Tests
Test 1

1. We gain an early insight into Lennie's problem when
   a) he admits to George that he can't read traffic signs
   b) we learn about the dead mouse in his pocket
   c) he forgets his own name

2. When Steinbeck tells us that Lennie likes to pet things, he is using the technique of
   a) narration
   b) B. graphic description
   c) C. foreshadowing

3. George can make Lennie feel bad by
   a) telling what a burden Lennie is to him
   b) teasing him about the rabbit farm
   c) refusing to give him any spending money

4. George and Lennie felt that they were different from other itinerant ranch hands because they
   a) had desirable skills
   b) liked to put roots down in one place
   c) could look after each other

5. Milton and Small were
   a. the last names of George and Lennie
   b. the agents who supplied itinerant workers for ranch jobs
   c. the two mule skinners on the ranch

6. George explained Lennie's problem to everyone by saying
   a) he had been the victim of a childhood disease
   b) he had been kicked in the head by a horse
   c) his parents had kept him out of school

7. In his first meeting with both men, Curley was irritated because
   a. George did all the talking
   b. Lennie didn't show him the proper respect
   c. they seemed incompetent

8. The swamper characterized Curley's new bride as
   a. a whiner
   b. a frustrated actress
   c. a tart

9. One of the important developments of the plot was introduced when
   a. we learnt that Slim's dog had a litter of pups
   b. Carlson makes his entrance
   c. Slim asks George and Lennie to join his work crew

10. The story of Lennie's near disaster in the town of Weed
    a) added to our sympathy for him
b) exacerbated Curley's bitterness toward both men
c) prepared us for the violence which lay ahead

11. In many ways, Lennie is the central character in the book. Nearly all of the action and characters revolve around him. Discuss this idea.

12. Where does the title of the book come from? Why is the title appropriate?

13. Discuss how the ranch in *Of Mice and Men* is a microcosm of American society as a whole.


15. Discuss why the outer characters in the book are suspicious or skeptical about the relationship between George and Lennie.
Test 2

1. The shooting of Candy's dog is an example of Steinbeck's
   A. sensitivity toward all of God's creatures
   B. fondness for symbolism
   C. propensity for mood changes

2. When Lennie thought of the idyllic future on their own farm, he said,
   A. "I'll save alia my dollahs for that, George."
   B. "We could live off the fatta the lan'"
   C. "Ain't nobody gonna stan' in our way"

3. Curley was
   I. blackmailed into lying about his broken hand
   II. a bully who liked to provoke fights
   III. outraged when he thought Lennie had been laughing at him
   A. I and II only
   B. I and III only
   C. I, II, and III

4. The lowest man in the ranch hierarchy was
   a) Candy, the swamper
   b) Crooks, the stable buck
   c) Bill Tenner, the mule skinner

5. When Crooks heard about the plans for a farm, he
   A. asked for additional details immediately
   B. belittled them
   C. offered to join in the project

6. Lennie's puppy died when
   a. Carlson ran it over
   b. Curley drowned it
   c. Lennie hit it

7. Curley's wife precipitated her own death by
   a) enticing Lennie down to the river bank
   b) inviting Lennie to stroke her hair
   c) giving Lennie the eye in front of her husband

8. "Ever' body knowed you'd mess things up" was George's statement to
   a) Lennie before he pulled the trigger
   b) Candy when he revealed their "secret" plans about the farm
   c) the dead body of Curley's wife

9. While waiting at the river bank for George, Lennie conjured up a vision of
   a) his Aunt Clara
   b) the posse that was coming to hang him
   c) the woman in the red dress in Weed
10. George felt that he had to carry out the execution
   a) as retribution for Lennie's crime
   b) before the other men would get to Lennie
   c) since Lennie had jeopardized their future

11. Steinbeck has said he intended the book to be a play in novel form. Describe ways in which the novel is similar to a play.

12. Foreshadowing is an important part of Steinbeck's technique. Describe several instances of foreshadowing that are presented in the book.

13. What do George and Lennie mean when they say they want "to live off the fat of the land"?

14. Choose one of the following minor characters and explain what his or her purpose is in the novel: Slim, Curley, Whit, Curley's wife.

15. The play form of Of Mice and Men ends with George shooting Lennie. The novel continues for several more pages. Discuss what Steinbeck is saying in those last pages of the book.