

Passage 5

Certainly one of the most intelligent and best educated women of her day, Mercy Otis Warren produced a variety of poetry and prose. Her farce *The Group* (1776) was the hit of revolutionary Boston, a collection of two plays and poems appeared in 1790, and her three-volume *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*. Interspersed with *Biographical and Moral Observations* appeared in 1805. She wrote other farces, as well as anti-Federalist pamphlet *Observations on the New Constitution, and on the Federal and State Conventions* (1788). There is no modern edition of her works, but there are two twentieth-century biographies, one facsimile edition of *The Group*, and a generous discussion of her farces and plays in Arthur Hubson Quinn's *A History of the American Drama From the Beginning to the Civil War*. Of her non-dramatic poetry, critics rarely speak. Mercy Otis was born into a prominent family in Barnstable, Massachusetts. In 1754, she married James Warren, a Harvard friend of James Otis and John Adams, who was to become a member of the Massachusetts legislature just before the war and a financial aide to Washington during the war with the rank of major general. The friendship of the Warrens and Adamses was lifelong and close: Abigail Adams was one of Mercy Warren's few close friends. Following the war, James Warren reentered politics to oppose the Constitution because he feared that it did not adequately provide for protection of individual rights. Mercy Warren joined her husband in political battle, but the passage of the Bill of Rights marked the end of their long period of political agitation.

In whatever literary form Warren wrote, she had but one theme—liberty. In her farces and history, it was national and political freedom. In her poems, it was intellectual freedom. In her anti-Federalist pamphlet, it was individual freedom. Throughout all of these works, moreover, runs the thread of freedom (equal treatment) for women. Not militant, she nevertheless urged men to educate their daughters and to treat their wives as equals.

1. Which of the following is the main topic of the Passage?
(A) Mercy Otis Warren and other poets of the Revolutionary War period
(B) The development of Mercy Otis Warren's writing style
(C) Mercy Otis Warren's contributions to American literature and society
(D) The friends and acquaintances of Mercy Otis Warren
2. In what year was Warren's pamphlet about the Constitution written?
(A) 1776 (B) 1788 (C) 1790 (D) 1805
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a kind of writing done by Warren?
(A) Farces (B) Poetry (C) Plays (D) Advertisements
4. The author implies that Mercy Otis Warren felt the Constitution would fail to protect
(A) literary progress (B) political parties
(C) the American economy (D) personal freedom
5. In line 21 the word "but" could best be replaced by which of the following?
(A) only (B) yet (C) still (D) however
6. According to the passage, the kind of liberty emphasized in Warren's poems was
(A) national (B) intellectual (C) political (D) religious
7. In lines 24-25, the author refers to Warren as "not militant" to indicate that she
(A) remained politically aloof
(B) did not continue agitating for a Bill of Rights
(C) did not campaign aggressively for women's rights
(D) did not support military conscription

PRACTICE TEST 59

Passage 1

In the past oysters were raised in much the same way as dirt farmers raised tomatoes – by transplanting them. First, farmers selected the oyster bed, cleared the bottom of old shells and other debris, then scattered clean shells about. Next, they "planted" fertilized oyster eggs, which within two or three weeks hatched into larvae. The larvae drifted until they attached themselves to the clean shells on the bottom. There they remained and in time grew into baby oysters called seed or spat. The spat grew larger by drawing in seawater from which they derived microscopic particles of food. Before long farmers gathered the baby oysters transplanted them in other waters to speed up their growth, then transplanted them once more into another body of water to fatten them up.

Until recently; the supply of wild oysters and those crudely farmed were more than enough to satisfy people's needs. But today the delectable seafood is no longer available in abundance. The problem has become so serious that some oyster beds have vanished entirely.

Fortunately, as far back as the early 1900's marine biologists realized that if new measures were not taken, oysters would become extinct or at best a luxury food. So they set up well equipped hatcheries and went to work. But they did not have the proper equipment or the skill to handle the eggs. They did not know when, what, and how to feed the larvae. And they knew little about the predators that attack and eat baby oysters by the millions. They failed, but they doggedly kept at it. Finally, in the 1940's a significant breakthrough was made.

The marine biologists discovered that by raising the temperature of the water, they could induce oysters to spawn not only in the summer but also in the fall, winter, and spring. Later they developed a technique for feeding the larvae and rearing them to spat. Going still further, they succeeded in breeding new strains that were resistant to diseases, grew faster and larger, and flourished in water of different salinities and temperatures. In addition, the cultivated oysters tasted better.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
(A) The Threatened Extinction of Marine Life
(B) The Cultivation of Oysters
(C) The Discoveries Made by Marine Biologists
(D) The Varieties of Wild Oysters
2. In the first paragraph, the production of oysters is compared to what other industry?
(A) Mining B) Fishing C) Banking D) Farming
3. In the passage, which of the following is NOT mentioned as a stage of an oyster's life?
(A) Debris B) Egg C) Larvae D) Spat
4. When did scientists discover that oysters were in danger?
(A) In the early part of the 19th century (B) At the beginning of this century
(C) In the 1940's (D) Just recently
5. According to the passage, which of the following words best describes the efforts of the marine biologists working with oysters?
(A) Persistent (B) Intermittent (C) Traditional (D) Fruitless
6. In the passage, the author mentions that the new strains of oyster are
(A) cheaper (B) shaped differently
(C) better textured (D) healthier

7. In what paragraph does the author describe successful methods for increasing the oyster population?
- (A) First (B) Second (C) Third (D) Fourth
8. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
- (A) Step by step description of the evolution of marine biology
(B) Discussion of chronological events concerning oyster production
(C) Random presentation of facts about oysters
(D) Description of oyster production at different geographic locations