Critical Reading Questions
On the line to the left, write the letter of the best answer. Make sure your penmanship is legible.

1. In "A Boy and a Man," what problem does Rudi face?
   a. He has to climb out of an icy crevasse.
   b. He has to rescue a man who has fallen into a crevasse.
   c. He has to climb down the mountain to get a rope.
   d. He has to find a way to climb the Citadel.

2. In "A Boy and a Man," why does Rudi not want to go to Kurtal for help?
   a. He wants to rescue the man all by himself.
   b. He is afraid he won't be able to find the crevasse again if he leaves to get a rescue party.
   c. The man in the crevasse might freeze to death in the time it will take to get a rescue party.
   d. The man is afraid to stay there alone.

3. In "A Boy and a Man," what is dangerous about Rudi's decision to pull the man up by himself?
   I. As he tries to climb up, the man might pull Rudi down into the crevasse.
   II. The man is a stranger and may harm Rudi, once he is saved.
   III. The chain of clothing could tear, causing the man to fall farther down into the crevasse.
   IV. Rudi could freeze while lying on the ice without his clothes.
   a. I, II, III
   b. I, II, IV
   c. I, III, IV
   d. II, III, IV

4. Which passage from "A Boy and a Man" helps you predict that Rudi will rescue the man successfully?
   a. The cold rose from the ice into his blood and bones.
   b. He was leaning over as far as he could.
   c. He began to lose his footholds. He was being dragged forward.
   d. Somehow he stopped the slipping. Somehow he held on.

5. In "A Boy and a Man," why is Captain Winter astonished to discover that Rudi is "just a boy"?
   a. Captain Winter is surprised that Rudi was strong enough to rescue him.
   b. Captain Winter knows that boys can be only apprentice guides or porters.
   c. Captain Winter thinks youth is the time for dreaming.
   d. Captain Winter thinks of Rudi as a dishwasher.

6. In "A Boy and a Man," why is Rudi amazed that he has saved Captain John Winter?
   a. because Captain Winter is so much bigger than he
   b. because Captain Winter is so much older than he
   c. because Captain Winter is a famous mountaineer
   d. because he had never before met Captain Winter
7. In "A Boy and a Man," why is Captain Winter impressed that Rudi's father was Josef Matt?
   a. Josef Matt was killed on the Citadel.
   b. Josef Matt was a great guide in the Alps.
   c. Josef Matt was in the hotel business.
   d. As a boy, Captain Winter had met Josef Matt.

8. In "A Boy and a Man," why do Rudi and Captain Winter discuss the different sides of the Citadel?
   a. They are competing to see who knows the Citadel better.
   b. They plan to climb the Citadel together.
   c. They are just making conversation after their adventure.
   d. Both of them have studied ways to climb the Citadel.

9. In "A Boy and a Man," which conflict does Rudi face in addition to the conflict with nature?
   a. He wants to be a climber, but his mother is afraid for him to be one.
   b. He wants to be a climber, but he is afraid to try to follow in his father's footsteps.
   c. His father was a famous guide, but Rudi wants to work in the hotel business.
   d. He wants people to know he saved Captain Winter, but he doesn't want to get into trouble with his mother and uncle.

10. Based on what you have read in "A Boy and a Man," why might Rudi someday try to climb the Citadel?
    a. He is a brave and determined boy and has to prove he is Josef Matt's son.
    b. He is a brave and determined boy, and Captain Winter has encouraged him.
    c. He is a brave and determined boy, and he has studied the Citadel and dreamed of climbing it.
    d. He is a brave and determined boy, and he dislikes the hotel business.

11. In the excerpt from Into Thin Air, what is the Icefall?
    a. a mountain
    b. an avalanche
    c. a serac
    d. a glacier

12. Which description from Into Thin Air explains why it is so difficult to climb the Icefall?
    a. A moment later came an explosive roar as a large serac somewhere close above came crashing down.
    b. The glacier's continual and often violent state of flux added an element of uncertainty to every ladder crossing.
    c. As dawn washed the darkness from the sky, the shattered glacier was revealed to be a three-dimensional landscape of phantasmal beauty.
    d. The temperature was six degrees Fahrenheit.

13. Which passage from Into Thin Air explains why the author climbs even though he is afraid?
    a. Absorbed by my surroundings and the gravity of the labor, I lost myself in the unfettered pleasures of ascent . . .
    b. If the Icefall required few orthodox climbing techniques, it demanded a whole new repertoire of skills in their stead . . .
    c. "The route's a bloody freeway this season."
    d. Despite daily maintenance, there was a very real danger that any given rope might pull loose under body weight.

14. In the excerpt from Into Thin Air, what final challenge do the climbers face before they can arrive at Camp One?
    a. They must cross a crevasse that compresses.
    b. They must cross a crevasse that expands.
    c. They must climb up and over a giant, offdike serac.
    d. They must climb through a maze of stalagmites.