English sample questions

Read the passage below and answer the next two questions.

Our crew employed themselves catching cod and hauled up a great number. Till then I had stuck to my resolution to eat nothing that had had life; and on this occasion I considered...the taking of every fish as a kind of unprovoked murder, since none of them had or ever could do us any injury that might justify this massacre. All this seemed very reasonable. But I had formerly been a great lover of fish, and when this came hot out of the frying pan, it smelled admirably well. I balanced some time between principle and inclination till I recollected that when the fish were opened, I saw smaller fish taken out of their stomachs. "Then," thought I, "if you eat one another, I don't see why I mayn't eat you." So I dined upon cod very heartily... So convenient a thing it is to be a reasonable creature, since it enables one to find or make a reason for everything one has a mind to do.

What is the main idea of this passage?

A. Humans possess a limited capacity for compassion.
B. Humans possess an enormous capacity for self-justification.
C. Because fish are carnivorous, humans are justified in eating them.
D. Reason is the intellectual power separating humans from animals.

What period of American literature focuses on the inability of humans to conquer their environment?

A. colonialism
B. romanticism
C. regionalism
D. naturalism

What correction, if any, should be made in this sentence?

Infuriated by her remarks, there was no alternative but to leave the room.

A. Infuriated by her remarks, I felt there was no alternative but to leave the room.
B. I was infuriated by the remarks she made, I felt there was no alternative but to leave the room.
C. I felt there was no alternative but to leave the room infuriated by her remarks.
D. No correction is required.

Which list is in chronological order?

A. Le Morte D'Arthur, Gulliver's Travels, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
B. Gulliver's Travels, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Le Morte D'Arthur
C. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Le Morte D'Arthur, Gulliver's Travels
D. Le Morte D'Arthur, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Gulliver's Travels

What is the tone of the last sentence?

A. bitter
B. proud
C. ironic
D. hopeful