

The Canterbury Tales

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

1. What is the first Canterbury Tale?

- a) The Reeve's Tale
- b) The Knight's Tale**
- c) The Miller's Tale
- d) The Cook's Tale

2. Which tale in the first fragment seems to be unfinished?

- a) The Reeve's Tale
- b) The Miller's Tale
- c) The Knight's Tale
- d) The Cook's Tale**

3. Which tale tells the story of Symkyn the miller?

- a) The Shipman's Tale
- b) The Reeve's Tale**
- c) The Miller's Tale
- d) The Wife of Bath's Tale

4. Which characters are in love with Alison in the Miller's Tale?

- a) Gervase and Nicholas
- c) John, Absolon and Nicholas**
- b) Absolon and Nicholas
- d) Absolon and Gervase

5. What is the name of the carpenter in the Miller's Tale?

- a) Fred
- b) John**
- c) Absolon
- d) Nicholas

6. Who farts in Absolon's face?

- a) Alison
- b) John
- c) Gervase
- d) Nicholas**

7. Who cries out "Water" because their arse has been branded with a hot iron?

- a) Alison
- b) John
- c) Absolon
- d) Nicholas**

8. What is the genre of tales to which the Miller's Tale might belong?

- a) prose poem
- b) romance
- c) modernist narrative
- d) **fabliaux**

9. Which two characters are thought to be indistinguishable from each other in the Knight's Tale?

- a) **Arcite and Palamon**
- b) Arcite and Theseus
- c) Theseus and Hippolyta
- d) Theseus and Palamon

10. Who dies at the end of the Knight's Tale?

- a) **Arcite**
- b) Hippolyta
- c) Palamon
- d) Theseus

11. Who are Arcite and Palamon in love with?

- a) **Emelye**
- b) Each other
- c) Absolon
- d) Theseus

12. How many husbands has the Wife of Bath had?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4
- d) **5**

13. The Wife of Bath's first name is...

- a) Bertha
- b) **Alison**
- c) Absolon
- d) She isn't given a first name, just "the Wife"

14. The Wife of Bath's fifth husband is named...

- a) **Jankin**
- b) Absolon
- c) January
- d) Theseus

15. The Wife of Bath suffers, a little, from which ailment...

- a) blindness
- b) leprosy
- c) **deafness**
- d) muteness

16. What does the Wife use as a bargaining tool?

- a) **Sex**
- b) Food
- c) Sleep
- d) Money

17. The Wife of Bath claims to hate...

- a) men
- b) eating
- c) **clerks and glossing**
- d) cattle

18. In the General Prologue, which character is swathed in ten pounds of cloth?

- a) The Miller
- b) **The Wife of Bath**
- c) The Reeve
- d) The Summoner

19. Which two characters are sometimes read as a homosexual couple?

- a) Chaucer and the Reeve
- b) The Friar and the Summoner
- c) **The Summoner and the Pardoner**
- d) The Miller and the Reeve

20. Chaucer is...

- a) **a character in the pilgrimage, and the author of the work as a whole**
- b) an imaginary character in the pilgrimage
- c) not the writer of the Canterbury Tales
- d) not mentioned within the text of the Tales

21. Which pilgrim throws a book into the fire?

- a) The Miller
- b) **The Wife of Bath**
- c) The Shipman
- d) The Reeve

22. What does the Man of Law refuse to tell a tale about?

- a) blackmail
- b) **incest**
- c) murder
- d) Christians

23. Who interrupts the Parson just before he is to tell his tale?

- a) **The Shipman**
- b) The Reeve
- c) The Manciple
- d) The Summoner

24. The Cook's real name is

- a) Geoffrey Chaucer
- b) **Roger of Ware**
- c) Roger Warren
- d) Harry Bailly

25. The Host's name is

- a) Geoffrey Chaucer
- b) **Harry Bailey**
- c) Roger of Ware
- d) Roger Warren

PART II

1. Why are the pilgrims going to Canterbury?

- (A) To meet King Henry III
- (B) To see a medieval mystery play
- (C) **To worship the relics of Saint Thomas Becket**
- (D) Because they are tourists

2. What does the Squire wear?

- (A) A velvet doublet and hose
- (B) **Cloth embroidered with flowers**
- (C) Green and peacock-blue hunting gear
- (D) A beaver hat

3. Who marries Emelye in the Knight's Tale?

- (A) Theseus
- (B) Arcite
- (C) Saturn
- (D) **Palamon**

4. According to the Wife of Bath, what do women most desire?

- (A) **Sovereignty over their husbands** (C) Perfect beauty
(B) True love (D) Great wealth

5. What does Chanticleer dream?

- (A) That he will be killed by a wolf
(B) That Pertelote will desert him
(C) **That he will be taken away by an orange, houndlike creature**
(D) That his friend will be murdered

6. Who are the three men searching for in the Pardoner's Tale?

- (A) The Wandering Jew (C) Jesus Christ
(B) Greed (D) **Death**

7. Who is branded by a red-hot poker in the Miller's Tale?

- (A) Absolon (C) **Nicholas**
(B) Alisoun (D) John

8. Which of the following tales is a fabliau?

- (A) The Knight's Tale (C) The Wife of Bath's Tale
(B) The Nun's Priest's Tale (D) **The Miller's Tale**

9. Which pilgrim has a forked beard?

- (A) The Summoner (C) The Reeve
(B) **The Merchant** (D) The Physician

10. What is the moral of the Nun's Priest's Tale?

- (A) Slow and easy wins the race. (C) Beauty lies within.
(B) Greed is the root of all evil. (D) **Never trust a flatterer.**

11. What is the Wife of Bath's Prologue about?

- (A) **Her life with her five different husbands**
(B) Ovid's Metamorphoses
(C) How women deserve to hold high public offices just like men
(D) A philosophical treatise on the astrolabe

12. When does The Canterbury Tales take place?

- (A) In the Renaissance
(B) In pre-Christian Britain
(C) During the Norman invasion
(D) **In the late fourteenth century**

13. For which social classes did Chaucer write?

- (A) The nobility (C) Illiterate peasants
(B) **All levels of society** (D) Merchants

14. What was Chaucer's profession?

- (A) Poet (C) Merchant
(B) Noble (D) **Civil servant**

15. How many Canterbury Tales are there?

- (A) 80 (B) **24** (C) 16 (D) 50

16. What is a romance?

- (A) An erotic tale of love and passion
- (B) A story about Romans
- (C) **A story of knights, ladies, quests, and love**
- (D) A cheap book you buy from a drugstore

17. Which tale qualifies as part of a medieval sermon?

- (A) The Wife of Bath's Tale
- (B) The Tale of Melibee
- (C) The Physician's Tale
- (D) **The Pardoner's Tale**

18. Which pilgrims are most richly attired?

- (A) Miller, Yeoman, Summoner, Chaucer
- (B) **Wife of Bath, Squire, Monk, Physician, Franklin**
- (C) Knight, Nun's Priest, Parson, Pardoner
- (D) Friar, Reeve, Manciple, Man of Law

19. Which tales take place in the Orient?

- (A) The Wife of Bath's Tale and the Nun's Priest's Tale
- (B) The Prioress's Tale and the Knight's Tale
- (C) **The Man of Law's Tale and the Squire's Tale**
- (D) The Miller's Tale and the Clerk's Tale

20. Which pilgrim carries a brooch inscribed with Latin words meaning "Love Conquers All"?

- (A) **The Prioress**
- (B) The Wife of Bath
- (C) The Monk
- (D) The Squire

21. At what time of year does the pilgrimage take place?

- (A) In the dead of winter
- (B) In the height of spring**
- (C) "That time of year when yellow leaves . . . hang upon these boughs"
- (D) On a midsummer night

22. Which characters are connected to the Church?

- (A) The Prioress, the Monk, the Friar, the Summoner, and the Pardoner**
- (B) The Miller, the Ploughman, and the Reeve
- (C) The Knight, the Manciple, and the Host
- (D) The Canon's Yeoman, the Physician, the Clerk, and the Man of Law

23. Which tale is about a talking falcon?

- (A) The Nun's Priest's Tale
- (B) The Canon's Yeoman's Tale
- (C) The Franklin's Tale
- (D) The Squire's Tale**

24. Which tales are about the patient suffering of women?

- (A) The Wife of Bath's Tale and the Prioress's Tale
- (B) The Knight's Tale, the Cook's Tale, and the Nun's Priest's Tale
- (C) The Man of Law's Tale, the Clerk's Tale, and the Physician's Tale**
- (D) The Tale of Melibee, the Parson's Tale, and the Friar's Tale

25. Why does the Pardoner upset the Host?

- (A) The Pardoner is homosexual.
- (B) The Pardoner tries to sell indulgences to the pilgrims, after he has already told them that he cheats people.**

- (C) The Pardoner has physically attacked the Host with his heavy bag of relics.
- (D) The Pardoner refuses to give the Host an indulgence.

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