



AP[®] English Literature and Composition 2012 Free-Response Questions

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ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Total time—2 hours

Question 1

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

In the following poem by Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586), the speaker addresses the subject of desire. Read the poem carefully. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze how poetic devices help to convey the speaker's complex attitude toward desire.

Thou Blind Man's Mark

Thou blind man's mark,¹ thou fool's self-chosen snare,
Fond fancy's scum, and dregs of scattered thought;
Band of all evils, cradle of causeless care;
Line Thou web of will, whose end is never wrought;
5 Desire, desire! I have too dearly bought,
With price of mangled mind, thy worthless ware;
Too long, too long, asleep thou hast me brought,
Who should my mind to higher things prepare.
But yet in vain thou hast my ruin sought;
10 In vain thou madest me to vain things aspire;
In vain thou kindlest all thy smoky fire;
For virtue hath this better lesson taught—
Within myself to seek my only hire,²
Desiring naught but how to kill desire.

¹ target

² reward

Question 2

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

Carefully read the following excerpt from the novel *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena María Viramontes. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze the development of Estrella’s character. In your analysis, you may wish to consider such literary elements as selection of detail, figurative language, and tone.

Unfortunately, we have been denied permission to reproduce the excerpt from *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena María Viramontes on this website.

The excerpt is taken from early in the novel, when Estrella finds Perfecto’s red tool chest and Perfecto names the various tools and explains their uses.

Question 3

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

“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.

Absalom, Absalom!
The Age of Innocence
Another Country
Brideshead Revisited
Ceremony
The Color Purple
Daisy Miller
Death of a Salesman
The Glass Menagerie
The Grapes of Wrath
Great Expectations
Heart of Darkness
Invisible Man
King Lear
Maggie: A Girl of the Streets
M. Butterfly
A Midsummer Night's Dream
My Ántonia
Native Son

No Exit
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
One Hundred Years of Solitude
Oryx and Crake
A Passage to India
The Piano Lesson
The Plague
The Poisonwood Bible
Pride and Prejudice
A Raisin in the Sun
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

STOP

END OF EXAM