

2012 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

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2012 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 3 (continued)

- 0** These essays are completely off topic or inadequate; there may be some mark, or a drawing, or a brief reference to the task.
- These essays are entirely blank.