

## Practice Critical Reading Passage and Questions, Set 10

I.

SUPPOSING that Truth is a woman—what then? Is there not ground for suspecting that all philosophers, in so far as they have been dogmatists, have failed to understand women—that the terrible seriousness and clumsy importunity with which they have usually paid their addresses to Truth, have been unskilled and unseemly methods for winning a woman? Certainly she has never allowed herself to be won; and at present every kind of dogma stands with sad and discouraged mien—IF, indeed, it stands at all!

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Preface, from <http://www.authorama.com/beyond-good-and-evil-1.html>

The author's attitude toward contemporary philosophy would most accurately be characterized as one of

- (A) contempt
- (B) admiration
- (C) vindictiveness
- (D) open-mindedness
- (E) rage

The major purpose of the passage is to

- (A) applaud current philosophical methods
- (B) decry the advances of women in philosophy
- (C) assert that what holds sway in the discipline of philosophy is false doctrine
- (D) condone unorthodox fields of inquiry
- (E) undermine the basis of Truth as we know it

The author would most likely agree with which of the following statements:

- (A) No philosopher has ever discovered a modicum of Truth
- (B) Women are devious coquettes
- (C) Knowledge is only attainable by superior beings
- (D) Philosophy is a horrible waste of time
- (E) Dogma is an obstacle to understanding

II.

It was disappointing not to have brought back in the evening some important statement, some authentic fact. Women are poorer than men because—this or that. Perhaps now it would be better to give up seeking for the truth, and receiving on one's head an avalanche of opinion hot as lava, discolored as dish-water. It would be better to draw the curtains; to shut out distractions; to light the lamp; to narrow the enquiry and to ask the historian, who records not opinions but facts, to describe under what conditions women lived, not throughout the ages, but in England, say, in the time of Elizabeth.

*A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf (first pub. 1929)

<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200791h.html>

The author uses the metaphor of “drawing the curtains” and “lighting the lamp” (lines 4-5) to suggest which of the following

- (A) women should stay home out of the public eye
- (B) she should narrow the focus of her research
- (C) historians need privacy to produce valid facts
- (D) the conditions of women’s lives are dark
- (E) it is useless to attempt to understand unrecorded history

The author’s tone might best be described as

- (A) bitter
- (B) wrathful
- (C) contemplative
- (D) awe-struck
- (E) listless