Instructions:
The following assignment will facilitate practice with the concepts and styles relevant to the final exam.

First, examine the relevant terms and concepts at the top. Read the examples, as well. Make sure you understand them before continuing.

Afterward, read the passage slowly – re-read it, if you need to. Reference it and the terms when answering the questions below. Some headings and items are bolded for quick reference during the question portion of the handout.

Read and Respond Packet – Inference, Context Clues, and Volsungsaga
Terms

Inference – the process of arriving at a conclusion using known evidence or premises and logically forming an opinion or interpretation.

Ex: “The twentieth-century man drove to work.” From what we already know of the twentieth-century, we might infer that the man drove in a car, not a carriage or other antiquated vehicle.

Context Clues - a method by which the meanings of unknown words may be obtained by examining the parts of a sentence surrounding the word for hints.

Ex: “The hunter pulled out a Winchester and shot the deer.” We can infer from the rest of the sentence that the word “Winchester” probably refers to some sort of gun, likely a hunting rifle.

Passage – From The Volsungsaga

But now are all his sons taken, and laid in bonds and led away; and Signy was ware withal that her father was slain, and her brothers taken and doomed to death, that she called King Siggeir apart to talk with her, and said –

"This will I pray of thee, that thou let not slay my brothers hastily, but let them be set awhile in the stocks, for home to me comes the saw that says, "Sweet to eye while seen": but longer life I pray not for them, because I wot well that my prayer will not avail me."

Then answered Siggeir

"Surely thou art mad and witless, praying thus for more bale for thy brothers than their present slaying; yet this will I grant thee, for the better it likes me the more they must bear, and the longer their pain is or ever death come to them."

Now he let it be done even as she prayed, and a mighty beam was brought and set on the feet of those ten brethren in a certain place of the wild-wood, and there they sit day-long until night; but at midnight, as they sat in the stocks, there came on them a she-wolf from out the wood; old she was, and both great and evil
of aspect; and the first thing she did was to bite one of those brethren till he died, and then she ate him up withal, and went on her way.

But the next morning Signy sent a man to the brethren, even one whom she most trusted, to wot of the tidings; and when he came back he told her that one of them was dead, and great and grievous she deemed it, if they should all fare in like wise, and yet naught might she avail them.

Soon is the tale told thereof: nine nights together came the she-wolf at midnight, and each night slew and ate up one of the brethren, until all were dead, save Sigmund only; so now, before the tenth night came, Signy sent that trusty man to Sigmund, her brother, and gave honey into his hand, bidding him do it over Sigmund's face, and set a little deal of it in his mouth; so he went to Sigmund and did as he was bidden, and then came home again; and so the next night came the she-wolf according to her wont, and would slay him and eat him even as his brothers; but now she sniffs the breeze from him, whereas he was anointed with the honey, and licks his face all over with her tongue, and then thrusts her tongue into the mouth of him. No fear he had thereof, but caught the she-wolf's tongue betwixt his teeth, and so hard she started back thereat, and pulled herself away so mightily, setting her feet against the stock that all was riven asunder; but he ever held so fast that the tongue came away by the roots, and thereof she had her bane.

But some men say that this same she-wolf was the mother of King Siggeir, who had turned herself into this likeness by troll's lore and witchcraft.

Questions
1. In paragraph 1, use context to determine what ware withal means.
   A. With all her wares  B. Aware
   C. With everyone  D. Where everything is.

2. Why does Signy wish her brothers to be put in the stocks rather than killed?
   A. She wants them dead.  B. She wants them to suffer more
   C. She’s buying time  D. She’s against the death penalty

3. Use context in paragraph 7 to determine the meaning of the word wot.
   A. Learn / know  B. Kill  C. Tell  D. Conceal

4. How is Sigmund similar to Beowulf?
   A. They slay monsters  B. They have clever sisters
   C. They fought difficult battles with powerful female monsters  D. A and C

5. Signy and Sigmund seem to outwit their enemies by begging for the stocks, and with the honey. What can you infer about the traits the culture’s values?
   A. They value strength  B. They value wits
   C. They value courage  D. The value generosity