



Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using clues and evidence from the text.

Harlem's Golden Age: A Cultural Awakening



In the 1920s and 1930s, a remarkable cultural explosion took place in Harlem, a neighborhood in New York City. This period, known as the Harlem Renaissance, saw African American artists, writers, and musicians create an extraordinary body of work. Many people had moved from the rural South to northern cities during the Great Migration, seeking better opportunities and escaping racial discrimination. Harlem became a vibrant hub where these new arrivals could find community and express themselves freely.



Writers like Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston captured the experiences of African Americans, exploring themes of identity, struggle, and hope. Their poems, novels, and plays offered powerful new perspectives. Meanwhile, jazz music, with its infectious rhythms and improvisational spirit, filled the clubs and dance halls. Musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington became household names, their sounds defining an era and influencing music worldwide.

Visual artists also thrived, creating paintings and sculptures that celebrated African American heritage and daily life. The art often reflected a sense of pride and a desire to challenge stereotypes. These creative expressions were not just entertainment; they were a way for a community to define itself and assert its place in American society. The movement fostered a sense of collective identity and purpose.

The Harlem Renaissance was more than just an artistic movement; it was a powerful assertion of cultural identity. It introduced the concept of "The New Negro," an individual who was educated, confident, and proud of their heritage, refusing to accept racial



inequality. Though the Great Depression eventually slowed its momentum, the legacy of the Harlem Renaissance continued to inspire future generations and laid important groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- (1) **Based on the passage, what can you conclude about the overall impact of the Harlem Renaissance on African American identity?**
- (A) It mainly focused on political protests against discrimination.
 - (B) It helped African Americans develop a stronger sense of pride and collective identity.
 - (C) It caused many artists to leave Harlem for other cities.
 - (D) It primarily celebrated European artistic traditions.
- (2) **What does the passage suggest about why so many African American artists, writers, and musicians gathered in Harlem during this period?**
- (A) The government offered special grants for artists in Harlem.
 - (B) Harlem provided a supportive community where they could freely express their unique experiences.
 - (C) It was the only place in America where jazz music was allowed.
 - (D) They were forced to live there due to segregation laws.
- (3) **The author mentions "The New Negro" most likely to show that...**
- (A) a new political party was formed during the Renaissance.



- B the movement fostered a transformed image of African Americans as confident and proud.
- C only recently arrived immigrants were considered "new" to Harlem.
- D older generations were replaced by younger artists.

(4) Which statement is NOT well-supported by evidence from the passage?

- A The Harlem Renaissance was primarily a political movement focused on changing laws.
- B African Americans moved to Harlem from the South seeking better opportunities.
- C Jazz music played a significant role in the cultural life of Harlem.
- D The movement helped to challenge existing stereotypes about African Americans.

(5) What clues in the passage helped you infer that the Harlem Renaissance was a period of great pride and self-expression? Use at least two details from the passage to explain your reasoning.

