

ASSESSMENT QUIZ

THE TIME MACHINE

FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

Each student's quiz is marked with its variant letter, A, B, or C, beside the page number in the lower left corner of each page. Check that letter before you score the multiple choice, and grade against the matching key below. The three variants ask different multiple choice questions, so the wrong key will misgrade a correct paper.

The two short answer questions are identical on every

variant. Grade all of them against the single set of model responses at the end, whatever multiple choice a student received. One rubric covers the whole class.

Score the short answers on reasoning, not on a word-for-word match with the model. A full-credit answer reaches the points named in the "Look for" line; give partial credit for partial reasoning. You do not need to have read the novel to grade them.

Variant A: Multiple Choice

- 1.B.** The novel uses a frame: an unnamed guest narrates the Traveller's spoken account.
- 2.B.** 802,701, the world of the Eloi and Morlocks.
- 3.A.** The Eloi and the Morlocks. The other pairs are creatures from Wells's other novels.
- 4.C.** The leisured owning class, softened by generations of ease.
- 5.B.** The workers, pushed underground to run the machines.
- 6.C.** A predator and prey relationship: the Morlocks maintain the world and feed on the Eloi.
- 7.B.** Relaxed selection. Comfort did not weaken the Eloi directly; it stopped punishing the weak ones.
- 8.D.** Textbook cave adaptation, the same suite of traits real subterranean animals converge on.
- 9.C.** The heat death dramatized: energy runs downhill and the closed system trends toward uniform cold.
- 10. B.** Time as the fourth dimension, the opening move that makes the whole journey possible.

Variant B: Multiple Choice

- 1.B.** He sends a small working model into time and it disappears in front of the guests.
- 2.C.** The Morlocks keep the machinery running underground; the surface leisure of the Eloi rests on their labor.
- 3.A.** The future world is entirely vegetarian for the Eloi; they eat fruit.
- 4.A.** Weena, the Eloi he saves from drowning and who travels with him.
- 5.B.** Fire and matches. The Morlocks fear light, and fire is the Traveller's one real weapon.
- 6.B.** The owners above and the workers below, the divide of industrial Britain carried to its end point.
- 7.B.** A prey species bred docile and defenseless. Domestication is what the Morlocks did to their former masters.
- 8.C.** Physical separation over deep time, surface against subterranean, is the barrier that drives speciation.
- 9.B.** Forward travel is real physics; the return trip runs causes backward and has no working mechanism.
- 10. C.** Real stars swell into red giants first. Wells cooled the sun straight to an ember because 1895 physics did not know fusion.

Variant C: Multiple Choice

- 1.B.** The Morlocks drag the machine inside the hollow pedestal of the White Sphinx to trap the Traveller.
- 2.C.** Two withered white flowers Weena gave him, the one physical proof he brings home.
- 3.C.** The Palace of Green Porcelain, a decayed museum of natural history and old technology.
- 4.B.** The Morlocks emerge in the dark to prey on them, so the Eloi dread nightfall.
- 5.C.** He departs on a second voyage and never comes back; the outer narrator is left to wonder.
- 6.B.** Wells indicts the division between the classes, not one class over the other. Neither side wins.
- 7.C.** Time is a dimension like the others; the only difference is that we are carried along it and cannot move about freely.
- 8.A.** Life underground in the dark. It is textbook cave adaptation, pale skin and large light-gathering eyes.
- 9.B.** The machine travels through time while standing still in space, but the Earth is moving, so it would surface in the void.
- 10. B.** The heat death dramatized: energy runs downhill and a closed system trends toward uniform cold.

ANSWER KEY

THE TIME MACHINE

Short Answer: Model Responses (all variants)

The world of the Eloi and Morlocks inverts the class relations of Wells's own Britain. Explain the inversion, and then explain why the Traveller's instinctive sympathy for the Eloi over the Morlocks is part of what Wells is doing, not just a detail.

The Eloi descend from the leisured owning class and the Morlocks from the workers, so the surface and underground split preserves the Victorian class divide. The inversion is that the workers are no longer subordinate: the Morlocks keep the world running and now feed on the Eloi, so the class that once lived off other people's labor has become livestock. A strong answer also notes that the Traveller pities the pretty, useless Eloi and recoils from the laboring Morlocks, sorting them exactly the way his own class conditioning would, and that Wells invites the reader to share that bias and then sit in it. Look for: recognition that neither class wins, and that the sympathy itself is the trap.

The Eloi's decline is a case of "relaxed selection," not a Lamarckian process. Explain the difference: why is it wrong to say comfort directly weakened the Eloi, and what actually happened to them across deep time?

The Lamarckian reading would say ease itself was inherited, that comfort directly bred weak Eloi. The correct, Darwinian version is that comfort removed the pressure that used to weed out weakness: strength, intelligence, and curiosity are expensive traits that survival no longer demanded, so they stopped being maintained. Across deep time, relaxed selection let them erode, the same way cave animals lose their eyes. Look for: the key distinction that comfort does not weaken the Eloi directly, it just stops punishing the weak ones.