

The Canterbury Tales Test

The Prologue

1. Who did the narrator meet at the Tabbard Inn?
 - a. He met the King of England
 - b. He met the Archbishop of Canterbury
 - c. He met 29 pilgrims
 - d. He met St. Thomas a Becket
2. Why was everyone at The Tabbard?
 - a. There was a band of highwaymen on the road and the people were afraid to travel. They were waiting for the King's soldiers to come and escort them.
 - b. They were on their way making a pilgrimage to Canterbury.
 - c. They had come to celebrate the baptism of the King's youngest son.
 - d. Over half the group had taken ill. They were recuperating at the inn.
3. What were they going to see?
 - a. They were going to see the relics of the True Cross.
 - b. They were going to see a special presentation of the Passion play.
 - c. They were going to see a spring that was supposed to have miraculous healing powers.
 - d. They were going to see the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket.
4. He has been in many battles. He was true and gentle.
 - a. The Knight
 - b. The Yeoman
 - c. The Sergeant at Law
 - d. The Merchant
5. He was the son of the Knight, in his twenties, agile, strong, and happy-go-lucky.
 - a. The Plowman
 - b. The Squire
 - c. The Reeve
 - d. The Pardoner
6. He was the Squire's servant. He was a woodsman, a Robin Hood type character.
 - a. The Host
 - b. The Shipman
 - c. The Yeoman
 - d. The Manciple
7. She spoke French, was dainty and pleasant, and the picture of medieval beauty.
 - a. The Prioress/Nun
 - b. The Wife of Bath
 - c. The Cook
 - d. The Weaver
8. These people were in the nun's group.
 - a. One priest and three students
 - b. Four nuns
 - c. Two converts, one priest, and one nun
 - d. One nun and three priests

9. He was bald and fat. He had a preference for fine clothes and luxuries. He didn't like hard work, but he did like to ride.

- a. The Knight
- b. The Monk
- c. The Squire
- d. The Franklin

10. He takes bribes for easy penance. He knows the taverns and barmaids better than he does the lepers and beggars. He is rather aristocratic, and he lisps.

- a. The Pardoner
- b. The Parson
- c. The Friar
- d. The Summoner

11. He has a forked beard and a motley coat. He is careful with money, a good negotiator, and always tells his opinions about business.

- a. The Haberdasher
- b. The Shipman
- c. The Merchant
- d. The Host

12. This pilgrim was an Oxford student who didn't say much, didn't have a job, and just loved learning for the sake of learning.

- a. The Clerk
- b. The Squire
- c. The Franklin
- d. The Prioress/Nun

13. He seemed wise. He made a lot of money. He seemed busier than he really was.

- a. The Knight
- b. The Squire
- c. The Manciple
- d. The Sergeant at Law

14. He looked a little like Santa Claus. He liked to eat, drink and be merry. He was a country gentleman with a dagger and a silk purse.

- a. The Yeoman
- b. The Franklin
- c. The Host
- d. The Pharmacist

15. What tradesmen were there?

- a. A Minstrel, a Barrel-maker, a Tailor, and a Reeve
- b. A Merchant, a Teacher, a Lawyer, a Potter and a Weaver
- c. A Haberdasher, a Dyer, a Carpenter, a Weaver, and a Carpet-maker
- d. A Clerk, a Carpenter, a Barrel-maker, a Plowman, and a Haberdasher

16. This pilgrim was a master of the trade, had a sore on one knee, and was physically a rather disgusting character.

- a. The Plowman
- b. The Cook
- c. The Wife of Bath
- d. The Summoner

17. He was from Dartmouth, didn't ride well, and was a good navigator. He had little conscience about killing the enemy, and seemed rather like a pirate.

- a. The Miller
- b. The Knight
- c. The Reeve
- d. The Shipman

18. He knew his profession well, and took kickbacks from one in another profession. He was not particularly religious. He was dressed in red and blue-gray garments, and loved gold.

- a. The Doctor
- b. The Squire
- c. The Pharmacist
- d. The Manciple

19. This pilgrim was large and somewhat deaf, had a red complexion, wore a wide hat and spurs and had been married several times.

- a. The Host
- b. The Cook
- c. The Wife of Bath
- d. The Shipman

20. This pilgrim was truly Christ-like; patient, giving, holy and virtuous, and didn't believe in pomp or glory. He practiced what he preached.

- a. The Monk
- b. The Friar
- c. The Parson
- d. The Pardoner

21. He was the Parson's brother. He was an honest worker who paid his taxes on time.

- a. The Reeve
- b. The Plowman
- c. The Shipman
- d. The Haberdasher

22. He had a heavy, stocky build. He had a red beard, a wart on his nose, and a filthy mouth. He cheated customers and in his spare time played the bagpipes.

- a. The Miller
- b. The Cook
- c. The Clerk
- d. The Merchant

23. He was a shrewd buyer. Lawyers with all their knowledge were no match for him. He purchase well and kept the extra money for himself. He stole the lawyers blind.

- a. The Franklin
- b. The Manciple
- c. The Sergeant at Law
- d. The Merchant

24. He was old, choleric, and thin. He was a good manager and good carpenter, feared by the farm workers. He usually brought up the rear of the party, lagging behind.

- a. The Pardoner
- b. The Friar
- c. The Squire
- d. The Reeve

25. He had a red face full of sores. He ate onions and drank too much. He would take bribes. he had a garland of flowers on his head and held a cake like a shield.

- a. The Summoner
- b. The Cook
- c. The Haberdasher
- d. The Miller

26. This pilgrim sang in a strong voice, had long, yellow hair, bulging eyes, was baby-faced and carried a bunch of false relics to sell.

- a. The Friar
- b. The Monk
- c. The Pardoner
- d. The Prioress/Nun

27. His name was Harry Bailly. He was manly, good-natured, and happy.

- a. The Knight
- b. The Host
- c. The Shipman
- d. The Franklin

28. What does the host propose to the pilgrims?

- a. He proposes that they memorize Bible verses and recite them to the group each evening. The host will keep account of the number each pilgrim memorizes. The pilgrim who memorizes the most will receive a monetary reward from the rest.
- b. He proposes that they stop three times each day (morning, noon and evening) for prayers, and that a different pilgrim will lead the prayers each day.
- c. He proposes that they convert people along the way and take them on the pilgrimage. He convinces the Pardoner to offer special indulgences to the pilgrims who get converts to join them.
- d. He proposes that they each tell two stories on the way to and from their destination. The winner will get a free meal at the expense of the others. The Host will ride along and be the judge. Anyone who doesn't abide by his rule will have to pay everyone's way

The Pardoner's Tale

29. Of what use is the bone?

- a. It could be used over and over again to make nutritious soups for devoted Christians who were too poor to afford meat.
- b. It could be used as a defense against attackers. It caused extreme pain anywhere it touched someone with evil thoughts.
- c. It brought good luck.
- d. It would cure animals' snake bites or sores. It was also a cure for jealousy.

30. For what use is the mitten and under what condition will it work?

- a. It will provide the wearer with extremely strong hands and arms if his thoughts are for good works like farming rather than evil works like murder.
- b. It will cure most illnesses if the wearer has made a pilgrimage.
- c. It will increase the yield of grain provided the wearer has made a donation to the church.
- d. It will keep the wearer from adultery if he says at least one prayer each day.

31. Describe the "trick" which has been worth a hundred marks a year to the Pardoner.

- a. The Pardoner has a bird that lights on the shoulder of someone who is about to be forgiven. In reality, the Pardoner looks over his audience, finds someone who looks rich, and signals the bird to land there. The forgiven sinners usually make a large donation.
- b. He preaches that the very sinful members of his flock cannot make an offering, but that the virtuous members may, and he will absolve them.
- c. He sells small bottles of water that he says is holy water. It is supposed to wash away the sins of the person who drinks it.
- d. He has one person in the congregation stand up and tell how much more holy his life has been and how he feels spiritually fulfilled since he gave all of his worldly goods to the church.

32. What is the Pardoner's purpose? What is he supposed to do?

- a. His real purpose is to make money. He is supposed to be concerned with saving souls.
- b. His purpose is to convert people and save their souls. That is what he does.
- c. His real purpose is to save souls. He is supposed to be collecting money for his church.
- d. His real purpose is to look for a rich wife. He is supposed to be telling people about god.

33. What is ironic about how the Pardoner gets people to repent from the sin of avarice?

- a. It is a foreshadowing.
- b. It is a metaphor.
- c. It is irony.
- d. it is onomatopoeia

34. What bargain or agreement did the rioters make at the tavern?

- a. They agreed to stop rioting if the Pardoner could find wives for all of them.
- b. They agreed to stop all sin within a hundred miles of the tavern.
- c. They agreed to hunt down Death.
- d. They agreed to go with the Pardoner and earn money for the church⁷. They met an old man as they began their journey.

35. What was the old man's problem?

- a. He had been very sinful in his youth. He could not die until he had confessed each sin to a different priest or Pardoner, and made a donation to each of them.
- b. He would gain eternal life if he could find a beautiful young woman to love and marry him.
- c. He would keep getting new illnesses unless he could convert at least one person a day. Most people didn't want to listen to him, because he was so old and diseased.
- d. He had to roam the earth until he had found someone who would trade youth for age.

36. Where does the old man send the rioters?

- a. He sent them to the Holy Land.
- b. He sent them up the road to an oak tree.
- c. He sent them to a hidden cave in the forest.
- d. He sent them to the shrine at Canterbury.

37. What did they find where the old man sent them?

- a. They found three beautiful women waiting for them.
- b. They found eight bushels of gold.
- c. They found a bag full of jewels.
- d. They found jewelry and golden swords.

38. Why did they have to bring the treasure home at night?

- a. They were afraid someone would think they had stolen it.
- b. They were afraid the Pardoner would see them and demand that they turn it over to the church.
- c. They didn't want any highwaymen to rob them.
- d. It was so heavy to carry that it got them overheated in the bright sun. It was easier to carry it at night.

39. Why was one youth sent to town?

- a. He went to scout for robbers.
- b. He went to provide an alibi for the others.
- c. He went to buy food and drink so they would have something to eat while waiting.
- d. He went to buy a horse to carry the load.

40. What plan did the two other youths make to kill the one when he returned from town?

- a. They would ambush him, tie him up, and throw him in the river.
- b. They would cut off his head while he slept.
- c. They would set him on fire.
- d. One would talk to him and the other would come up from behind and stab him

41. What plan did the one who went to town make to kill the two others when he got back?

- a. He was going to stab them while they slept.
- b. He was going to let the horse trample them.
- c. He was going to poison them.
- d. He had hired two thugs to kill them as they brought the treasure home.

42. Who died, and how did it happen?

- a. The one died when they stabbed him.
- b. All three died. The two stabbed the one, and then they unknowingly drank the poisoned wine.
- c. Only the two died when the horse trampled them.
- d. They all died. The thugs killed the two men, then killed the one who had hired them.

The Wife of Bath's Tale

43.. What does the Wife of Bath think of marriage?

- a. She thinks it is the best way for a woman to protect herself.
- b. She thinks it is a necessary evil.
- c. She thinks it is enjoyable; that's why she had done it so often.
- d. She thinks it is a misery and woe.

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

- a. The Wife of Bath has had three husbands.
- b. The Wife of Bath has had eight husbands.
- c. The Wife of Bath has had five husbands.
- d. The Wife of Bath has had two husbands.

45.. The Wife of Bath talks about Solomon, Abraham, Jacob, and others from the Bible. What is her point?

- a. She is showing that men are superior, and women should be subservient.
- b. She is defending her many marriages by showing examples of how others in good stead with the church have had many marriages.
- c. She is bragging about her knowledge of the Old Testament.
- d. She is showing that family is important, even to those who are called to a higher mission by God.

46.. On what commandment does the Wife of Bath like to dwell?

- a. She likes to dwell on the one that says to honor one's father and mother.
- b. She likes to dwell on the one that says not to covet thy neighbor's goods or wife.
- c. She likes to dwell on the one that says not to kill.
- d. She like to dwell on the one that says husbands should love their wives.

47-50 The Wife of Bath had many complaints about husbands. Read the following statements. Choose A if the statement is one of her complaints. Choose B if it is not one of her complaints.

47. If husbands would "try out" their wives before marriage, they wouldn't think the wives had hidden their "vices."

- a. This is one of her complaints.
- b. This is not one of her complaints.

48. Husbands spy on their wives because they don't trust them to handle money wisely.

- a. This is one of her complaints.
- b. This is not one of her complaints.

49. Husbands seem to forget that their valuables are common property between husband and wife.

- a. This is one of her complaints.
- b. This is not one of her complaints.

50. Husbands think wives contrive ways to make the husbands miserable.

- a. This is one of her complaints.
- b. This is not one of her complaints.

51. How did the Wife of Bath partially lose her hearing?

- a. A rock fell on her head while they were sleeping in the woods.
- b. She fell in a river, almost drowned, and then the water blocked her ear and caused deafness.
- c. Johnny hit her across her ear.
- d. She had a high fever many years ago. It damaged her hearing.

52. What was the result of the fight between the Wife of Bath and her fifth husband?

- a. They lived happily ever after.
- b. She killed him.
- c. They divorced.
- d. He was sent to prison for hurting her.

53. Why did the Friar promise to tell a tale poking fun at a Summoner?

- a. The Wife had offered him a purse full of gold to do it.
- b. After her prologue, the Summoner's insulted the Friar.
- c. He is really jealous of the Summoner's outgoing personality and easy way with women.
- d. The Monk offered the Summoner money to insult the Friar. They had been enemies for many years.

54. What did the knight do to warrant the punishment of beheading?

- a. He killed a Friar.
- b. He robbed the king's treasury and gave it to the poor.
- c. He refused to follow the king's orders.
- d. He raped a young maiden.

55. Who saved the knight, and under what condition was he let go?

- a. The King saved him, under the condition that he leave the country and never return.
- b. The priest saved him, under the condition that he enter a monastery and remain there for the rest of his life.
- c. The Queen saved him, under the condition that he would come back in one year's time and tell her the one thing women wanted above all else.
- d. The court sorcerer saved him, under the condition that he become an apprentice sorcerer.

56. What deal did he make on his way home after the year was almost ended?

- a. He met a priest who worked with the poor. The knight promised the priest he would work for a year and give everything he earned to the poor.
- b. He met an old woman who told him the answer to the queen's question and under the condition that he would grant her next request if it would be in his power to do so.
- c. He met a sorcerer who said he could erase everyone's memory of the knight's evil deed. In return, the knight would have to spend the rest of his life doing good deeds and carrying a message of peace to other knights.
- d. He met a beautiful girl and fell in love with her. She agreed to marry him after he had saved twelve other maidens from the crime which he had committed.

57. What was the answer to the Queen's question?

- a. All women want to marry, regardless of the kind of man they marry.
- b. All women want to be young and beautiful forever.
- c. All women want to be happy, above all else.
- d. All women want to be masters of their husbands.

58. What did the woman ask of the knight in return for saving his life?
- a. She asked him to marry her.
 - b. She asked him to give her a purse filled with gold.
 - c. She asked him to return in one year to help her harvest her crops.
 - d. She asked him to sacrifice his life in order that she could become young again.
59. The knight kept his word and married her, but he was miserable. What options did the old woman give him?
- a. She would release him in one year if he would devote that year to loving her.
 - b. He could be unfaithful to her, but he would never be happy.
 - c. He could have her old and faithful or young and perhaps not so faithful.
 - d. He could leave her, but never marry again.
60. What did the knight choose?
- a. He chose to love her.
 - b. He left the decision up to her.
 - c. He decided to be unfaithful.
 - d. He refused to choose.
61. Why did the old woman promise him both beauty and fidelity?
- a. By giving her the choice, he allowed her mastery over him.
 - b. She knew he was really trying, and she cared for him.
 - c. She knew she would be dead within a few years, and decided that they should both be happy during that time.
 - d. She felt sorry for him.