

**2006 AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)**

**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.)

Read the following poem carefully. Then write an essay discussing how the poet uses literary techniques to reveal the speaker's attitudes toward nature and the artist's task.

To Paint a Water Lily

A green level of lily leaves  
Roofs the pond's chamber and paves

The flies' furious arena: study  
These, the two minds of this lady.

*Line*

5 First observe the air's dragonfly  
That eats meat, that bullets by

Or stands in space to take aim;  
Others as dangerous comb the hum

Under the trees. There are battle-shouts  
10 And death-cries everywhere hereabouts

But inaudible, so the eyes praise  
To see the colours of these flies

Rainbow their arcs, spark, or settle  
Cooling like beads of molten metal

15 Through the spectrum. Think what worse  
Is the pond-bed's matter of course;

Prehistoric bedragonned times  
Crawl that darkness with Latin names,

Have evolved no improvements there,  
20 Jaws for heads, the set stare,

Ignorant of age as of hour—  
Now paint the long-necked lily-flower

Which, deep in both worlds, can be still  
As a painting, trembling hardly at all

25 Though the dragonfly alight,  
Whatever horror nudge her root.

—“To Paint a Water Lily” from *Collected Poems* by Ted Hughes (1930–1998),  
published by Faber and Faber Ltd [www.faber.co.uk]. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

© 2006 The College Board. All rights reserved.

Visit [apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com) (for AP professionals) and [www.collegeboard.com/apstudents](http://www.collegeboard.com/apstudents) (for students and parents).

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**