This passage is reprinted below for your use in answering the remaining questions.

## Insensibility

1

Happy are men who yet before they are killed Can let their veins run cold.

Whom no compassion fleers1

- (5) Or makes their feetSore on the alleys cobbled with their brothers.The front line withers.But they are troops who fade, not flowers,For poets' tearful fooling:
- (10) Men, gaps for filling, who might have fought Longer; but no one bothers.

2.

And some cease feeling Even themselves or for themselves. Dullness best solves

(15) The tease and doubt of shelling, And Chance's strange arithmetic Comes simpler than the reckoning of their shilling.<sup>2</sup> They keep no check on armies' decimation.

3

Happy are these who lose imagination:

(20) They have enough to carry with ammunition, Their spirit drags no pack. Their old wounds, save with cold, can not more ache.

Having seen all things red, Their eyes are rid

- (25) Of the hurt of the color of blood for ever.

  And terror's first constriction over,

  Their hearts remain small-drawn.<sup>3</sup>

  Their senses in some scorching cautery<sup>4</sup> of battle

  Now long since ironed,

  Can laugh among the dying, unconcerned.
- (30) 4.

  Happy the soldier home, with not a notion
  How somewhere, every dawn, some men attack,
  And many sighs are drained.
  Happy the lad whose mind was never trained:
- (35) His days are worth forgetting more than not. He sings along the march Which we march taciturn, because of dusk, The long, forlorn, relentless trend From larger day to huger night.

5.

- (40) We wise, who with a thought besmirch Blood over all our soul,
  How should we see our task
  But through his blunt and lashless eyes?
  Alive, he is not vital overmuch;
- (45) Dying, not mortal overmuch;Nor sad, nor proud,Nor curious at all.He cannot tellOld men's placidity from his.

- (50) But cursed are dullards whom no cannon stuns,
  That they should be as stones.
  Wretched are they, and mean
  With pancity that never was simplicity.
  By choice they made themselves immune
- (55) To pity and whatever moans in man
  Before the last sea and the hapless stars;
  Whatever mourns when many leave these shores;
  Whatever shares
  The eternal reciprocity of tears.

---Wilfred Owen

<sup>1</sup> to laugh or grimace in a coarse manner, scoff

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> counting of their pay

<sup>3</sup> shrunk

<sup>4</sup> cauterization; burning; searing

) indudes speaker from 2014 - wateral was is This passage is reprinted below for your use in answering the remaining questions. rottemp Insensibility\_ 1. (We)wise, who with a thought besmirch (40)Happy are men who yet before they are killed is numb Blood over all our soul, Can let their veins run cold. - no compussion How should (we) see our task - duty Whom no compassion fleers<sup>1</sup> Alive, he is not vital overmuch; pot over wared Sary But through his blunt and lashless eyes? (5)Or makes their feet aire or I dead Sore on the alleys cobbled with their brothers. Dying, not mortal overmuch; puradox The front line withers. Nor sad, nor proud, prot prideful But they are troops who fade, not flowers, replaceable sad or whow Nor curious at all. For poets' tearful fooling: He cannot tell unclear about differ. bet. wer Men, gaps for filling, who might have fought Old men's placidity from his. + tranquility Longer; but no lone bothers .- M one cares for them tharely mentfill spots solid who stand like stone in But cursed are dullards whom no cannon stuns, front of (50)And some cease feeling Even themselves or for themselves: No emotion That they should be as stones. With pancity that never was simplicity. It their choice to Wretched are they, and mean Dullness best solves \_\_ numbres 5 The tease and doubt of shelling, bullets + moan bef. By choice they made themselves immune And Chance's strange arithmetic easier to not dwell To pity and whatever moans in man -Comes simpler than the reckoning of their shilling.<sup>2</sup> Wex (55) Before the last sea and the hapless stars; They keep no check on armies' decimation. Whatever mourns when many leave these shores; No one calculates losses Whatever shares The eternal reciprocity of tears. don't cure about Happy are these who lose imagination: may nathon is too what others moved Theory a wt. w amindo + packs They have enough to carry with ammunition, -Wilfred Owen(1918) Their spirit drags no pack. (WWI) Their old wounds, save with cold, can not more Mornalog Having seen all things red, - numb to the blood battle to laugh or grimace in a coarse manner; scoff ache. numb to pain <sup>2</sup> counting of their pay Their eyes are rid 3 shrunk Of the hurt of the color of blood for ever. 4 cauterization; burning; searing surses have \* Broken rhythm + irregular And terror's first constriction over, hoved no fear Their senses in some scorching cautery of battle Courterred to Now long since ironed \* Stanzas unequal length but uses his famous pararhyme Can(laugh) among the dying, unconcerned. able to lough among the dying-numb throughout (30)Happy the soldier home, with not a notion - ignorance is bliss shifts perspective = soldiers cursed How somewhere, every dawn, some men attack, high price for peace bec. they no longer understand humanity And many sighs are drained. Happy the lad whose mind was never trained: Switches to "we" (35) His days are worth forgetting more than not. -dullard-idiot He sings along the march Which we march taciturn, because of dusk, \* define: - besmirch-tarnish; day + night one long The long, forlorn, relentless trend From larger day to huger night. - placidity-peaceful - paucity-fewness/scarce durkness-little alleriate despoils - Fortorn - dreaglushappy Unauthorized copying or reusing any part of this page is illegal. \* He does not condemn soldiers, understanding -taciturn-inclined to silence why they suppress feelings, but feels profound sadness e their lack of pity - reciprocity-mutual exchange hopless & unlucky

4

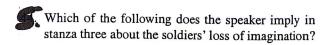
The title, "Insensibility," may be plausibly associated with which of the following?

- I. The shattered psyches of the soldiers.
- II. The insensitive nature of the dullards.
- III. The lunacy of warfare in general.
- (A) I only
- (B) II only
- (C) I and II
- (D) II and III
- (E) I, II, and III
- According to the poem, all of the following instances of "insensibility" are acceptable EXCEPT
  - (A) hardening one's feelings to engage in battle
  - (B) numbing oneself to bombardment and carnage
  - (C) being incapable of envisioning anything more horrible
  - (D) being uneducated or naive
  - (E) being unmoved by compassion
- Stanza one figuratively emphasizes the degree to which the soldiers have become desensitized via
  - (A) lurid diction describing the battle
  - (B) a macabre metaphor that depicts fallen comrades
  - (C) a staccato rhythm that mimics gunfire
  - (D) an allusion to the underworld
  - (E) a generalization that questions the soldiers' commitment to battle

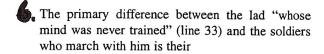


When one considers the context in which they appear, phrases such as the "tease and doubt of shelling" (line 14) and "Chance's strange arithmetic" (line 15) most accurately describe the

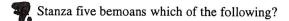
- (A) proximity of the bombardment
- (B) time when the next shelling will commence
- (C) psychological ploys of the enemy
- (D) soldiers' belief that a truce is near
- (E) odds of surviving or being killed in battle



- (A) It dispirits them further.
- (B) It decreases their sense of empathy.
- (C) It steels them against a horrid reality.
- (D) It prevents them from ever feeling physical pain.
- (E) It reduces them to madness.



- (A) superior intelligence
- (B) soldierly discipline
- (C) sober demeanor
- (D) greater confidence
- (E) slavish conformity



- (A) the fascination of poets with the macabre
- (B) the superciliousness of intellectuals
- (C) the debasement of individuals by war
- (D) the mortality of all humans
- (E) the erosion of the mind by aging
- Stanza five also implies that the poet's "task" is to
  - (A) immerse himself in human tragedy
  - (B) celebrate the valor of the soldier
  - (C) cheer up the troops
  - (D) eulogize the deceased
  - (E) keep himself alive
- All of the following contribute to the power of the concluding stanza EXCEPT
  - (A) inverted syntax
  - (B) a trio of noun clauses
  - (C) a simple but appropriate simile
  - (D) trenchant diction
  - (E) powerful understatement



At the conclusion of the poem the speaker ultimately implies that the "dullards" have lost their

- (A) hearing
- (B) intelligence
- (C) fortune
- (D) health
- (E) humanity



The poem implies that the speaker sees poets and other artists as

- (A) passionate but misguided jingoists
- (B) sensitive but ineffectual chroniclers
- (C) hardened but apathetic warriors
- (D) lowly and despicable cowards
- (E) good-intentioned but meddlesome critics



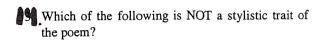
When one considers the poem as a whole, the "no one" in line 10 most closely relates to

- (A) "men" (line 1)
- (B) "brothers" (line 5)
- (C) "lad" (line 33)
- (D) "We" (line 39)
- (E) "dullards" (line 49)



All of the following can be seen as either a euphemism or a figurative expression for death **EXCEPT** 

- (A) "veins run cold" (line 2)
- (B) "The front line withers" (line 6)
- (C) "Chance's strange arithmetic" (line 15)
- (D) "many sighs are drained" (line 32)
- (E) "leave these shores" (line 56)



- (A) choral-like repetition
- (B) a connotatively rich title
- (C) use of the first person plural to indicate the communal wisdom of all poets
- (D) images of the ruination of nature
- (E) an abundance of figurative language



The poem's dominant allusion, manifest in lines 1, 18, 30 and 33, is drawn from the

- (A) Old Testament
- (B) New Testament
- (C) Iliad
- (D) Song of Roland
- (E) Koran