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The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Final Examination

Multiple Choice – For each of the following chose the answer which best completes the statement and click on the correct circle. The answer marked is not necessarily the correct answer. Print the test when you have completed. Once printed no answers may be changed.

1: Hawthorne completed The Scarlet Letter in what year?

- (a): 1820
- (b): 1850
- (c): 1900
- (d): 1950

2: Why did Hawthorne write The Custom House and add it to The Scarlet Letter?

- (a): He thought The Scarlet Letter was too short to print by itself
- (b): He wanted to write an autobiographical short story
- (c): He wanted to describe how he "discovered" the manuscript
- (d): He was bored

3: The prison door best represents which of the following:

- (a): Puritanical severity of law and the authority of the regime
- (b): a dirty, rusted old door separating Hester from her daughter
- (c): an escape route for Hester
- (d): the strength of Hester's determination to live with her crime

4: The rosebush outside the prison door is a symbol of all of the following except:

- (a): Ann Hutchinson's tolerance of other religions
- (b): Hester's passion
- (c): the wilderness surrounding Boston
- (d): Puritanical punishment for moral crimes

5: The blossoms of the rosebush are metaphors for:

- (a): Pearl and the moral of the story
- (b): Pearl and the crime of the story
- (c): Hester's passion and her marriage to Roger Chillingworth
- (d): Dimmesdale's love for Hester

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6: Hawthorne's portrayal of the Puritanical society is one of:

- (a): support for the Puritan way of life
- (b): contradictory images and hypocrisy
- (c): disgust with the Puritan way of life
- (d): he does not portray the Puritanical society

7: Hester has embroidered what symbol onto her dress?

- (a): A bird for freedom
- (b): A rose blossom
- (c): A scarlet letter A
- (d): A round pearl

8: What gesture does Reverend Dimmesdale make throughout the book?

- (a): He rubs his brow
- (b): He pulls at his shirt sleeves
- (c): He places his hand over his heart
- (d): He raises his eyes to heaven

9: All of the following ironies occur in the first scaffold scene except:

- (a): the irony that Hester is married to Chillingworth but has had a child with another man
- (b): the irony that Chillingworth chides Hester from the crowd, asking her to reveal the father
- (c): the irony that Dimmesdale is called upon to ask Hester who the father is
- (d): the irony that Pearl will bring Hester and Dimmesdale back together

10: Chillingworth pretends to be of what profession?

- (a): a lawyer
- (b): a doctor
- (c): a clergyman
- (d): an infantryman

11: After she is released from prison, Hester goes to live where?

- (a): on the outskirts of Boston
- (b): within the city of Boston
- (c): in another city in the colony of Massachusetts
- (d): with Roger Chillingworth

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12: How does Hester earn a living?

- (a): by selling wood in Boston
- (b): by growing crops
- (c): by her needlework
- (d): by healing other people

13: What is the first thing that Pearl sees as a baby?

- (a): the inside of a prison cell
- (b): the scarlet letter on Hester's chest
- (c): Hester
- (d): the rosebush

14: What does Pearl best represent throughout the novel?

- (a): The living embodiment of Hester's sin
- (b): The unifying force that will bring Hester and Dimmesdale together at the end
- (c): A young innocent child
- (d): A form of punishment for Hester

15: When John Wilson asks Pearl who her maker is, Pearl replies:

- (a): that God made her
- (b): that Hester and Dimmesdale made her
- (c): that sin made her
- (d): that she was plucked off of a rose bush

16: Mistress Hibbins, the sister of Governor Bellingham, is reputed to be:

- (a): a witch
- (b): a good mother
- (c): a cruel lady
- (d): a Puritan

17: Hawthorne draws strong parallels between what three images?

- (a): Pearl, Hester, the red rose
- (b): Pearl, the red rose, the scarlet letter
- (c): the prison door, the red rose, Pearl
- (d): the prison door, the scarlet letter, Pearl

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18: To whom does Hawthorne apply the term "The Leech"?

- (a): Dimmesdale
- (b): Hester
- (c): Pearl
- (d): Chillingworth

19: How does Chillingworth figure out who Pearl's father really is?

- (a): Dimmesdale tells him
- (b): Chillingworth becomes Dimmesdale's doctor and guesses the secret
- (c): Hester tells him one day in the woods
- (d): He never finds out

20: What illuminates the first scaffold scene where Hester, Dimmesdale and Pearl are brought together?

- (a): a lantern
- (b): a fire
- (c): a meteor
- (d): a torch

21: The fact that this scaffold scene is illuminated can be understood as:

- (a): divine intervention
- (b): bad luck
- (c): Hawthorne's desire to be melodramatic
- (d): success for Chillingworth

22: Pearl's role changes towards the end of the novel. She starts to "punish" which character?

- (a): Hester
- (b): Chillingworth
- (c): Dimmesdale
- (d): Bellingham

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23: What is Hester's response when she learns that the Puritan council might allow her to remove her scarlet letter?

- (a): she is very happy
- (b): she is furious
- (c): she indicates that only God can remove her letter
- (d): she immediately takes the letter off and goes into town without it

24: Hester tries to convince Dimmesdale to do what during their walks in the woods?

- (a): to run away and live elsewhere
- (b): to get rid of Chillingworth
- (c): to marry her
- (d): to adopt Pearl

25: What does the forest stand for?

- (a): A wild, uninhibited place where passion can flourish
- (b): A dark, sinister place where lives are ruined
- (c): An evil place where the Dark Man lives
- (d): A bright place where flowers grow

26: What does Pearl do when she first sees her mother without the scarlet letter?

- (a): She is excited for her mother
- (b): She convulses and screams
- (c): She runs away
- (d): She runs to hug her mother

27: The moral of the story is best represented by which character?

- (a): Dimmesdale
- (b): Hester
- (c): Chillingworth
- (d): Pearl

28: Who destroys Dimmesdale and Hester's plans to run away from Boston?

- (a): Pearl
- (b): Bellingham
- (c): John Williams
- (d): Chillingworth

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29: In the final scaffold scene, Dimmesdale believes that _____ is visible on his chest, over his heart.

- (a): a scarlet letter A
- (b): a rose blossom
- (c): a bright red heart
- (d): nothing

30: What does Pearl do right before Dimmesdale dies?

- (a): She takes his hand and gives it to Hester
- (b): She kisses Dimmesdale
- (c): She runs away from Hester
- (d): She runs to Roger Chillingworth