

**2002 AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**Question 2**

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

Read the following poem carefully. Then, taking into consideration the title of the poem, analyze how the poetic devices convey the speaker's attitude toward the sinking of the ship.

The Convergence of the Twain

(*Lines on the loss of the Titanic*<sup>1</sup>)

I

In a solitude of the sea  
Deep from human vanity,  
And the Pride of Life that planned her, stilly couches she.

II

Line                      Steel chambers, late the pyres  
5                      Of her salamandrine<sup>2</sup> fires,  
Cold currents thrid,<sup>3</sup> and turn to rhythmic tidal lyres.

III

Over the mirrors meant  
To glass the opulent  
The sea-worm crawls—grotesque, slimed, dumb, indifferent.

IV

10                      Jewels in joy designed  
To ravish the sensuous mind  
Lie lightless, all their sparkles bleared and black and blind.

V

15                      Dim moon-eyed fishes near  
Gaze at the gilded gear  
And query: "What does this vaingloriousness down here?" . . .

VI

Well: while was fashioning  
This creature of cleaving wing,  
The Immanent Will that stirs and urges everything

VII

20                      Prepared a sinister mate  
For her—so gaily great—  
A Shape of Ice, for the time far and dissociate.

VIII

And as the smart ship grew  
In stature, grace and hue,  
In shadowy silent distance grew the Iceberg too.