Metamorphosis TEST

Part I: Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the best word from the word bank to complete each sentence.

1. The hamburgers Bob’s mom brought to the birthday party were a little ________________________, considering the event was being held at McDonald’s.

2. Bob Junior puts up a tough ____________________, but he’s actually quite sensitive.

3. Bob the Third has a boring, dead-end job and often looks back on his college years with _______________________.

4. Bob the Fourth lay __________________________on the floor until the room stopped spinning.

5. What seemed like a minor _________________________turned out to be a bad case of the swine flu.

Word Bank: façade, vermin, provincial, superfluous, indisposition, obstinacy, blandishments, nostalgia, prostrate, profuse

Part II: Multiple Choice

1. _____Prior to becoming a bug, Gregor works as a(n)…
   a. Insurance adjustor
   b. Traveling salesman
   c. Office assistant
   d. Massage therapist

2. _____Gregor’s sister, Grete…
   a. Plays the violin
   b. Provides Gregor’s food
   c. Begins studying French and shorthand
   d. All of the above
   e.

3. _____Kafka’s dark humor is evident in his description of…
   a. Gregor lying “sour and immobile” on the couch
   b. The family eating dinner in the kitchen
   c. Grete playing the piano
   d. Gregor’s mother “sacrificing herself to the underwear of strangers”
4. _____Gregor has always wanted to send his sister to…
   a. Oxford University
   b. a conservatory
   c. a convent
   d. Crossroads

5. _____Gregor’s bedroom wall is adorned with…
   a. tapestries
   b. family photos
   c. a picture of a woman in fur
   d. nothing

6. _____Gregor most likely dies from…
   a. An infected wound and starvation
   b. Drowning
   c. A parasitic infestation
   d. A can of Raid

7. _____Which best describes the boarders’ reaction to Grete’s music?
   a. Enthralled
   b. Nonplussed
   c. Unimpressed
   d. Agitated

8. _____After Gregor’s death, the family decides to…
   a. Find Grete a husband
   b. Take the day off
   c. Donate his body to science
   d. Both A and B

9. _____A cultural and artistic period at the beginning of the 20th century (approximately 1890-1930) that was marked by “wild experimentalism” was…
   a. Impressionism
   b. Surrealism
   c. Existentialism
   d. Modernism

10. _____In determining what to believe, an Existentialist would likely use…
    a. Secular world values
    b. Religious dogma
    c. Scholarly study
    d. His or her own judgment

11. _____Existentialists tend to regard the universe as fundamentally…
    a. Malicious
    b. Benevolent
    c. Logical
    d. Irrational
12. _____ A situation, piece of art, or literary work might be regarded as “Kafkaesque” if it exhibits…
   a. A strict adherence to the laws of physics
   b. A disorienting or menacing complexity
   c. An abundance of overt religious symbolism
   d. A sense of unfettered violence

13. _____ The “urban decay” evident in much of Kafka’s work was inspired by his life in…
   a. Prostejov
   b. Prostrate
   c. Prague
   d. Passau

14. _____ Which of the following contributed to Kafka’s sense of alienation in his home city?
   a. He was a Jew
   b. He spoke German
   c. He was socially awkward
   d. All of the above

15. _____ Kafka died of…
   a. Meningitis
   b. Tuberculosis
   c. Pneumonia
   d. Existentialism

Part III: Essay
12 Points Each
Choose two of the following to answer in at least six complete sentences each.

1. Consider Gregor as a person. What was life like for him before his metamorphosis, at home and on the job? In what ways do you think Gregor was like a “bug” even before his metamorphosis? *The Metamorphosis* is generally read as an allegorical tale, meaning that the events symbolize a more general human condition in modern society. What do you think Gregor's transformation represents? Explain your answer.

2. The word translated as *vermin* in the first sentence of *The Metamorphosis* is *Ungeziefer* in the original German. As Kafka probably knew, *Ungeziefer* derives from a Middle High German word meaning “an unclean animal not suited for sacrifice.” What meaning do you think this word conveys about the nature of Gregor’s metamorphosis? Do you think that his death can be seen as a sacrifice in any sense? Explain.

3. Once when Franz Kafka was strolling with his younger friend Gustav Janouch in Prague, they ran into Hermann Kafka leaving his shop. As they drew near, Hermann boomed, "Franz. Go home. The air is damp.” In a whisper, Kafka explained, ”My father. He’s worried about me,” adding, ”Love often wears the face of violence” (Ornby 2008). **Analyze the relationship between Gregor and his father in relation to Kafka’s relationship with his own father** (to whom he wrote, but never sent, a 100-page letter beginning with the words, “Dearest father, recently you asked why I maintain that I am afraid of you...”)
The End.