AP* Language: Multiple Choice
*The Art of Satire* by John Dryden

LTF® Skill Focus
The foundation for LTF English lessons is the Skill Progression Chart that identifies key skills for each domain, beginning with grade 6 and adding more complex skills at each subsequent grade level while reinforcing skills introduced at previous grade levels. The Skill Focus for each individual lesson identifies the skills actually addressed in that lesson.

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Reading Strategies
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Literary Elements
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Literary Techniques
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- Hyperbole
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Usage
- Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Answers
Definitions
1. **invective**—sharp, harsh, insulting words used to attack

2. **esoteric**—intended for or understood by only a small group

3. **repugnance**—offensiveness; distastefulness
4. **raillery**—good-natured teasing or ridicule

5. **opprobrious**—expressing contemptuous scorn

6. **malefactor**—a criminal; an evildoer

7. **ineptitude**—inappropriateness or unsuitableness

**Guided Questions**

1. The sentence paraphrased could read, “It’s pretty easy to call a man a rogue and villain, using those terms, and even to be called witty doing it.”

2. Words that signal shifts are “But” (line 2), “Neither” (line 11), “yet” (lines 18 and 19), “but” (line 25)

3. The opprobrious terms in line 4 are “fool,” “blockhead,” “knave.”

4. The writer compares the drawing of a full face to insulting a man without using obvious terms—insulting him subtly.

5. “That noble trade” (line 8) is “fineness of raillery” (line 12). The word “this” preceding these words makes it clear that the author is referring to “that noble trade.”

6. The antecedent of “he” (line 9) is “master” (line 9).

7. The witty man appreciates the verbal skill of the one criticizing him, but the fool doesn’t understand what’s going on.

8. The antecedent of “he” in line 15 is “fool” (line 13).

9. Even if a fool doesn’t understand that he’s being criticized, somebody who does understand will tell him that he is being criticized.

10. The author is contrasting a person who can criticize someone else with wit and tact to someone using straightforward, even brutal, language.

11. The Jack Ketch example is an illustration of the point the author is making about wittily criticizing someone. One can either criticize someone with harsh language, calling the person names (someone who “slovenly” butchers a man), or someone can criticize wittily without using harsh language (like Jack Ketch).

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **Correct Answer:** A—obvious invective and indirect satire. Rationale: The speaker is drawing a distinction between obvious invective (harsh criticism) and indirect satire. Knowledge and understanding is not the main distinction; neither is speaking and painting, which isn’t even mentioned until later in the passage. Writing is not mentioned, and neither is wit and humor. *(52% got it right)*

2. **Correct Answer:** E—an analogy. Rationale: The speaker is developing an analogy between drawing a full face with distinct features without using shadowing and criticizing someone wittily and subtly. *(39% got it right)*

3. **Correct Answer:** D—“fineness of raillery” (line 12). Rationale: “That noble trade” refers to “fineness of raillery.” The clue is that a following sentence begins, “Neither is it true that this fineness of raillery is offensive.” The word “this” shows the reader that “this” refers to “that noble trade.” *(44% got it right)*
4. **Correct Answer: C—Answers a possible objection.** Rationale: This sentence answers a possible objection. The word “neither” signals a contrasting idea. The “objection” is that possibly this “fineness of raillery” (criticism) could be perceived as offensive to the one receiving the criticism. (*50% got it right*)

5. **Correct Answer: B—appreciation and the fool’s lack of comprehension.** The contrast reveals that the witty man appreciates being criticized in a witty and subtle way, and he admires the skill of the one doing the criticizing. But a fool “feels it not.” He’s not quite bright enough to appreciate the nuances of language. If you want to tell him something, you have to use straightforward language. (*50% got it right*)

6. **Correct Answer: B— Raises an objection and then overrides it with an assertion.** In this sentence, the author raises an objection and then overrides it with an assertion. His objection is that this finer way of criticizing might cause “mischief” and secret wounding to a man. The author overrides this objection with an assertion, that there is a huge difference between a subtle criticism and one that is straightforward and rude. (*38% got it right*)

7. **Correct Answer: A—Admiration verging on envy.** The speaker’s professed attitude toward the reputation of Jack Ketch is admiration verging on envy. Ketch’s wife contrasts a “plain piece of work, a bare hanging” with helping someone to “die sweetly,” which only her husband could accomplish. Even though the subject is somewhat gruesome, the language reveals the author’s admiring tone. (*66% got it right*)

8. **Correct Answer: D—humorous.** The author probably intends the reader to find the words of Jack Ketch’s wife humorous. The subject is certainly not humorous—hanging someone on the gallows—but the author’s treatment of it is. First of all, the whole passage is about witty criticism, not a person’s hanging. This example is being used only as an elaboration of the author’s point. To compare writing or speaking with dying gruesomely is a juxtaposition so shocking that the effect is one of humor and surprise. (*40% got it right*)

9. **Correct Answer: C—maliciousness and compassion.** The speaker does not contrast maliciousness and compassion. Wit and dullness is contrasted with the example of the witty man and the fool. Ordinariness and excellence is contrasted in the Jack Ketch example. Coarseness and refinement is contrasted in the two ways one can call a man a “rogue and villain,” either by using obvious terms or by sparing “the grossness of the names.” Skill and ineptitude are contrasted in the Jack Ketch example and in the two ways one can malign a man. (*42% got it right*)