

## LSAT 2007: Section 4 (Part 1 of 4)

Time-35 minutes 27 Questions

### Directions

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage or a pair of passages. The questions are to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage or pair of passages. Each problem has certain set of conditions. Mark that answer in your answer sheet which seems the most accurate of all the options.

### Passage for questions

For decades, there has been a huge wave of differentiation and distinction as far as the fields of poetry and fiction in the United States are concerned. This is mainly to do with the academics and graduate writing programs in universities. Both poets and fiction writers have well supported their ways in literary field and have made all possible efforts to bring it upon each other. It has now become a convention and a strong belief that poetry deals with expressing the inner thoughts and focusing all the energy at the lyrics for that matter, while fiction has to do with narration and story telling skills.

Yes, it is to be agreed with conviction that both poetry and fiction have all together different genres, but their toll in education in US is completely competitive. This is because the public in the US, due to the mainstream culture have come across and formed a strong belief that a poet cannot do work of fiction or vice-versa as if doing so and having knowledge and expertise in multiple areas risk charges of dilettantism, as if ability in one field is diluted or compromised by accomplishment in another.

However the scenario now is quite changing and its fortunate enough to see the bias of writers writing both the genres diminishing and disappearing. Rita Dove, an African American writer is an example of this. She is highly praised and publicly accepted writer in both genres. Speaking about the undue difference created between writers of both genres, she exclaimed "Poets Who Write Fiction," a few years ago. She said that she had learnt and read both the genres since her childhood disregarding the kind of danger that she would take upon her while mixing the two of the genres. She also studied for some time in Germany, where, she observes, "Poets write plays, novelists compose libretti, playwrights write novels-they would not understand our restrictiveness."

Dove finds it unsuitable and resists the take of making the genres restricted to certain areas, SHe proves this in her work as well. Her poetry exemplifies the lyrical rhythm which invokes inner feelings of the reader without taking his mind to rearrange the ideas and events

consecutive one after another. Rather while reading through the lines, the reader gets curious to know which incident would the next line flow and would touch which cord of the heart. Her use of language in these poems is undeniably lyrical&mdash. Same is the case when it comes to writing fiction. Many passages in her fiction, though undeniably prose, achieve the status of lyric narrative through the use of poetic rhythms and elliptical expression. In short, Dove bridges the gap between poetry and fiction not only by writing in both genres, but also by fusing the two genres within individual works.

1. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the crux of the passage?
  - a. Rita Dove's work has been widely acclaimed primarily because of the lyrical elements she has introduced into her fiction.
  - b. Rita Dove's lyric narratives present clusters of narrative detail in order to create a cumulative narrative without requiring the reader to interpret it in a linear manner.
  - c. Writers like Rita Dove have contributed to be against the conventional thought procedure that is dominant in the US, by showing the lyrical use of language effectively thereby enhancing narrative fiction.
  - d. Unlike many of her US contemporaries, Rita Dove writes without relying on the traditional techniques associated with poetry and fiction.
  - e. Rita Dove's successful blending of poetry and fiction exemplifies the recent trend unlike the old trend and methodology of though of distincting the two genres.

Answer: e

2. Fit a suitable analogy to the literary achievements that the author attributes to Dove from the following:
  - a. A chef combines nontraditional cooking methods and traditional ingredients from disparate world cuisines to devise new recipes.
  - b. A professor of film studies becomes a film director and succeeds, partly due to a wealth of theoretical knowledge of filmmaking.
  - c. An actor who is also a theatrical director teams up with a public health agency to use street theater to inform the public about health matters.
  - d. A choreographer defies convention and choreographs dances that combine elements of both ballet and jazz dance.
  - e. A rock musician records several songs from previous decades but introduces extended guitar solos into each one.

Answer: d

3. According to the passage, in the US there is a widely held view that
- a. poetry should not involve characters or narratives
  - b. unlike the writing of poetry, the writing of fiction is rarely an academically serious endeavor
  - c. graduate writing programs focus on poetry to the exclusion of fiction
  - d. fiction is most aesthetically effective when it incorporates lyrical elements
  - e. European literary cultures are suspicious of generalists

Answer: a

4. The author's attitude toward the deep dumped and excavated distinction between the two genres of poetry and fiction in the US can be most accurately described as one of
- a. perplexity as to what could have led to the development of such a rift
  - b. a surprise element of academics which has overlooked the existence of the rift
  - c. ambivalence toward the effect the rift has had on US literature
  - d. pessimism regarding the possibility that the rift can be overcome
  - e. disapproval of attitudes and presuppositions underlying the rift

Answer: e

5. In the passage the author claims that a cause of the deep rift between fiction and poetry in the United States may be that
- a. poets and fiction writers each tend to make their work look superior to others
  - b. the methods used in training graduate students in poetry are different from those used in training graduate students in other literary fields
  - c. publishers often pressure writers to concentrate on what they do best
  - d. a suspicion of generalism deters writers from dividing their energies between the two genres
  - e. fiction is more widely read and respected than the genre poetry

Answer: d

6. In the context of the passage, the author's primary purpose in mentioning Dove's experience in Germany (last sentence of the third paragraph) is to

- a. suggest that the habit and mindset of treating poetry and fiction as nonoverlapping domains is only the characteristic of English-speaking societies
- b. point to an experience that reinforced Dove's conviction that poetry and fiction should not be rigidly considered separate
- c. indicate that Dove's strengths as a writer derive in large part from the international character of her academic background
- d. present an illuminating biographical detail about Dove in an effort to enhance the human interest appeal of the passage
- e. indicate what Dove believes to be the origin of her opposition to the separation of fiction and poetry in the US

Answer: b

7. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would be most likely to believe which one of the following?

- a. Each of Dove's works can be well distinguished as either primarily poetry or primarily fiction, even though it may contain elements of both.
- b. The aesthetic value of lyric narrative resides in its representation of a sequence of events, rather than in its ability to evoke inner states.
- c. The way in which Dove blends the elements in genres in her writing has not been evident earlier in US writing.
- d. Narrative that uses lyrical language is generally aesthetically superior to pure lyric poetry.
- e. Writers who successfully cross the generic boundary between poetry and fiction are able to and try to create and write drama as well.

Answer: a

8. If this passage had been excerpted from a longer text, which one of the following predictions about the near future of US literature would be most likely to appear in that text?

- a. The number of writers who write both poetry and fiction will probably continue to grow.
- b. Because of the increased interest in mixed genres, the existent small market for pure lyric poetry is more likely to reduce.
- c. Narrative poetry will probably come to be regarded as a sub-genre of fiction.

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- d. There will probably be a rise in specialization among writers in university writing programs.
- e. Writers who continue to work exclusively in poetry or fiction will likely lose their audiences.

Answer: a