

Applied Practice  
in

*Invisible Man*

*PRE-AP\*/AP\**

By Ralph Ellison

**RESOURCE GUIDE**

\*AP and SAT are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product. Pre-AP is a trademark owned by the College Entrance Examination Board.

**APPLIED PRACTICE**  
**Resource Guide**  
*Invisible Man*  
**Pre-AP\*/AP\* Version**

**Teacher Notes**

A Note for Teachers .....	2
A Note About Format.....	4

**Teaching Resources**

Strategies for Multiple-Choice Questions.....	5
Strategies for Free-Response Questions .....	6
Glossary of Literary Terms .....	7
Vocabulary Lists by Passage.....	15

**Student Practices**

Multiple-Choice Questions .....	19
Free-Response Questions .....	33

**Answer Key and Explanations**

Multiple-Choice Answer Key .....	40
Multiple-Choice Answer Explanations.....	42
Free-Response Scoring Guide.....	58

\*Pre-AP and AP are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

## GLOSSARY OF LITERARY TERMS

- absolute**—a word free from limitations or qualifications (“best,” “all,” “unique,” “perfect”)
- adage**—a familiar proverb or wise saying
- ad hominem* argument**—an argument attacking an individual’s character rather than his or her position on an issue
- allegory**—a literary work in which characters, objects, or actions represent abstractions
- alliteration**—the repetition of initial sounds in successive or neighboring words
- allusion**—a reference to something literary, mythological, or historical that the author assumes the reader will recognize
- analogy**—a comparison of two different things that are similar in some way
- anaphora**—the repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of consecutive lines or sentences
- anecdote**—a brief narrative that focuses on a particular incident or event
- antecedent**—the word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers
- antithesis**—a statement in which two opposing ideas are balanced
- aphorism**—a concise statement that expresses succinctly a general truth or idea, often using rhyme or balance
- apostrophe**—a figure of speech in which one directly addresses an absent or imaginary person, or some abstraction
- archetype**—a detail, image, or character type that occurs frequently in literature and myth and is thought to appeal in a universal way to the unconscious and to evoke a response
- argument**—a statement of the meaning or main point of a literary work
- asyndeton**—a construction in which elements are presented in a series without conjunctions

## VOCABULARY LIST FOR *INVISIBLE MAN*

Note: Vocabulary from the literary passage is listed first, followed by vocabulary from the questions and answers.

### Passage 1

contradiction  
boomeranging  
pertaining  
exulted  
sputtered  
emphatically  
sulky  
oration

---

rationalization  
pragmatism

### Passage 2

promenaded  
trysting  
revelation  
ambiguity  
corroded  
cistern  
alchemy

---

wariness

### Passage 3

silhouettes  
decorous  
cryptic  
convergence  
dispensation  
puritanical  
ritualized

---

ominous  
parenthetical

Directions: This part consists of selections from *Invisible Man* and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Passage 1, Questions 1-7. Read the passage from Chapter 1 which begins at the beginning of the chapter and ends “It was a triumph for the whole community” (pages 15-17) carefully before you choose your answers.

1. According to the narrator, his search during his early years was characterized by
  - (A) idealism
  - (B) futility
  - (C) denial
  - (D) objectivity
  - (E) rationalization
2. The narrator sees his “invisibility” as
  - (A) the quality that makes him unique
  - (B) the quality that others had tried to tell him about
  - (C) an anomaly resulting from his descent from slaves
  - (D) an inevitable result of events
  - (E) a result of his long search
3. The tone of the parenthetical phrase in the second paragraph [“(or unequal)”] could best be described as
  - (A) humorous
  - (B) sarcastic
  - (C) sardonic
  - (D) equivocal
  - (E) ambivalent
4. The second paragraph is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT
  - (A) simile
  - (B) euphemism
  - (C) paradox
  - (D) metaphor
  - (E) parallel structure
5. The narrator conducts himself in a manner which is praised by the white community because of his
  - (A) pragmatism
  - (B) admiration for his grandfather
  - (C) feelings of guilt
  - (D) desire to be a traitor
  - (E) feelings of inferiority
6. The narrator characterizes white people as those who
  - I. deceive themselves
  - II. reward subservience
  - III. resent the abolition of slavery
  - (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) I and II only
  - (D) II and III only
  - (E) I, II, and III
7. The narrator could most accurately be described as
  - (A) bitter
  - (B) humble
  - (C) ironic
  - (D) objective
  - (E) introspective

### Question 5

(Suggested time--40 minutes)

Note to teachers and students: On the English Literature and Composition Exam, students are given an open free-response question and a list of possible works from which to choose in answering the question. For the purposes of applied practice in class, the question given here was written with *Invisible Man* in mind. However, the question could be applied to numerous literary works. It is important for students to understand that, on the actual exam, a student's choice would not be restricted to a given work.

In some works of literature, a character who never appears on stage or in the novel nevertheless serves an important purpose. Choose such a character from *Invisible Man*, and, in a well-organized essay, discuss how the character, though absent, is crucial to the development of one or more themes in the novel.

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS  
PASSAGE 3

**17. (E) I, II, and III.** The moon is described as “blood-red” and as “a white man’s bloodshot eye” which “looms” over the scene. This description is ominous in tone. The imagery associates the moon with the chapel in the second paragraph, where the chapel is described as “risen bloody from the earth like the rising moon.” Finally, the term “looms” is repeated in the description of the organ pipes which the narrator remembers as “looming” over the students.

**18. (B) allusion.** There is no allusion evident in the first paragraph. There is alliteration (“far-floating, fluent,” “feminine fluting”), onomatopoeia (“Dong! Dong! Dong!”), metaphor (“the moon a white man’s bloodshot eye”), and cumulative sentences (the sentence beginning “Above the decorous walking around me”).

**19. (D) II and III only.** In this passage, the narrator does not speak of the time before he went to the college. He does use present tense when speaking of his time as a student-- “Into the doors and into the soft lights I go.” He also uses the present tense to indicate that he is now looking back at that time in his life-- “I remember.”

**20. (A) verbs.** The verbs do not serve to contribute to the positive associations about winter. There are positive nouns-- “birth,” “carols,” “sea,” “organ,” “trombone choir”; adjectives-- “high,” “clear,” “lucid,” “crystal,” “new”; participles-- “glinting,” “lapping,” “slumbering.” The preposition “unto” is Biblical in its connotations and ties in with “new dispensation” and “vespers.”

**21. (B) “An ultimatum accepted and ritualized.”** The students are described in terms that suggest a mindless, automatic ritual: “faces frozen,” “masks,” “voices mechanically raised.” The narrator comments that they have received an ultimatum (sing and entertain us, or else) which they have accepted and ritualized. They are going through the motions, performing the ritual they are expected to perform for the sake of the visitors.

**22. (B) patronizing.** The speakers are “eager to inform” the students of how lucky they are to have been removed from their ignorance and darkness. This suggests a tone of paternal condescension.

**23. (C) allusion.** The millionaires are portrayed as those who perform an elaborate drama to show the students how wonderful and benevolent these successful men are. They are described in terms which allude to Greek drama: “this stage,” “acting out the myth,” “in cardboard masks” and to religious ceremonies: “rite,” “God’s own acting script,” “wafer and the wine.” The Horatio Alger story is alluded to--these are self-made men and proud of it. The narrator conveys the idea that these men are pompous and arrogant as they act out the “myth of their goodness,” and he combines the various allusions to reinforce his point.