The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet,  
Act IV  William Shakespeare

COMPREHENSION  (60 points; 6 points each)  
On the line provided, write the letter of the best answer to each of the following items.

1. What does Paris think of Juliet’s state of mind when he visits Friar Laurence?
   A  She is deep in mourning for Tybalt.  
   B  Her fear of marriage overwhelms her.  
   C  Being disobedient to Lord Capulet has made her feel guilty.  
   D  She has recovered her high spirits well.

2. What is the last thing that happens between Paris and Juliet?
   F  Juliet tells Paris about Romeo.  
   H  Paris kisses Juliet.  
   J  Paris agrees to marry someone other than Juliet.

3. Friar Laurence thinks Juliet is brave enough to take the sleeping potion because—
   A  she is unwilling to marry Paris and lose Romeo  
   B  she has said that lying in a tomb is better than life without Romeo  
   C  it is her only hope of escaping marriage to Paris  
   D  if she is brave enough to die, she is brave enough to fake death

4. Friar Laurence sets a plan in motion. Which of the following details is not part of his plan?
   F  Juliet should consent to marry Paris.  
   G  Juliet should drink the vial of liquid.  
   H  Juliet will wake up alone in the family vault.  
   J  Romeo will take her to Mantua after she wakes up.

5. Juliet surprises Lord Capulet on her return from Friar Laurence’s cell by—
   A  threatening to take her own life if she must marry Paris  
   B  confessing her secret marriage but promising to have it annulled  
   C  promising to marry Paris on Thursday but not on Wednesday  
   D  agreeing to marry Paris and act as an obedient daughter

6. While Juliet puts Friar Laurence’s plan into action, she asks the Nurse to—
   F  deliver a message to Romeo in Mantua  
   G  stay with Lady Capulet for the night  
   H  go to speak with Friar Laurence  
   J  play music with Peter and the musicians
7. In her soliloquy, Juliet admits that —
   A  she believes in ghosts
   B  she is afraid
   C  hiding with her cousin’s body would be unbearable
   D  death is better than losing Romeo

8. How is Juliet’s supposed death discovered?
   F  The Nurse goes to wake Juliet on her wedding day.
   G  Paris brings a wedding gift to Juliet’s chamber.
   H  Lord Capulet enters the chamber to speak with his daughter.
   J  Friar Laurence checks on Juliet in her chambers.

9. The Capulets, the Nurse, and Paris react to Juliet’s supposed death with —
   A  restrained grief
   B  regret for how they treated her
   C  anguished cries of grief
   D  anger and thoughts of revenge

10. A possible reason Shakespeare includes the scene between Peter and the musicians is to —
    F  foreshadow important events
    G  add more complications to the plot
    H  illustrate that life goes on amid tragedy
    J  highlight the violence that exists between characters

**LITERARY FOCUS**  (15 points; 5 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

11. When paraphrasing text, it is most important to —
    A  shorten the wording
    B  change the tone so as not to imitate the author
    C  understand the main idea of the original passage
    D  summarize only the details of the text
12. Which of the following statements provides the best paraphrasing of the following passage spoken by Juliet in Act IV?

“What if it be a poison which the friar
Subtly hath ministered to have me dead,
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonored
Because he married me before to Romeo?”

F What if the friar wants me dead? He’s upset because I married Romeo first and now have to marry Paris.

G What if the friar gave me real poison? Maybe he wants me dead because he is afraid his reputation will be ruined. Since the friar has married me to Romeo, how can he marry me to someone else?

H What if this poison the friar gave me doesn’t work? How can I let myself be dishonored by marrying someone other than Romeo?

J What if the friar made a mistake and gave me a vial of poison rather than a vial of sleeping potion? The friar is a good man, but he might not be thinking clearly.

13. At the beginning of Scene 1, why does Friar Laurence say the following aside during a conversation with Paris?

“I would I knew not why it should be slowed—
Look, sir, here comes the lady toward my cell.”

A He does not like Paris, but to be polite, he whispers an insult before going on with more polite conversation.

B He does not want his comment heard by Paris but by the audience, who know more of what’s going on than Paris does.

C Because Romeo is hiding in the friar’s cell, Friar Laurence addresses Romeo rather than Paris.

D Throughout the play, Shakespeare has the friar alternate between speaking a line of dialogue to a character and speaking a thought aloud to himself.

**CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE** (25 points)

14. In Act IV, we see a side of Juliet that we have not seen before. On a separate sheet of paper, describe what her actions reveal about the growth of her character. Make at least two references to details in the play to support your ideas.
The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, Act IV
by William Shakespeare

Selection Test, page 268

Comprehension
1. A  6. G
2. H  7. B
3. D  8. F
4. H  9. C

Literary Focus
12. G

Constructed Response
14. Students’ responses will vary. A sample response follows:

At the beginning of the play, Juliet is a meek, obedient girl. When she marries Romeo in secret, her life changes. From that point on, she makes bold decisions based on her love for Romeo, not the good of the Capulet family. When Tybalt dies, Juliet uses words with double meanings to keep her love of Romeo a secret from her mother. Later, Juliet becomes bolder. She tells her father that she will not marry Paris or anyone else. When her father threatens to disown her, Juliet holds to her position and keeps her marriage to Romeo a secret. With the help of Friar Laurence, she plans to fake her own death just before her wedding day. She goes ahead with the plan even though the idea of taking a sleeping potion and waking in the family vault frightens her. Her love has made her deceitful, scheming, assertive, and bold.

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, Act V
by William Shakespeare

Your Laughter
by Pablo Neruda

How Do I Love Thee?
by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Selection Test, page 271

Comprehension
1. D  6. J
2. F  7. D
4. H  9. C
5. B  10. F

Literary Focus

Constructed Response
15. Students’ responses will vary. A sample response follows:

The interaction between the Capulet and Montague families when Romeo and Juliet fall in love shows that feuds lead to destruction and tragedy. In the play six people die within the span of a few days. These deaths affect families other than those involved in the feud, especially the family of the prince. Friar Laurence’s career is ruined even if the prince decides not to punish him. If Romeo and Juliet had spoken truthfully and directly to their parents of their love or of their plans to marry, some of these deaths—including their own—could have been prevented. The actions and decisions of the young couple serve as a chilling warning to those who, even today, would find themselves embroiled in bitter disputes or rapt in forbidden love.