

ASSESSMENT QUIZ

FRANKENSTEIN

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 entirely different multiple choice questions, so the wrong key will misgrade a correct paper.

The three 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.

One note on the text. This quiz follows the 1818 first edition. If a student has read the 1831 revision, one answer changes: in 1831 Elizabeth is an unrelated foundling rather than Victor's cousin. Accept either on the Variant B question about Elizabeth if you know the student read the later text.

Variant A: Multiple Choice

- 1.B. Robert Walton, in letters from the Arctic.
- 2.C. Ingolstadt, where he assembles the body.
- 3.C. He runs. Nothing goes wrong with the experiment itself.
- 4.B. William, Victor's young brother.
- 5.C. She is executed for William's murder, and Victor stays silent.
- 6.B. A female companion, in exchange for disappearing forever.
- 7.B. Eighteen. She was twenty at publication.
- 8.A. Mary Wollstonecraft died eleven days later, of an infection.
- 9.B. Tambora's 1815 eruption cancelled the summer of 1816.
10. C. Dissecting rooms, slaughterhouses, and graves.
11. A. About eight seconds. Students guess minutes.
12. B. No anti-rejection drugs in 1954, so donor and recipient had to be identical twins.
13. B. It stops a chaotic rhythm so the heart can restart itself. A flat line is not shockable.
14. B. Both: the fire-thief and the maker of humans from clay.
15. C. He has no name. Victor calls him wretch, daemon, fiend, and it.

Variant B: Multiple Choice

- 1.A. His cousin, in the 1818 text. (A foundling in 1831. See the note above.)
- 2.B. By watching the De Lacey family from hiding for over a year.
- 3.B. The blind man is kind; his sighted family drives the creature out.
- 4.B. He destroys her, half-finished.
- 5.A. Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin.
- 6.A. He kills Elizabeth. Victor expected the threat to fall on himself.
- 7.B. Victor dies aboard the ship; the creature grieves and leaves to destroy himself.
- 8.B. *Paradise Lost*, which he reads as history rather than fiction.
- 9.B. Anonymously, with a preface by Percy Shelley. Scott assumed Percy wrote it.
10. C. The jaw quivered, the muscles contorted, and one eye opened.
11. B. Resuscitating drowning victims, for the Royal Humane Society.
12. B. Immune rejection, running in every direction at once.
13. B. The square-cube law: weight grows faster than the bone carrying it.
14. B. Her first daughter, who lived twelve days, and the dream of warming her back to life.
15. B. That he was made a fiend, not born one. Godwin's claim, on trial.

Variant C: Multiple Choice

- 1.B. A northern passage. His ambition mirrors Victor's.
- 2.B. Natural philosophy and chemistry, under Krempe and Waldman.
- 3.B. More than a year, watching from hiding.
- 4.B. Henry Clerval, killed after the female is destroyed.
- 5.B. Nothing. His silence lets an innocent woman hang.
- 6.B. On the Arctic ice, where the novel began.
- 7.B. Byron's ghost story contest at the Villa Diodati, June 1816.
- 8.B. Abernethy against Lawrence: is life added to matter, or a result of how matter is organised? The novel refuses to answer.
- 9.B. The Murder Act of 1752 supplied only executed murderers, so grave robbers filled the gap.
10. C. The brain. Highest oxygen demand, almost no reserve.
11. B. Eighty-two minutes for a kidney against seconds for consciousness.
12. B. A contraction is driven from outside and coordinates nothing.
13. B. The 1931 Universal film, which also gives the creature a criminal brain.
14. B. Genetically modified crops, in a 1992 letter to the *New York Times*.
15. C. Abandonment. The experiment works; the disaster is what he does after.

ANSWER KEY

FRANKENSTEIN

Short Answer: Model Responses

Identical on all three variants. One rubric for the whole class.

Question 1. The creature says, “I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend.” Using at least two specific things that happen to him in the novel, explain how he changes. Then give your own judgement: does that explanation excuse what he does?

The creature begins gentle and curious: he watches the De Lacey family for a year, learns their language, gathers firewood for them at night, and saves a girl from drowning. Every attempt is answered with terror or violence. He is shot for the rescue, and the family he loves drives him out on sight, while the blind man who cannot see him is kind, which is the proof that the problem is appearance rather than conduct. He turns to murder only after Victor breaks the promise of a companion. Either judgement earns full credit. Against excuse: his first victim is a child, and framing Justine is a deliberate act against another innocent. For partial excuse: explaining is not forgiving, and the creature does not think himself excused, since he ends the novel intending to die. “The real monster is Victor,” offered as a slogan, is not an answer.

LOOK FOR: at least two concrete episodes, correctly recalled; the recognition that rejection is driven by appearance rather than by anything he has done; and a judgement that engages with his crimes rather than sliding past them.

Question 2. Victor’s experiment succeeds. The creature lives. Explain why the novel treats what Victor does next as the real disaster, and describe what he would have had to do differently.

Nothing goes wrong with the science. Victor is right about what he can do, and it works. The catastrophe begins seconds later, when he looks at the living person he has made and runs out of the room, and it continues every time he repeats that choice: he never teaches the creature or names it, says nothing while Justine is executed for a murder he knows it committed, breaks his promise of a companion, and keeps the secret until everyone he loves is dead. What he would have had to do differently is not stop the experiment. It is stay. The creature wakes with the mind of a newborn in the body of an adult, and needs teaching, feeding, and a place in the world. A strong answer recognises that the obligation begins at creation rather than ending there, and that “do not build it” is not the lesson the novel teaches.

LOOK FOR: the recognition that the experiment succeeds and is not itself punished; at least two examples of Victor evading responsibility after the fact; and the conclusion that his failure is one of obligation and care rather than of ambition or skill.

Question 3. Victor builds his creature out of bodies taken from graves and dissecting rooms. Using what you know about how quickly the brain is damaged when blood stops flowing, explain why the creature’s mind is a bigger scientific problem than the rest of its body.

Tissues differ enormously in how long they survive without blood, and the brain has by far the shortest tolerance: consciousness is gone about eight seconds after the heart stops, and brain death follows within minutes. The kidney used in the first successful human transplant in 1954 went 82 minutes without blood and then worked normally, and bone, muscle, and skin are tougher still. Victor’s raw material has been dead for days, so the structural parts are the recoverable ones and whatever he put in that skull was destroyed long before he collected it. The honest version of the experiment is a body that moves and a mind that is gone. The novel does the opposite, and it has to: a creature with no mind has no argument to make.

LOOK FOR: a clear statement that the brain fails fastest, with at least one number or comparison used correctly; the point that Victor’s materials are days dead; and the conclusion that the creature’s intelligence, not its body, is the real violation.