bulleted question.

- What does Maycomb expect from the character you selected because of that character’s race, class, or gender?
- Does the character conform to or depart from these expectations? Support your answer with details from the text.
- Which does the novel suggest shows higher moral character, departing from societal expectations or conforming to societal expectations? What does this mean for how your character’s moral character is portrayed in the novel? Support your answer with evidence from the text related to your character.