7 multiple-choice questions   **Suggested Time: 25 minutes**
1 written-response question
Value: 23%

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following poem, "Prelude to Jumping in the River," and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

Prelude[1] to Jumping in the River

by Katia Grubisic

He unpeels himself, lays his light shirt, glasses, straw hat
and shoes on the sea-monster
driftwood, where they rest as easily
as they do on him. The mental preparation
5   takes some time. I have also stood
on that rock, feet cupping
the low, flat lip. The decision is not yet made.

What goes on at the edge of the bank
could last years, centuries. The bottom will shift or
10   vanish entirely, will prod
from the muck we can barely toe
deeply rooted lilies, suckling
bladderwort[2]. Its weight separating it
from the air, the water seeks
15   itself and stays there, closing
without fuss over whole worlds. It has swallowed
countless resolves to jump or retreat
and kept no record of either. Yet —
the pizzicato[3] of the crickets, the stream — this is at stake,
20   and it remains enough to give us pause.

The exit, too, will be graceless. There are no footholds
among the reeds and we can barely heave
the body up. We are hopelessly terrestrial, and vaguely,
mnemonically[4] aquatic, but never both at once. In the end,
25   I catch the aftermath: the slowing ripples, the dogs
rushing down the hill, the surprised head bobbling
above the water. Waiting, I have missed the jump,
the perfect, reckless moment when we cannot turn back.

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[1] prelude: *an introduction to a poem or piece of music*

[2] bladderwort: *an aquatic plant*

[3] pizzicato: *the sound made by plucking a stringed instrument*

[4] mnemonically: *associated with a deep memory*