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

1. The opening setting of "The Third Level" is
   a. a subway station
   b. a railroad terminal
   c. a taxi stand
   d. an airport

2. From what you know about Charley, the best synonym for what his psychiatrist terms a "waking-dream wish fulfillment" is
   a. nightmare
   b. fear
   c. daydream
   d. reality

3. The best word to describe Charley's remark, "Everybody I know wants to escape," is
   a. criticism
   b. gossip
   c. joke
   d. secret

4. Given what you know about Charley's situation, his friends' opinion that his stamp collecting is a "temporary refuge from reality" shows that they view his hobby
   a. negatively
   b. positively
   c. neutrally
   d. humorously

5. Charley states that Grand Central Station is a place where it is easy to
   a. find great food
   b. meet interesting people
   c. get lost
   d. catch the wrong train

6. The presence of gaslights is the first major clue that Charley's wrong turn has taken him into
   a. a citywide power failure
   b. an outdoor setting
   c. the past
   d. a nightclub

7. The detail that first reveals the exact time frame of the third level is
   a. the newspaper headline
   b. the brass spittoons
   c. the styles of clothing
   d. the gold watch
8. When Charley says that in 1894 “summer evenings were twice as long,” he means that
   a. the United States worked on a different time system then
   b. there were twice as many hours of sunlight
   c. the evenings were terribly boring
   d. the pace of daily life seemed slower

9. By stressing how far off in the future World Wars I and II were from that long-ago summer in Galesburg, Illinois, Charley shows that the town’s chief attraction for him is its
   a. balmy weather
   b. peacefulness
   c. greenery
   d. low prices

10. The ticket clerk’s pointed glance at Charley’s “fancy hatband” shows that the clerk finds Charley’s appearance
    a. appealing
    b. strange
    c. familiar
    d. tasteful

11. Charley’s decision to obtain two hundred dollars in old-style currency shows that he intends to
    a. return to Galesburg
    b. take up coin collecting
    c. go on a spending spree
    d. open a savings account

12. When Charley’s wife discourages him from trying to return to Galesburg, the first thing he does is
    a. return to stamp collecting
    b. admit that she is right
    c. try to convince her that she’s wrong
    d. seek the help of a psychiatrist

13. As explained by Charley, a first-day cover is
    a. the cover on the first issue of a new magazine
    b. the entertainment charge at a nightclub
    c. a false identity used by someone seeking to escape into the past
    d. a newly issued stamp mailed to oneself to prove the date of issue by the postmark

14. The envelope Charley finds with a first-day cover from Galesburg in 1894 proves to him that
    a. he needs to stop collecting stamps and get a life
    b. the third level is real
    c. the third level is a fantasy
    d. his wife has disappeared into the past

15. The letter from Galesburg is written by Charley’s
    a. grandfather
    b. wife
    c. psychiatrist
    d. business partner

16. The main idea of “The Third Level” is
    a. there’s no time like the present
    b. time travel is really possible
    c. it is dangerous to place all your trust in a psychiatrist
    d. people often yearn for a simpler, bygone era