

from THE BOOK OF MARGERY KEMPE

Selection Test B/C

Comprehension

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.

(6 points each)

1. What caused Kempe to fear that she might die?
 - A. sickness during pregnancy and the pain of labor
 - B. the knowledge that she had forsaken her faith
 - C. mental turmoil over an unconfessed sin
 - D. a belief that the devil possessed her
2. What does Kempe's explanation of the devil's involvement in her confession tell you about her feelings?
 - A. Her devotion to God was strong enough to keep her from fearing the devil.
 - B. She felt confident that her sin was not severe enough to warrant a confession.
 - C. She worried about confessing only when she thought that she would die a sinner.
 - D. Her utmost concern at all times was to maintain a perfect standing with God.
3. Even though Kempe wanted to confess, she failed to do so fully because
 - A. she feared punishment from the devil
 - B. her confessor expressed sharp disapproval
 - C. her maids and keepers were against it
 - D. her religious beliefs were not strong enough
4. Which statement best describes Kempe's period of mental torment?
 - A. Her urge to act violently was restrained by a state of trancelike stillness.
 - B. A desire for goodness would have gained her a speedier recovery.
 - C. Her husband and friends abandoned her because of her actions.
 - D. She experienced incessant visions of threatening devils.
5. Kempe's description of her vision of Jesus reflects the belief that
 - A. Jesus offers divine mercy
 - B. devotion leads to immortality
 - C. confession is necessary for salvation
 - D. acts of charity bring God's forgiveness
6. Kempe's request to her husband that she be given the pantry keys signified her
 - A. remorse about her past actions
 - B. attempt at virtuous behavior
 - C. desire for a return to normalcy
 - D. state of mental instability

SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

7. Based on the attitudes of her maids and keepers, you can draw the conclusion that people in Kempe's society
- A. felt frightened and confused by mental illness
 - B. associated mental illness with unconfessed sins
 - C. relied on miracles to cure mental illness
 - D. expected mental illness to strike everyone
8. Kempe fully recovered only after she had
- A. witnessed a final terrifying vision of the devil
 - B. received forgiveness from her husband
 - C. confessed part of what troubled her
 - D. regained her physical strength
9. What religious belief did Kempe hold as a result of the events described in this excerpt from her autobiography?
- A. No number of devils can screen a person from God's mercy.
 - B. Jesus rewards people who perform acts of charity and confess their sins.
 - C. Although it might seem otherwise, Jesus is with people during times of suffering.
 - D. God uses his infinite wisdom and ultimate power to determine whether a person will live or die.
10. How did Kempe live her life after her period of illness and recovery?
- A. She lived in fear that the devil would regain control of her.
 - B. She devoted her life to God and focused on charitable acts.
 - C. She stayed in constant communication with her confessor.
 - D. She performed her duties responsibly and appropriately.

Written Response

Short Response On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the autobiography. (10 points each)

- 11. What significant change in Kempe's life set in motion all of the other events she describes?
- 12. What did Kempe do in response to the urgings of the devils that she believed tormented her? Include two details from the autobiography in your response.

Extended Response Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the autobiography. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- 13. Do you agree or disagree that unconfessed sin was the root cause of Kempe's illness? Support your opinion with details from the autobiography.
- 14. **Challenge** What is the value of reading this excerpt from the autobiography some six hundred years after it was written? Support your opinion with details from the autobiography.