Odyssey Unit Test

Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best possible answer. There is only one correct answer per question.

1. True or False: The first ten lines of the poem are an invocation to the muse of epic poetry. Homer pretends that the muse is speaking through him and asks that his memory remain accurate.
   A. True  B. False

2. At Odysseus' house in Ithaca, we are introduced to the suitors. What are they doing in the house?
   A. They are looking for eligible partners among Penelope's servant girls.
   B. They are offering their condolences to Penelope on the supposed death of Odysseus.
   C. They are looking to buy Penelope's fine furniture and household items, should she decide to leave the house and move elsewhere.
   D. They are waiting for Penelope to make up her mind which one of them she will marry. While waiting, they are eating and drinking all of the food in the house.

3. How has Penelope managed to hold off the suitors' demands for the past four years?
   A. She appeals to them to let her finish a death shroud for Laertes, father of Odysseus, so that when he dies she can properly wind him as is her duty (since his wife is dead). She weaves the shroud by day and then unweaves it at night to prolong having to answer to the suitors.
   B. She pretends to be so grief stricken that she cannot function competently. Only one of her maidservants knows the truth.
   C. She demands that they perform tasks so difficult that none of them has been able to succeed.
   D. She deliberately gains a lot of weight and lets the condition of her skin and teeth deteriorate in the hope that if she is unattractive, they will leave her alone.

4. Why is it necessary for Odysseus to take some of his men by force away from the land of the Lotus-Eaters?
   A. The lotus fruit contained a magical drug that made them want to stay and eat more.
   B. The lotus fruit gave them panic attacks. They became fearful of embarking on another sea voyage.
   C. The lotus fruit paralyzed them and they were not able to leave by themselves.
   D. The lotus fruit made them fall in love with the women of the land and not want to leave.

5. How is Odysseus able to wound Polyphemus?
   A. Odysseus poisons the wine and makes Polyphemus so sick that he is unable to defend himself.
   B. Odysseus and his men use a log sharpened on one end and drive it into his eye while he sleeps.
   C. Odysseus drives his sword through Polyphemus' liver.
   D. Odysseus and his men set Polyphemus on fire while he is milking the goats.
6. Odysseus and his men come within sight of Ithaca. Why do they not land?
A. They are afraid they will not be remembered and will be killed as intruders.
B. They want to wait until they have time to clean up and properly prepare themselves.
C. The men think the bag from Aeolus contains treasure that Odysseus is keeping for himself. While Odysseus is sleeping, they open the bag. The winds escape and they are blown back to the Aeolian island.
D. The ship is sunk on a reef.

7. How do Odysseus and his men avoid destruction by the Sirens?
A. Odysseus orders his men to plug their ears with beeswax and has them lash him to the mast.
B. They sing their own songs in the loudest possible voices, to drown out the sound of the Sirens.
C. Athena puts all of the men into a magical sleep and guides the boat through herself.
D. They throw trinkets and pieces of brightly colored cloth onto the island. The Sirens are fascinated with these items and forget to sing.

8. Odysseus has a plan that he shares with Eumaeus. What is it?
A. Odysseus will dress in his finest clothing and boldly enter his house.
B. He will disguise himself as a suitor and try to win Penelope himself.
C. Odysseus plans to go to his own house and ask for a job as a servant for the suitors.
D. He will go to town and talk to the families of the suitors, and ask them to remove the suitors from his house.

9. What instructions does Odysseus give to Telemachus?
A. He tells him to take Penelope away into a special hiding place in the woods and wait for a signal when it will be safe to come back. He says not to tell anyone else of the hiding place and to make sure they are not followed.
B. He tells him to go home and act like a madman and threaten the suitors. Then he should lock himself and Penelope in her quarters and send his servant to Odysseus when this has been accomplished.
C. He tells him to go home and wait for his father's arrival as a beggar. He warns Telemachus not to interfere if the suitors are rude but to wait for the signal to hide all weapons except their own. He also reminds Telemachus not to let anyone know that he (Odysseus) has returned.
D. He tells Telemachus to go to the house disguised as another suitor. He should try to get the others into jealous quarrels and keep them distracted.

10. What contest does Penelope devise to test the suitors?
A. She says she will marry the man who wins against all of the others in a sword fight to the death.
B. She decides whoever can string the great bow of Odysseus and send an arrow through the iron of twelve axes shall be her husband.
C. She tells them that whoever is able to move her husband's bed shall be her husband.
D. She says she will marry the man who will give her, her weight in gold.

11. How does Penelope test Odysseus?
A. She asks for details of their wedding and the birth of Telemachus.
B. She tells the servants to bring out his bed and then waits for his reaction.
C. She asks him to name all of her relatives.
D. She has Eurycleia identify him and then inspects the scar on his leg herself.
12. This term refers to the people, the tribe, the safety of the state.
   A. Hubris
   B. Polis
   C. Blood Guilt
   D. Koros

13. This term refers to the term - To be born is to cast one’s teeth into a hostile universe. To remain in the womb is to remain nobody.
   A. Hubris
   B. Ate
   C. Noman
   D. Polis

14. All of the following are characteristics of a legendary hero except the following:
   A. The hero was destined before birth to do great things.
   B. Mystery and intrigue surround the hero’s infancy in the royal court.
   C. The hero’s life is in jeopardy at birth.
   D. The hero’s lineage is neither royal nor divine.

15. This epic is the conscious effort of a known writer. The______ epic also reflects to some extent the thoughts and opinions of the age in which it was written.
   A. Literary
   B. Mock
   C. Folk
   D. Legendary

16. The ______ epic is a satire which exploits the epic form.
   A. Literary
   B. Mock
   C. Folk
   D. Legendary

17. “The Rape of the Lock” by Pope is a ______ epic.
   A. Literary
   B. Mock
   C. Folk
   D. Legendary

18. He sacrificed his daughter to ensure favorable winds en route to Troy.
   A. Menelaus
   B. Odysseus
   C. Agamemnon
   D. Paris
18. She is the wife of Menelaus. Her face is said to have launched a thousand ships.
   A. Eris
   B. Clytemnestra
   C. Helen
   D. Leda

19. Goddess of love and beauty
   A. Hera
   B. Athena
   C. Aphrodite
   D. Demeter

20. God of war
   A. Zeus
   B. Ares
   C. Hephaestus
   D. Hermes

21. The trident and dolphin are some of this god’s symbols.
   A. Ares
   B. Hermes
   C. Poseidon
   D. Apollo

22. God of love
   A. Aphrodite
   B. Pan
   C. Hades
   D. Eros

23. He is the husband of Persephone.
   A. Aphrodite
   B. Pan
   C. Hades
   D. Eros

24. The gates of the underworld are guarded by _____, a three-headed dog, which must be appeased with cakes and honey.
   A. Cerberus
   B. Charon
   C. Cocytus
   D. Acheron

25. All of the following were lovers of Apollo except:
   A. Cassandra
   B. Coronis
   C. Athena
   D. Creusa
Directions: Read each short response question and provide an answer using complete sentences. Warning failure to answer these questions will significantly effect your grade on this test.

26. Describe how Odysseus and his men are able to escape from Polyphemus’ cave. What is the significance in the fictitious name that Odysseus chooses to give Polyphemus? (25 pts)

27. Identify and explain the qualities that were considered of greatest value for a man to have at the time of Odysseus and give specific examples of characters who had those qualities in *The Odyssey*. (hint – use one of the handouts for help with this) (75 pts)