

Quixote in History Answer Key

1. **C.** Chivalric romances were extremely popular in Spain and Europe during the 1500s.
2. **A.** Spain's Golden Age was a period of flourishing art, literature, and exploration.
3. **D.** The decline of Spain's power and hardships of ordinary people contrasted with knights' idealized world.
4. **B.** Cervantes lived during a time of social change, when people questioned outdated traditions.

Sample Reflection Answer: Knowing the historical background helps readers see that *Don Quixote* is more than just a funny story. Cervantes was writing at a time when Spain was both proud of its achievements and aware of its decline. Chivalric romances were outdated, but people still loved them, so Cervantes mocked them through parody. At the same time, he showed sympathy for common people like Sancho Panza. This mix of critique and comedy reflects both the brilliance and the struggles of Spain's Golden Age.