

Test of Interpretive Power

Devised by Dr. Greg A. Grove ~ 2020

Below are 25 different quotations by an array of thinkers. You are to select the best interpretation of the quotation. The answer choices range inferior to superior interpretations. There is no penalty for guessing.

To assist in developing a norm for the test, please include your name, email address where you want your score report sent, and the average of your lowest and highest IQ scores. This score will probably represent your verbal IQ reasonably well.

Make a list of each item number and your answer: 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. No ties. If completely uncertain, guess. Take your time. The depth of thought required is challenging but not impossible.

Submit your IQ average and your answers only to: ggrove141@aol.com. I will respond with a score report in a week or two after I have completed the statistical analysis of group results. Thank you!

Now, read each quotation thoughtfully, meaningfully, and repeatedly if necessary until you derive your own interpretation, and then check to see if it is featured as an answer choice. If not, choose the most accurate and meaningful interpretation from those given.

1. "Think of the going out before you enter."
 - (1) The end is more important than the beginning.
 - (2) A good beginning makes a good ending.
 - (3) Decide on a plan and stick to it.
 - (4) Don't begin a task without considering the outcome.
 - (5) Forethought is half of wisdom.

2. "A man is his own best servant."
 - (1) Service does not always come at the calling.
 - (2) Necessity is the mother of invention.
 - (3) If you want a thing done, do it yourself.
 - (4) A little help does a great deal.
 - (5) Where there's a will, there's a way.

3. "There is no rose without its thorn."
 - (1) Public institutions serve all classes of people.
 - (2) Each man has his place in the world.
 - (3) Even the best work has some disagreeable features.
 - (4) Opposites often attract each other.
 - (5) Promotion depends upon effort and efficiency.

4. "Necessity knows no law."
 - (1) Need often results in thrift.
 - (2) Laws are not enforced when one is in need.
 - (3) Necessity causes people to do things without counting cost.
 - (4) Courts of justice know no law.
 - (5) Familiarity breeds contempt.

5. "Rats desert a sinking ship."
 - (1) If the cat's away, the mice will play.
 - (2) Sinking ships should call for help.
 - (3) Rats are deserters.
 - (4) False friends run away when you are in trouble.
 - (5) Rats dislike water.

6. "You must take the fat with the lean."
 - (1) It is never too late to mend.
 - (2) The unwise are either fat or lean.
 - (3) Perseverance will win.
 - (4) Every man has his place in the world.
 - (5) Inspectors must expect difficult tasks as well as easy ones.

7. "All that glitters is not gold."
 - (1) The best things are made of gold.
 - (2) Only little things shine.
 - (3) You cannot judge a book by its cover
 - (4) Some glittering things are silver.
 - (5) Gold does not glitter as a diamond.

8. "Learning is a scepter to some, a bauble to others."
 - (1) A little learning is a dangerous thing.
 - (2) Learn not, and know not.
 - (3) Learning makes a good man better and an ill man worse.
 - (4) Knowledge is power to him who knows how to use it.
 - (5) Learning is the most important thing in life.

9. "If you know positively what you are about, your work is half done."
 - (1) Work which is not planned is seldom half done.
 - (2) An optimistic attitude is half of success.
 - (3) Understanding of a task is a big part of its accomplishment.
 - (4) By the time your work is half done, you should know it.
 - (5) The attitude of the worker is more important than his skill.

10. "Birds of a feather flock together."
 - (1) All crows fly together in one flock.
 - (2) People of a kind don't mind.
 - (3) People of the same interests associate with each other.
 - (4) We all like to do the same thing.
 - (5) Time and tide wait for no man.

11. "Show me the man you honor. I know by that symptom, better than any other, what you are yourself."
 - (1) A man is known by the company he keeps.
 - (2) Tell me what you've done and I will tell you what you are.
 - (3) A man is known by his idols.
 - (4) Show me your chips and I will tell you whether you are a good carpenter.
 - (5) Look to your idol to set the goals in your life.

12. "If we agree that morality is what is social and immorality, anti-social, we shall be led to inquire of any course of action how it affects the welfare of society."
- (1) To judge whether an action is good, we must investigate its results on society.
 - (2) An act is moral or immoral regardless of its effects.
 - (3) We must judge a man's deeds by his motives.
 - (4) Acts which are socially harmful are immoral.
 - (5) The welfare of society is dependent on the moral or immoral acts of its population.
13. "There was a painter became a physician, whereupon a citizen said to him, You have done well; for before the faults of your work were seen but now they are unseen."
- (1) The citizen indicates that long training is necessary to appreciate true art.
 - (2) He implies that science is more exacting than art.
 - (3) He means to make sport of the medical profession.
 - (4) He implies that doctors may make mistakes which remain undetected.
 - (5) You can hide your mistakes by upward mobility and status.
14. "It is easy to be virtuous when one's own convenience is not affected."
- (1) Virtue is its own reward.
 - (2) It is easier to preach virtue than to practice it.
 - (3) It is difficult to do right when it conflicts with our inclinations.
 - (4) We would all be virtuous if virtue were merely a matter of doing what we enjoy.
 - (5) It is easy to be virtuous after the age of 75.
15. "I weigh the man, not his title."
- (1) It is not the king's stamp can make the metal better.
 - (2) Fine feathers make fine birds.
 - (3) Titles are the marks of honest men and wise.
 - (4) The rank is but the guinea stamp, the man's the gold, for a' that.
 - (5) The larger the man, the more prestigious the title.

16. "Man's evil manners live in brass; their virtues we write in water."
(1) Some rise by sin and some by virtues fall.
(2) The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.
(3) He lives in fame that died in virtue's cause.
(4) The memory of vices lives longer than the memory of virtues.
(5) Good manners make good men.
17. "No greater grief than to remember the days of joy when misery is at hand."
(1) Misery loves company.
(2) Sorrows remembered sweeten present joy.
(3) To recall past pleasures is but to aggravate our present miseries.
(4) A sorrow's crown of sorrow is remembering happier things.
(5) Misery becomes less severe when we recall past glories.
18. "The fault is not in our stars but in ourselves, that we are underlings."
(1) Every man is the architect of his own fortune.
(2) Man is the master of his destiny.
(3) We can't read out fates from the stars.
(4) If we are underlings, it is not our fault.
(5) Underlings deserve negative astrological predictions.
19. "Though the knowledge they (the ancients) have left us be worth our study, yet they exhausted not all its treasures; they left a great deal for the industry and sagacity of after ages."
(1) Worth is wholly dependent on long use.
(2) Build the present on knowledge of the past.
(3) Do not neglect the present in admiration of the past.
(4) There is nothing new under the sun.
(5) The mine is only half explored; wisdom resides in its depths.

20. "Cowards die many times before their death."
- (1) Fortune favors the brave.
 - (2) Discretion is the better part of valor.
 - (3) The valiant never taste of death but once.
 - (4) They suffer more who fear than they who die.
 - (5) The doors of death are constantly swinging open and closed.
21. "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."
- (1) Reading is profitable to everyone.
 - (2) One should read only parts of some books, while others should be carefully studied.
 - (3) Only a few books repay one for painstaking effort.
 - (4) People's tastes differ in books.
 - (5) The mental taste of a book is in relation to the intelligence of the reader.
22. "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year."
- (1) There is no time like the present.
 - (2) Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow.
 - (3) Anticipation is better than realization.
 - (4) A common delusion is that the present hour is not the critical, decisive hour.
 - (5) Feeling the day in your heart guarantees it will be your best day.
23. "Our virtues disappear when put in competition with our interests."
- (1) A dog with a bone knows no friend.
 - (2) My teeth are nearer than my kindred.
 - (3) Virtue is its own reward.
 - (4) A good friend is my nearest relation.
 - (5) Our interests often compete with our virtues.

24. "If men wish to be held in esteem, they must associate with those only who are estimable."
- (1) What a man does shows what he is.
 - (2) You cannot always judge a man by his surroundings.
 - (3) He who comes from the kitchen smells of its smoke.
 - (4) If you always live with those who are lame, you will yourself learn to limp.
 - (5) By surrounding yourself with virtuous people, you demonstrate virtuous and noble values
25. "We too often forget that not only is there a soul of goodness in things evil, but very generally also a soul of truth in things erroneous."
- (1) Falsity frequently has a nucleus of reality.
 - (2) Beliefs that are shown to be untrue may, nevertheless, be based on some element of truth.
 - (3) Benevolence sometimes has evil consequences.
 - (4) Evil is commonly due to error.
 - (5) Finding good and evil in life is inevitable.

This concludes the test.