

PART B: POETRY

Total Value: 19 marks

Suggested Time: 30 minutes

Read the poem "Quarry Pigeon Cove." Select the best answer for each question and record your choice.

Quarry¹ Pigeon Cove

by Maxine Kumin

- 1 The dead city waited,
hung upside down in the quarry
without leafmold or pondweed
or a flurry of transparent minnows.
- 5 Badlands the color of doeskin
lay open like ancient Egypt
- Frog fins strapped to my feet,
a teaspoon of my own spit in the mask
to keep glass from fogging,
- 10 and the thumbsuck rubber air tube in my mouth,
I slid in on my stomach
a makeshift amphibian
- Whatever the sky was doing
it did now on its own
- 15 The sun shone for the first fifteen feet² going down,
then flattened, then petered out
I hung on the last rung of daylight
breathing out silver ball bearings,
and looked for the square granite bottom
- 20 I might have swum down looking
soundlessly into nothing,
down stairways and alleys of nothing
until the city took notice
and made me its citizen,

¹quarry: a place from which stone can be extracted

²fifteen feet: approximately 5 metres

25 except that life stirred overhead.
I looked up. A dog walked over me.
A dog was swimming and splashing.
Air eggs nested in his fur.
The hairless parts of him bobbed like toys
30 and the silk of his tail blew past like milkweed
The licorice pads of his paws
sucked in and out,
making the shapes of kisses.

After that,
35 the nap³ of the surface resettled.
Mites danced on both sides of it.
Coming up, my own face seemed beautiful.
The sun broke on my back.

³ nap: a woolly or downy covering

8. To what does the speaker compare the underwater quarry?
- A. a vibrant city
 - B. a lifeless ruin
 - C. an inviting oasis
 - D. an overgrown garden
9. Which line represents a shift in the speaker's focus of attention?
- A. "lay open like ancient Egypt" (line 6)
 - B. "I slid in on my stomach" (line 11)
 - C. "except that life stirred overhead" (line 25)
 - D. "The licorice pads of his paws" (line 31)

10. The phrase, “a teaspoon of my own spit in the mask” (line 8), contains examples of which two figurative devices?
- A. rhyme and consonance
 - B. metaphor and assonance
 - C. consonance and assonance
 - D. alliteration and onomatopoeia
11. What is implied by the statement, “I hung on the last rung of daylight” (line 17) ?
- A. The speaker is afraid of the night.
 - B. The speaker is trapped in the water.
 - C. The speaker is aware of the darkness.
 - D. The speaker is unsure about her direction.
12. To what do the “silver ball bearings” (line 18) refer?
- A. saliva
 - B. pellets
 - C. marbles
 - D. bubbles
13. Which word **best** describes how the underwater scene appears to the speaker?
- A. exciting
 - B. intriguing
 - C. disgusting
 - D. frightening
14. Which word describes the tone at the end of the poem?
- A. joyful
 - B. nostalgic
 - C. sentimental
 - D. philosophical