

**English I First Semester Model Common Assessment**  
**Reading Literary Non-Fiction and Informational Text**

Student will read the excerpt “Gertrude Ederle” by Lewis Cole and accompanying “Comment” article and then answer the following questions.

Multiple Choice (with student’s answers marked)

1. When Gertrude Ederle swam the English Channel in 1926, she
  - a. Was the first person ever to have done that
  - b. Was the second woman to have done that
  - c. Set records for time and for being the first woman to swim the channel \*
  - d. Did not set a speed record, but was the first woman to swim the channel
  
2. Throughout her life, Gertrude Ederle seemed to be a person who
  - a. Looked at her situation positively \*
  - b. Was bitter about her people who interfered with her career
  - c. Needed other people to motivate her to swim or to work
  - d. Was able to earn large sums of money
  
3. What is not a hardship Ederle experienced?
  - a. She suffered a nervous breakdown.
  - b. She lost her hearing
  - c. She gave up swimming due to a back injury \*
  - d. She had no steady job
  
4. The narrator says that, during Ederle’s later years, the public
  - a. Forgot about her
  - b. Sometimes remembered her \*
  - c. Began to disapprove of her
  - d. Considered her to be a leader of the women’s liberation movement

5. A word that describes the author's tone or attitude toward Gertrude Ederle is
  - a. Annoyed
  - b. Aloof
  - c. Awed
  - d. Sympathetic \*
  
6. Referring to the map, in what direction did Gertrude Ederle swim when going from Cap Gris-Nez to Dover?
  - a. Northwest \*
  - b. Southwest
  - c. Southeast
  - d. Northeast

Words to Know: Use the context clues and the textbook's definitions to help you answer these questions.

7. The word *indignant* most likely means
  - a. Proud
  - b. Annoyed \*
  - c. Ignorant
  - d. Sad
  
8. The word *bout* most likely means
  - a. About
  - b. Test
  - c. Attempt \*
  - d. Success
  
9. Cecil Rhodes was famous as
  - a. A British statesman and businessman \*
  - b. An American entertainer
  - c. A British politician
  - d. An South African statesman and businessman

Short Answers: In three to five sentences, answer the following questions. (sample student answers follow the questions)

10. Why had Ederle failed on her first attempt to swim the Channel? How did she feel about this “failure”? Explain.

*After she gagged on a drink her trainer handed her from a nearby boat, the trainer pulled her from the water, saying she was unconscious. She insists that she wasn't unconscious at all and may have felt that her trainer, a man who had not been able to swim the Channel, was quick to disqualify a woman from the attempt.*

11. What were the immediate consequences for Ederle of successfully completing the crossing? What long-range effects did the feat have upon her?

*She became a worldwide celebrity, going on a successful public appearance tour. Within a few years, she suffered a nervous breakdown, lost her hearing, and experienced back problems.*

12. Select one sentence from the excerpt that reveals Ederle to be self-disciplined.

*“I felt a lot better than my poor father on the tug.”*

13. How does the “Comment” explain the difficulties faced by someone who attempts to swim the English Channel?

*It states that the Channel's length is not a problem, but there are other difficulties: tides, currents, waves, sea-sickness, fog, wind, jellyfish, and cold.*

14. How does the “Comment” end with information that provides the reader with a reason to respect Gertrude Ederle?

*Only a low percentage of over 3,000 people who have attempted the swim the Channel have succeeded. Ederle was one of the very first, so she deserves much respect.*