



## AP<sup>®</sup> English Language 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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~~Human beings~~

Human beings are analogous to pack animals. We strive in the presence of others, ~~not~~ under the guidance of others, and in cooperation with others. Even our greatest ~~achievements~~ scientific achievements, which often appear to be the work of a single genius, are usually ~~the~~ combinations of many different contributions. <sup>Such</sup> was the case for Einstein's theory of relativity and Brownian motion, which depended on the work of Galileo, Brown, and was ultimately prompted by Michelson and Morley. Humans can withdraw themselves from others, but they must reconnect eventually for society to survive and progress. Sanders is correct that human communities and individuals cannot sustain themselves with just "passers by".

When I was five, I experienced such an experience of detachment. My family was transferred from a predominantly white neighbourhood in California to the heart of Tokyo, Japan. At first I thought it was amazing! I could go out with my mom and look at all the spectacles of the city, I could ride my bike around the peculiar neighborhoods. I could do many things, ALONE. I wasn't in school yet, and all the contacts I made were with locals, locals who liked to touch my hair and tug my cheeks, but they couldn't ~~we~~ speak to me nor I to them. As weeks passed I grew lonely, discontent, and longed for ~~the people~~ contact with others, those people who Sanders ~~says~~ <sup>calls</sup> "holding you upright". Sanders is correct, one's "withdrawal from responsibility" and from community cannot go on forever.

He is also correct that communities will crumble if they lack people willing to take responsibility. Evidence to



2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

A2

support this can be found in the present situation facing post-war Iraq. Before the war, a powerful, organized government ruled the country. People were responsible for their actions and ~~the~~ <sup>most probably</sup> lived in communities where they contributed to those around them. When the Iraqi government felt, ~~masses of the~~ many thousands of people became "unaccountable" and experienced the "withdrawal from responsibility" that Sanders described. The ~~resulting~~ result was just as predicted by Sanders, the community "broke down." Masses of looters became the "burden or a threat to those around us" that Sanders referred to. ~~That they lacked the~~

~~Sanders is correct that~~

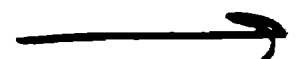
Sanders position about human responsibility is correct. We can take occasional ~~times~~ <sup>breaks</sup> from responsibility but in the end, our communities depend on the responsible ~~to~~ in order to maintain themselves.

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The "web of relationships" social model that Saunders presents in this passage seems to have been largely lost in the XXth century with the ~~last one hundred years'~~ <sup>population's</sup> incessant and unstoppable shift from rural to urban settings. Anonymity is ~~the~~ result of the massification of the modern metropolis.

In a small town such as the one cited in the essay at hand (Bloomberg, Indiana), the limited size of the population enables the dominant majority to impose its system of values. In a sense, this can be good: the town's people feel the need to ~~to~~ look after each other, and a sense of responsibility for others' welfare and ~~see~~ moral conduct. This mentality, however, can also be stifling. A good example in literature can be found in "The Scarlett Letter", where the protagonist resents the Puritan ~~societies~~ society's intent on controlling her life and imposing their moral values on her. ~~That~~ <sup>This</sup> is the social model of small towns and ~~so~~ many tribal societies.

Throughout the XXth century, however, towns got smaller and disappeared as cities swelled to monstrous proportions. This ~~is~~ massification has led to a paradoxical situation where the sheer size of a community leads to the isolation of the



Question 2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

B2

Individual. This situation entails a greater sense of freedom, for there are not so many people ready to judge one's actions, but can also lead to a lack of guidance, of "threads tugging at you while also holding you upright". This lack of a moral standard can explain high crime rates in cities, as well ~~as~~ as behaviors that are not "upright", ~~or~~ <sup>are</sup> potentially destructive, such as substance abuse or gratuitous ~~vio~~ violence.

Often times people want to feel that they are part of something, part of a community where they are welcome. In large cities people search for this in all sorts of places: gangs, sports teams, self-help groups, work, music scenes... Some of these solutions are more constructive than others, but they all have the same objective: to ~~substitute~~ relieve the ~~individuel~~ individual's sense of isolation in today's ~~very~~ massified society.

As the world's population becomes more and more globalized, places like Bloomington will gradually lose importance. In their place: ~~##~~ loose communities that may or may not be successful, but will (hopefully) not entail the moral strictures of a small town.

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Question 2 D<sub>1</sub>

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Mr. Sanders attempts convey the idea that in order for a society to survive it must take a little from all of its members. But if members of a community fail to play an avid and active role in their community, it will eventually break down. He uses the metaphor of a web ~~as~~ for society as a whole, explaining that the ~~the~~ society ~~is~~ has the ability to hold the individual upright, if the individual is willing to lend himself to the community itself. If, however, ~~if~~ too many individuals refuse to ~~to~~ "lend themselves" to society the web will not be strong enough to support the individual — as the web's strength comes from <sup>each</sup> ~~the~~ individual's strength.

In theory, this is an attractive outlook on society. The idea, that each individual has a definitive role in building the society; the idea that without the ~~it~~ accountability of the individual, the society is unable to thrive; and the idea that too many apathetic people can harm a society, ~~are~~ <sup>evoke</sup> very compelling images and thoughts. However, that is all they are — thoughts and images. Reality unfortunately sings a different tune than Mr. Sanders' ~~theory~~ ~~theory~~. His theory is much too Utopian to be associated with real life. So often, we see cities who thrive, such as Los Angeles and fail to fully investigate them. Personally having lived in Los Angeles, I saw much of what Sanders speaks about — the apathetic citizen. In fact, there were probably more "unaccountable" people in Los Angeles than there were those <sup>from which</sup> ~~is~~ the "web" could stabilize itself, and



yet the city thrives. His second conclusion, that "too many apathetic people can harm a society" is true should the majority ever reach such a point, but that is obvious and fails to explore deep analysis. It is similar to the idea of a table with four legs supporting it. Should you take one leg off, the table (society) will tilt, but the other three legs can be rearranged to stabilize it. But as you take away two legs it becomes much harder to stabilize the table. To the point where one leg is left to support a table, and it simply cannot be done. The problem with Sanders' claim, however, is that it has no real basis - no place in reality. The thought has an almost apocalyptic feeling to it. ~~sure~~<sup>without doubt,</sup> it could happen that the majority of society becomes apathetic and "unaccountable" but the probability is low. ~~Therefore~~ it

Therefore without any real basis to justify his claim, he cannot clearly assert himself to such a degree. Clearly, he - as well as the rest of us - has not yet seen ~~his~~ a majority of apathetic people in society and therefore his claims are strictly based on possibility - and a slight one at that - and not reality.

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