



AP[®] English Literature and Composition 2003 Free-Response Questions Form B

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**2003 AP[®] 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.)

The following poem is taken from *Modern Love*, a poetic sequence by the English writer George Meredith. Read the poem carefully. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the poet conveys a view of “modern love.”

By this he knew she wept with waking eyes:
That, at his hand's light quiver by her head,
The strange low sobs that shook their common bed
Line Were called into her with a sharp surprise,
5 And strangled mute, like little gaping snakes,
Dreadfully venomous to him. She lay
Stone-still, and the long darkness flowed away
With muffled pulses. Then, as midnight makes
Her giant heart of Memory and Tears
10 Drink the pale drug of silence, and so beat
Sleep's heavy measure, they from head to feet
Were moveless, looking through their dead black years,
By vain regret scrawled over the blank wall.
Like sculptured effigies* they might be seen
15 Upon their marriage-tomb, the sword between;
Each wishing for the sword that severs all.

(1862)

* The stone figures of a husband and wife carved on medieval tombs

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Question 2

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

Read the following passage from Joyce Carol Oates's novel *We Were the Mulvaney*s (1996). Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the literary techniques Oates uses to characterize the speaker, Judd Mulvaney. Support your analysis with specific references to the passage.

Line
5 That time in our lower driveway, by the brook.
I was straddling my bike staring down into the water.
Fast-flowing clear water, shallow, shale beneath, and
lots of leaves. Sky the color of lead and the light
mostly drained so I couldn't see my face only the
10 dark shape of a head that could be anybody's head.
Hypnotizing myself the way kids do. Lonely kids,
or kids not realizing they're lonely. The brook was
flowing below left to right (east to west, though at
a slant) and I stood immobile leaning on the railing
(pretty damn rotted: I'd tell Dad it needed to be
replaced with new planks, we could do it together)
15 until it began to happen as it always does the water
gets slower and slower and you're the one who
begins to move — oh boy! we-ird! scary and ticklish
in the groin and I leaned farther and farther over the
rail staring into the water and I was moving, moving
helplessly forward, it seemed I was moving somehow
upward, rising into the air, helpless, in that instant
20 aware of my heart beating *ONEtwothree*
ONEtwothree! thinking *Every heartbeat is past and*
gone! Every heartbeat is past and gone! A chill came
over me, I began to shiver. It wasn't warm weather
now but might have been late as November, most of
25 the leaves blown from the trees. Only the evergreens
and some of the black birches remaining but it's a fact
when dry yellow leaves (like on the birches) don't fall
from a tree the tree is partly dead. A light gritty film
of snow on the ground, darkest in the crevices where
30 you'd expect shadow so it was like a film negative.
Every heartbeat is past and gone! Every heartbeat is
past and gone! in a trance that was like a trance of
fury, raging hurt *Am I going to die?* because I did not
believe that Judd Mulvaney could die. (Though on a

35 farm living things are dying, dying, dying all the time,
and many have been named, and others are born
taking their places not even knowing that they are
taking the places of those who have died.) So I knew,
I wasn't a dope, but I didn't know — not really. Aged
40 eleven, or maybe twelve. Leaning over the rotted rail
gaping at the water hypnotized and scared and
suddenly there came Dad and Mike in the mud-
colored Ford pickup (Might as well buy our vehicles
mud-colored to begin with, saves time, was Dad's
45 logic) barreling up the drive, bouncing and rattling.
On the truck's doors were neat curving white letters
sweet to see MULVANEY ROOFING (716) 689-8329.
They'd be passing so close my bike might snag in a
fender so I grabbed it and hauled it to the side. Mike
50 had rolled down his window to lean out and pretend
to cuff at my head—"Hey Ranger-kid: what's up?"
Dad at the wheel grinned and laughed and next
second they were past, the pickup in full throttle
ascending the drive. And I looked after them, these
55 two people so remarkable to me, my dad who was like
nobody else's dad and my big brother who was —
well, Mike Mulvaney: "Mule" Mulvaney —and the
most terrible thought came to me.

Them, too. All of them. Every heartbeat past and
60 *gone.*

It stayed with me for a long time, maybe forever.
Not just that I would lose the people I loved, but they
would lose me — *Judson Andrew Mulvaney*. And they
knew nothing of it. (Did they?) And I, just a skinny
65 kid, the runt of the litter at High Point Farm, would
have to pretend not to know what I knew.

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Question 3

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

Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures—national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character’s sense of identity into question. Select a novel or play in which a character responds to such a cultural collision. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character’s response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.

You may select a work from the list below or choose another appropriate novel or play of similar literary merit. Avoid mere plot summary.

The Age of Innocence
A Bend in the River
Bone
Catch-22
Ceremony
Daisy Miller
Dreaming In Cuban
Dutchman
A Fine Balance
The Grapes of Wrath
Great Expectations
The Handmaid’s Tale
Heart of Darkness
Invisible Man
The Joy Luck Club

Mansfield Park
“Master Harold” . . . and the boys
The Merchant of Venice
Monkey Bridge
My Ántonia
My Name is Asher Lev
Native Speaker
Othello
The Portrait of a Lady
Pygmalion
The Remains of the Day
A Room With a View
The Tempest
Things Fall Apart
Typical American

END OF EXAMINATION