Canterbury Tales Prologue Questions: without answers

Prologue (1-10 is to be answered in the Dark Green Book)

1. What is the prologue about?
2. To whose shrine are the pilgrims going?
3. These pilgrims may be divided into what three groups:
4. In what language did Chaucer write?
5. Month in which the pilgrimage begins.
6. Section of London where pilgrimage begins.
7. Year of journey
8. Who are the “palmers” and where do they long to go?
9. What is the Tabard?
10. How many pilgrims are there on the trip, including the narrator?

Knight

1. What sociological concept is the Knight a part?
2. What do we learn about his personality?
3. How did the group regard him?
4. Why was his tunic stained?
5. What was his reason for going on the journey?

Squire

1. Who is a squire?
2. His age:
3. How was his dress in contrast to that of his father?
4. What were some of the varied accomplishments expected of a knight-to-be?
5. Write the line that hints at his interest in the opposite sex.
6. His personality traits:

Yeoman:

1. What was a yeoman?
2. With whom is he traveling?
3. Color of his clothes:
4. Weapons he carries?
5. His occupation:
6. Who is St. Christopher?

Prioress/Nun

1. What language does she speak?
2. Is her pronunciation like that of a native speaker?
3. Evidence of her meticulous manners:
4. Personality traits:
5. Width of her forehead:
6. Jewelry she wears:

Monk

1. In his overall appearance is her mainly or feminine?
2. Quote the line that suggests the monk is rather lax(lazy) in his religious duties:
3. What is the favorite pastime of Chaucer’s monk?
4. What did St. Benedict say about hunters?
5. What is this monk’s attitude regarding study?
6. Evidence (2) of a love for luxury
7. In what ways does he not look like the typical monk

Friar

1. What was a friar’s chief purpose in the church?
2. What was the friar’s special talent?
3. Why do people like to confess to him rather than their parish priest?
4. To whom does he seem especially friendly?
5. Feelings about the needy he should be serving?
6. Quality of his clothing:
7. Skinny or plump:

Merchant:

1. How does his appearance/dress reflect his profession?
2. Expert at what?
3. One of his main concerns:
4. What is ironic about the merchant?

Oxford Cleric:

1. Dress and overall appearance:
2. Area of special knowledge:
3. On what does he spend his money?
4. How is his house like him?
5. What would he gladly do?

Sgt. At Law

1. What is St. Pauls?
2. This lawyer’s area of expertise?
3. Rating as an attorney/judge:
4. Character trait suggested by “less busy than he seemed to be”

Franklin

1. What is Franklin?
2. How was he like St. Julian?
3. Resembles:
4. Civic position held:

Guildsmen

1. How are they dressed?
2. Their status symbol:
3. Kind of guild they belong to since they are all of a different profession:
4. Characterize their wives:

Cook:

1. Rating of this cook:
2. Has a special taste or fondness for:
3. Unattractive physical feature:

Skipper:

1. How good a horseman?
2. What he knew much about:
3. Treatment of his prisoners:
4. Scam he has going:

Doctor:

1. Rating as a physician:
2. Practice of medicine in Middle Ages much dependent on what area of knowledge (aside from the obvious)
3. His scam:
4. Kind of diet he followed:
5. “He did not read the Bible very much” What is the implication?
6. Key motivation for the doctor:

Wife of Bath:

1. Her profession:
2. Details of her personality:
3. Color of choice:
4. Evidence of the importance of men in her life:
5. Other details of physical appearance:
6. Destination of some of her past journeys:
7. Subject of expertise

Parson:

1. Characterize this man:
2. His particular virtues:
3. Image conveyed by his traveling on foot with a stave in his hand:
4. His favorite proverb:

Plowman

1. “Brother of the Parson – meaning what?
2. Guiding factor in his life:
3. Kind of Worker and Christian

Miller

1. How does he show his strength?
2. Details of his appearance –
3. Especially good at –Thumb of gold implies what about his character
4. Musical instrument that he plays –
5. Position in the procession (line) –

Manciple

1. What is a manciple? –
2. Men he works for –
3. How shrewd is he? –Meaning of “he could wipe their eye”

Reeve

1. What is a Reeve?
2. Personality and appearance:
3. How good of a manager?
4. Who feared him?
5. Evidence of his financial success:
6. His Hobby –
7. His position in the cavalcade –

Summoner

1. His professional duty
2. Details of physical appearance
3. What was he fond of?
4. Rate his knowledge of Latin:
5. Who feared him?
6. How we are to take “no better fellow if you went to find one”?

Pardoner

1. His professional duty:
2. Partner on journey:
3. Where had he recently been?
4. How manly?
5. Relics he carries:
6. What he sings best:
7. Kind of salary he earns:

Host

1. His role on the journey
2. His suggestions:
3. Criteria for judging the best:
4. Price for the best:
5. Reporting philosophy:
6. Reporting requirements:
7. Details of appearance: