The Old Man and the Sea
MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

PART I

1. When the novella opens, how long has it been since Santiago last caught a fish?
   (A) 40 days
   (B) 84 days
   (C) 87 days
   (D) 120 days

2. Manolin’s parents refuse to let the boy fish with the old man because they believe Santiago is salao. How does Hemingway translate this word?
   (A) “Crazy”
   (B) “Selfish”
   (C) “Washed up”
   (D) “The worst form of unlucky”

3. How does Hemingway describe Santiago’s eyes?
   (A) They are full of pain.
   (B) They are blank with defeat.
   (C) They betray the weariness of his soul.
   (D) They are the color of the sea.

4. What kind of reception does Santiago receive at the terrace café?
   (A) The fishermen regard him as a hero.
   (B) Most of the fishermen mock him.
   (C) The successful fishermen offer him a portion of their day’s catch.
   (D) The younger fishermen pretend that the old man doesn’t exist.
5. Who is Santiago’s hero?
   (A) Harry Truman   (C) Dick Sisler
   (B) Joe DiMaggio   (D) Fidel Castro

6. What hangs on the wall of the old man’s shack?
   (A) A photograph of his wife
   (B) The latest baseball scores
   (C) A mounted fish
   (D) Pictures

7. On the night before he promises Manolin to go “far out” to sea, of what does Santiago dream?
   (A) A great storm
   (B) A beautiful woman
   (C) Lions on the beach
   (D) A wrestling match

8. Why does Santiago not let his lines drift like the other fishermen?
   (A) He is a stubborn man who prefers the old-fashioned way of fishing.
   (B) He believes it is imprecise, and he strives always to be exact.
   (C) It is dangerous, as he might become tangled with another boat.
   (D) He is no longer young or strong enough to control a drifting line.

9. What kind of fish does Santiago first catch?
   (A) A tuna
   (B) A marlin
   (C) A shrimp
   (D) A Portuguese man-of-war

10. How does the old man know immediately the size of the great marlin he has caught?
(A) Soon after taking the bait, the fish jumps into the air, showing itself to the old man.

(B) Santiago has encountered this fish before as a younger man.

(C) He pulls and pulls on the line and nothing happens.

(D) He doesn’t know the size of the fish until after the sharks have attacked it.

11. During his great struggle with the marlin, what does Santiago wish repeatedly?

   (A) He wishes he were younger.

   (B) He wishes for better equipment.

   (C) He wishes that the fishermen who mocked him earlier were present to witness his victory.

   (D) He wishes that the boy, Manolin, were with him.

12. In what year was The Old Man and the Sea published?

   (A) 1950

   (B) 1951

   (C) 1952

   (D) 1953

13. As his first full day of fighting with the fish wears on, what does Santiago begin to think about his adversary?

   (A) He praises the fish because it promises to bring a wonderful price at market.

   (B) He considers that he and the marlin are brothers, joined by the fact that they both ventured far out beyond all people and dangers in the water.

   (C) He detests the fish for its vigor and vitality.

   (D) He believes that the fish is a test of his worth, sent to him by God.

14. What does the weary warbler that lands on Santiago’s fishing line make the old man think of?

   (A) The probability that he, like the bird, will never make it back to land

   (B) The predatory hawks that await the bird’s arrival near land

   (C) The hidden strength of the weak

   (D) The beauty of the natural world
15. What happens to make Santiago curse the treachery of his own body?

(A) He gets seasick.      (C) His hand cramps.
(B) He has diarrhea.      (D) He needs to sleep.

16. In order to help himself catch the fish, what does Santiago do?

(A) He promises to pay more attention to Manolin upon his return.
(B) He decides to recite ten Hail Marys and ten Our Fathers.
(C) He lightens the boat by throwing all unnecessary weight overboard.
(D) He ties the skiff to a buoy so that the fish cannot pull it farther out to sea.

17. The great Joe DiMaggio suffers from what affliction?

(A) A bone spur
(B) Alcoholism
(C) A ruined knee
(D) Failing eyesight

18. To give himself confidence, Santiago remembers his contest with “the great negro of Cienfuegos.” At what sport did the old man beat this challenger?

(A) Fencing     (C) Arm wrestling
(B) Tennis      (D) Boxing

19. Why does the thought of selling the fish’s meat disappoint the old man?

(A) He knows people will cook the marlin, but it is best eaten raw.
(B) Market prices are low, and Santiago will get only a fraction of what the fish is worth.
(C) Because marlin has an unpleasant taste, Santiago wishes he caught something that made for better eating, like a shark.
(D) The people who will eat the meat are worthy.

20. What does the old man remove and eat from the belly of a dolphin?
(A) Shrimp  (C) Seaweed
(B) Flying fish  (D) Piranha

21. How does Santiago finally kill the marlin?

(A) He harpoons it through the heart.
(B) He stabs it between the eyes.
(C) He lashes it to the inside of the boat.
(D) He bashes its head with his club.

22. How long does it take for the sharks to arrive and attack the marlin?

(A) Ten minutes  (C) Six hours
(B) One hour  (D) A full day

23. After the shark attack, Santiago reflects that destruction is inevitable. How does he articulate this philosophy?

(A) The world is such an inhospitable place that no death should be mourned.
(B) Out, out, brief candle!
(C) Even the worthiest opponents must fall.
(D) Everything in the world kills everything else in some way.

24. What happens upon the old man’s return to his fishing village?

(A) Manolin promises to sail with him.
(B) The fishermen mock Santiago for the folly of sailing out so far.
(C) Tourists ask the old man to recount his adventures.
(D) A statue is erected in his honor.

25. The old man remembers that once, when he killed a female marlin, the male marlin

(A) Bit the tail off the female
(B) Returned with a posse of marlins seeking revenge
(C) Made a sound like there were nails being driven through his fins

(D) Swam alongside the boat as though in mourning

PART II

1. Where does the story take place?
   a) Cuba  
   b) Canary Islands  
   c) Puerto Rico  
   d) Marshall Island

2. When the novel opens, how many days had it been since Santiago last caught a fish?
   a) 3  
   b) 48  
   c) 77  
   d) 84

3. Hemingway says everything about Santiago is old except what?
   a) his neck  
   b) his eyes  
   c) his hands  
   d) his mouth

4. Why does Manolin no longer fish with Santiago?
   a) he dislikes Santiago  
   b) his parents have told him to fish with others  
   c) Santiago no longer needs him  
   d) Manolin has left for the city

5. Which of the following never hung on Santiago's wall?
   a) tinted photograph of his wife  
   b) picture of Sacred heart of Jesus  
   c) picture of the Virgin of Cobre  
   d) picture of Fidel Castro

6. Who is Santiago's favorite baseball player?
7. In what month does the story take place?
   a) September  
   b) October  
   c) July  
   d) May

8. Of what did Santiago always dream?
   a) Fish  
   b) Manolin  
   c) His wife  
   d) Lions

9. Where is Santiago originally from?
   a) Mexico  
   b) Cuba  
   c) Morocco  
   d) Canary Islands

10. What does Santiago call the sea?
    a) dorado  
    b) la mar  
    c) salao  
    d) el mar

11. What did Manolin give Santiago two of before he left?
    a) water bottles  
    b) shoes  
    c) hooks  
    d) sardines

12. What does Santiago refer to as aqua mala, the whore?
    a) the sea  
    b) Portuguese man-of-war  
    c) an eel  
    d) A dolphin

13. In his youth, on what kind of ship did he work?
    a) sailing  
    b) fishing  
    c) trading  
    d) turtling

14. Fishermen called all fish of that species what?
    a) pescado  
    b) tuna  
    c) mackerel  
    d) sardines

15. How deep was the line on which the marlin bit?
    a) 100 fathoms  
    b) 200 fathoms  
    c) 300 fathoms  
    d) 400 fathoms

16. Santiago thought the light of what city would guide him home?
    a) San Juan  
    b) Cardenas  
    c) Bautista  
    d) Havana

17. Why does Santiago hope the marlin will jump?
a) it will see his strength and become frightened
b) it will let him see its size
c) it will fill its air sacks and not be able to dive deep
d) it will be close enough to drive a harpoon into

18. What humiliating thing happens to Santiago's left hand while he is tracking the marlin?
   a) sensation in it dies
   b) it is badly cut
   c) it cramps
   d) it is stung by a Portuguese man-of-war

19. What does Santiago see that makes him realize "no man was ever alone on the sea" (61)?
   a) porpoises
   b) a flock of ducks
   c) another boat
   d) the stars

20. How many feet longer than Santiago's skiff is the marlin?
   a) 2
   b) 5
   c) 10
   d) 15

21. What injury does Joe DiMaggio have that Santiago obsesses about?
   a) broken finger
   b) pulled hamstring
   c) tendonitis
   d) bone spur

22. Where was the great "Negro" from against whom Santiago arm-wrestled in his youth?
   a) Cienfuegos
   b) Ghana
   c) Cardenas
   d) Havana

23. How long did Santiago's arm-wrestling match last?
   a) all day and all night
   b) all day
   c) 3 days
   d) all night
   e)

24. What was Santiago called after his arm-wrestling match?
   a) The Rock
   b) The Great Santiago
   c) St. Santiago
   d) The Champion

25. What does Santiago do to increase drag on the boat?
   a) drops anchor
   b) ties two oars together across the stern
   c) lowers his legs into the water
1) As the novel opens, Santiago has not caught a fish for how many days?
   a) 100              c) 5
   b) 12               d) 84

2) How does Santiago feel about the fish that he is doing battle with?
   a) He has sympathy and a strange appreciation for it
   b) He is frustrated and curses its ability to cause him so much pain
   c) He loathes it and curses it
   d) He sees it simply as food

3) How much money does Santiago feel the fish might be worth?
   a) 100 dollars       c) 300 dollars
   b) 1,500 dollars     d) 50 dollars

4) Manolin’s parents don’t want him to fish with old man because he is “salao” or
   a) a non-native      c) unlucky
   b) aggressive        d) untidy

5) Santiago is compared with which religious figure?
   a) Buddha           c) Krishna
   b) Christ           d) Muhammad

6) The most pathetic and tragic moment in the novel occurs when Santiago stops for a moment, looks back, and sees
   a) His fishing boat
   b) His shack on the hill
   c) Manolin, alone on the beach
d) The great tail of the fish

7) The story takes place in and off the coast of
   a) California    c) Florida
   b) Cuba         d) Haiti

8) What baseball player does Santiago idolize?
   a) Babe Ruth    c) Lou Gehrig
   b) Joe DiMaggio d) Ty Cobb

9) What happens to the fish that Santiago kills?
   a) It is brought to land and a feast is prepared to consume it
   b) It is devoured by sharks as he brings it in
   c) Santiago gives it to Manolin as a sign of friendship
   d) Santiago hangs it as a trophy on his wall

10) What type of fish does Santiago catch?
    a) A mackerel    c) A swordfish
    b) A marlin      d) A tuna

11) Which of the following does Santiago dream about?
    a) Eating the fish
    b) Getting a bigger boat
    c) Lions on the beach
    d) Soldiers fighting

12) Why is Manolin particularly devoted to Santiago?
    a) Because he thinks he can take advantage of Santiago
    b) Because Santiago taught him how to fish
c) Because Santiago is really his father

d) Because Santiago lent him money