Critical Reading  Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.

1. In “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable,” what does the word *parable* tell you about the story?
   A. It has animal characters.
   B. It is a science fiction tale.
   C. It teaches a message.
   D. It is frightening.

2. In “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable,” why do the parishioners have such an intense response to seeing the minister’s veil?
   A. They feel it is not religious.
   B. They are frightened by it.
   C. They think it is not appropriate.
   D. They feel he must be dying.

3. From this passage in “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable,” what can you infer about the beliefs of the minister’s congregation?
   . . . and while he prayed, the veil lay heavily on his uplifted countenance. Did he seek to hide it from the dread Being whom he was addressing?
   A. They trust God.
   B. They ignore God.
   C. They love God.
   D. They fear God.

4. In “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable,” what can you infer that Elizabeth means when she says to Mr. Hooper, “. . . [the veil] hides a face which I am always glad to look upon. Come, good sir, let the sun shine from behind the cloud”?
   A. She loves him and wants to see his face.
   B. She hopes the sun will make him remove the veil.
   C. She hopes the clouds will pass soon.
   D. She thinks Mr. Hooper has a sunny personality.

5. How does “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable” convey the Puritan attitude toward human nature?
   A. It is full of optimism.
   B. It is full of enthusiasm.
   C. It is full of pessimism.
   D. It is full of forgiveness.
6. Who takes care of Mr. Hooper during his final illness in “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable”?
   A. the couple he married
   B. the town doctor
   C. Elizabeth
   D. a converted sinner

7. What religious lesson might Hawthorne be teaching through “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable”?
   A. Our faces show everyone who we are.
   B. Wearing black reminds us that we all die.
   C. People can often see through a veil.
   D. Sin separates us from God and others.

8. What social lesson might Hawthorne be teaching in “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable”?
   A. What we look like can be important.
   B. We all have barriers inside of us.
   C. Sadness is always a part of our lives.
   D. Don’t be frightened by appearances.

Vocabulary and Grammar

9. In which sentence is the meaning of the word *tremulous* expressed?
   A. The minister surprised everyone when he began to wear a black veil.
   B. Elizabeth fell to shaking as she realized he would not remove the veil.
   C. The parishioners began to avoid the minister they had once respected.
   D. Mr. Hooper died and was buried without anyone ever seeing his face.

10. Which of the following sentences begins *without* a subject followed by a verb?
    A. “The sexton stood in the porch of the Milford meetinghouse . . .”
    B. “The afternoon service was attended with similar circumstances.”
    C. “She made no reply, but covered her eyes with her hand . . .”
    D. “With this gloomy shade before him, good Mr. Hooper walked onward . . .”
Essay

11. Suppose that the message of “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable” is that people are sinful. Suppose that the minister wishes to show that sin is a barrier between people and God, people and their loved ones, as well as people and their happiness. Do you think he communicates this message to his parishioners? Are their lives made more religious or spiritual by his wearing the veil, even after his death? Does he inspire them to be less sinful? Write a brief essay to give your opinions about what value Mr. Hooper’s actions have on the people of his congregation.

12. In “The Minister’s Black Veil: A Parable,” the minister’s last words include these passages: “Why do you tremble at me alone? . . . I look around me, and, lo! on every visage a Black Veil!” What do you think he means? Write a brief essay to state the inference you can draw from the minister’s words.