


II Read the following three passages and answer the questions. Mark your answers (a ~ d) on the separate answer sheet.

(A) There are two main ways in which novels, plays, films, television, and songs have depicted the American small town. In one version, the town is a backwater, a quiet place where quiet, ordinary people get on with their lives, mostly undisturbed by the world outside. It is the kind of town to which the hero returns, coming to realize that his life in the city has been empty, lacking the true values of simplicity and goodness he can only find at home.

In the other version, the small town is quiet on the surface, but underneath we find darkness and despair. Violence, prejudice, drug addiction and alcoholism, incest, and murder, indeed serial murder, are all to be found just behind the illusion of normality this fictional small town presents. But while both versions of the small town in literature and other cultural mediations may be misleading, for an increasingly urbanized population they will represent the good or bad dream of a place elsewhere. 

15. According to the passage, the idea of the small town as represented in American culture is

- (a) a place of utopian perfection where everybody is a good friend.
- (b) divided between extremes of normal life and social breakdown.
- (c) not welcoming or accepting of any outsiders or strangers.
- (d) somewhere people from the city would like to live.

16. The passage says that the literary idea of the small town is wrong, but

- (a) as more and more people live in the city, the more it will become widely held.
- (b) cities also are unreal places where people live with their dreams.
- (c) there are many more murderers and drug addicts in the big cities.
- (d) when people move back to the country from the city, they will realize the truth.