Heart of Darkness Objective Test

Directions: Choose the best answer for each of the following questions and explain your decisions.

1) Kurtz's painting of "a woman, draped and blindfolded, carrying a lighted torch," which Marlow sees in the Brickmaker's hut, is a representation of
   a) Marlow's aunt.
   b) Kurtz's Intended.
   c) The Jungle Mistress.
   d) all of the above.
   e) none of the above

Explain your choice here:

2) The Brickmaker's job is
   a) creating civilization in the jungle.
   b) making bricks.
   c) spying for the Manager at Central Station.
   d) all of the above.
   e) none of the above.

Explain your choice here:

3) Whose desire is to "tear treasure out of the bowels of the land"?
   a) Eldorado Exploring Expedition
   b) the Company
   c) Kurtz
   d) Marlow
   e) all of the above

Explain your choice here:

4) Who "electrified large meetings" and "would have been a splendid leader of an extreme party"?
   a) the journalist
   b) Marlow
   c) Kurtz
   d) the Manager
   e) none of the above

Explain your choice here:
5) How are the Accountant's "starched collars and got-up shirt-fronts... achievements of character"?
   a) They represent his ability to tame the natives.
   b) They reveal his power and control over his environment.
   c) They show his ability to maintain civilization in the jungle.
   d) They reveal his exactness.
   e) none of the above

Explain your choice here:

6) Who believes that Marlow's duty is to "[wean] those ignorant millions from their horrid ways"?
   a) Kurtz
   b) Kurtz's Intended
   c) the Knitting Women
   d) Marlow's aunt
   e) the Accountant

Explain your choice here:

7) Who is the narrator of Heart of Darkness?
   a) Kurtz
   b) a passenger on the Nellie
   c) Marlow
   d) all of the above
   e) none of the above

Explain your choice here:

8) Why does the Jungle Mistress "not so much as flinch and [stretch] tragically her bare arms after us over the sombre and glittering river"?
   a) She has been brainwashed by Kurtz.
   b) She mourns Kurtz's leaving.
   c) She knows Kurtz will soon die.
   d) She is the representation of true nobility.
   e) all of the above

Explain your choice here:

9) Marlow tells the Intended that Kurtz's final words were
   a) "I loved her."
   b) "your name."
   c) "the heart of darkness."
   d) "The horror! The horror!"
   e) none of the above.

Explain your choice here:
10) Kurtz goes to the Congo because
   a) the Intended’s family does not accept him.
   b) he wants to make his fortune.
   c) he plans to write a report.
   d) none of the above.
   e) all of the above.

Explain your choice here:

11) What term describes "a highly personal manner of writing in which the author presents materials as they appear to an individual temperament at a precise moment and from a particular vantage point"?
   a) intuition
   b) imagery
   c) impressionism
   d) interpretive literature
   e) irony

Explain your choice here:

12) What term describes the representation through language of a sense experience?
   a) intuition
   b) imagery
   c) impressionism
   d) interpretive literature
   e) irony

Explain your choice here:

13) The artistic use of the opposition of light and dark is called
   a) connotation.
   b) caesura.
   c) catharsis.
   d) cacophony.
   e) chiascence.

Explain your choice here:
14) Though he knows his scientific experiments are inconsequential since "the changes take place inside," the Company Doctor asks to measure Marlow's
   a) feet.
   b) arm.
   c) hands.
   d) head.
   e) chest.

Explain your choice here:

15) Marlow's desire to travel derives from his childhood obsession with
   a) archaeology.
   b) music.
   c) folklore.
   d) maps.
   e) religion.

Explain your choice here:

16) Relating Marlow's physical journey to his psychological journey, critics have equated the Inner Station to
   a) the unconscious.
   b) the Id.
   c) the Ego.
   d) the Superego.
   e) the subconscious.

Explain your choice here:

17) Who tries to "make up for lots of silence" with Marlow because "you don't talk to [Kurtz]--you listen to him"?
   a) the Russian
   b) the Brickmaker
   c) the Accountant
   d) the Manager
   e) Fresleven

Explain your choice here:

18) Only three characters in the novella have names because
   a) most people are defined by their roles in the company or in society.
   b) most people are devoid of individuality.
   c) most people are devoid of humanity.
   d) all of the the above.
   e) none of the above.

Explain your choice here:
19) The journey in *Heart of Darkness* is
   a) a physical journey upriver to the Inner Station.
   b) a social movement from civilized Europe back to the beginning of creation when nature ruled.
   c) a psychological transformation to discover repressed desires.
   d) all of the above.
   e) none of the above.

Explain your choice here:

20) Who does Marlow say was considered the "gentlest, quietest creature that ever walked on two legs"?
   a) the Russian
   b) the Accountant
   c) the Manager
   d) Kurtz
   e) Fresleven

Explain your choice here:

21) When the Eldorado Exploring Expedition disappears, Marlow says that he "know[s] nothing as to the fate of the less valuable animals." Who or what are these "less valuable animals"?
   a) the donkeys
   b) the women
   c) the slaves
   d) the members of the expedition
   e) none of the above

Explain your choice here:

22) What did Kurtz scrawl at the end of the report to the International Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs?
   a) "My ivory"
   b) "I have forgotten myself."
   c) "The horror! The horror!"
   d) "My Intended"
   e) "Exterminate all the brutes!"

Explain your choice here:

23) Who must Marlow help to "stay in that beautiful world of their own, lest ours gets worse"?
   a) Kurtz's Intended
   b) Marlow's Aunt
   c) women
   d) none of the above
   e) all of the above

Explain your choice here:
24) What does Marlow do when he sees the pilgrims on the deck of the steamer ready to shoot at the natives?
   a) He fires a warning shot at the pilgrims.
   b) He blows the whistle to frighten the natives.
   c) He does nothing.
   d) He screams to alert the natives.
   e) none of the above

25) Explain your choice here:

Which writer criticizes Conrad for depicting Africa as "the antithesis of Europe and therefore of civilization"?
   a) Toni Morrison
   b) Chinua Achebe
   c) H. L. Mencken
   d) Wole Soyinka
   e) Virginia Woolf

Explain your choice here: