

2015 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3 (Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Select a novel, play, or epic poem in which acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim. You may select a work from the list below or another work of equal literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

- Beloved
- A Bend in the River
- Billy Budd
- Black Boy
- Catch-22
- Cat's Eye
- The Crucible
- Frankenstein
- A Gesture Life
- Great Expectations
- Heart of Darkness
- Invisible Man
- The Kite Runner
- The Last of the Mohicans
- Lord of the Flies
- Mansfield Park
- Medea
- The Merchant of Venice
- Night
- The Odyssey
- Oliver Twist
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- Othello
- The Red Badge of Courage
- The Scarlet Letter
- Sister Carrie
- Sophie's Choice
- Tess of the d'Urbervilles
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
- Wuthering Heights

2014 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

You may choose a novel or play from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

- Othello
- The Age of Innocence
- The Poisonwood Bible
- Antigone
- The Portrait of a Lady
- The Awakening
- A Prayer for Owen Meany
- Beloved
- A Raisin in the Sun
- The Crucible
- The Scarlet Letter
- Death of a Salesman
- A Streetcar Named Desire
- Ethan Frome
- A Tale of Two Cities
- King Lear
- Tess of the d'Urbervilles
- Linden Hills
- Their Eyes Were Watching God
- The Memory Keeper's Daughter
- Things Fall Apart
- Much Ado About Nothing
- A Thousand Acres
- Noah's Compass
- The Women of Brewster Place

2013 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Select a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of the protagonist of a bildungsroman. Then write a well-organized essay that analyzes how that single moment shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

You may choose a work from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

- The Adventures of Augie March
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- All the Pretty Horses
- Atonement
- Black Boy
- Breath, Eyes, Memory
- Brown Girl, Brownstones
- The Catcher in the Rye
- Cat's Eye
- The Chosen
- The Cider House Rules
- The Color Purple
- David Copperfield

- The God of Small Things
- The Grapes of Wrath
- Great Expectations
- The House on Mango Street
- Invisible Man
- Jane Eyre
- Jasmine
- The Joy Luck Club
- The Joys of Motherhood
- The Namesake
- A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
- Purple Hibiscus

- The Secret Life of Bees
- A Separate Peace
- Siddhartha
- Song of Solomon
- The Sorrows of Young Werther
- The Sound and the Fury
- The Story of Edgar Sawtelle
- Their Eyes Were Watching God
- A Thousand Splendid Suns
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
- The Woman Warrior

2012 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

“And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.” Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*

Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

You may choose a work from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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| • Absalom, Absalom! | • Heart of Darkness | • One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest |
| • The Age of Innocence | • Invisible Man | • One Hundred Years of Solitude |
| • Another Country | • King Lear | • Oryx and Crake |
| • Brideshead Revisited | • Maggie: A Girl of the Streets | • A Passage to India |
| • Ceremony | • M. Butterfly | • The Piano Lesson |
| • The Color Purple | • A Midsummer Night’s Dream | • The Plague |
| • Daisy Miller | • My Ántonia | • The Poisonwood Bible |
| • Death of a Salesman | • Native Son | • Pride and Prejudice |
| • The Glass Menagerie | • No Exit | • A Raisin in the Sun |
| • The Grapes of Wrath | | |
| • Great Expectations | | |

- Snow Falling on Cedars
- Sula
- The Sun Also Rises
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- Waiting for Godot
- When the Emperor Was Divine
- The Women of Brewster Place
- Wuthering Heights

2011 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for justice.”

Choose a character from a novel or play who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.

You may choose a work from the list below or another work of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

- All the King’s Men
- All the Pretty Horses
- Antigone
- Atonement
- Beloved
- The Blind Assassin
- The Bonesetter’s Daughter
- Crime and Punishment
- A Gathering of Old Men
- The God of Small Things
- The Grapes of Wrath
- Invisible Man
- King Lear
- A Lesson Before Dying
- Light in August
- Medea
- The Merchant of Venice
- Murder in the Cathedral
- Native Son
- No Country for Old Men
- Oedipus Rex
- The Poisonwood Bible
- Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead
- Set This House on Fire
- The Story of Edgar Sawtelle
- The Stranger
- Things Fall Apart
- A Thousand Acres
- A Thousand Splendid Suns
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- The Trial