

1999 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Question 2

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

The passage below (on this page and on the following page) is from the opening of an essay, “On Seeing England for the First Time,” by Jamaica Kincaid. Kincaid grew up on the Caribbean island of Antigua before it became independent from England in 1981. Read the entire passage carefully. Then write an essay analyzing the rhetorical strategies Kincaid employs to convey her attitude toward England.

Unfortunately, we have been denied permission to reprint online the passage that accompanies Question 2 of the 1999 AP English Language free-response question. The essay "On Seeing England for the First Time" can be found in *Best American Essays, 1992*, edited by Susan Sontag and published by Ticknor and Fields, 1992.

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Question 3

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

In the following excerpt from *Antigone*, by the classical Greek playwright Sophocles, the wise Teiresias observes

Think: all men make mistakes,
But a good man yields when he
Knows his course is wrong,
And repairs the evil: The only
Crime is pride.

Take some time to think about the implications of the quotation. Then write a carefully reasoned essay that explores the validity of the assertion, using examples from your reading, observation, or experience to develop your position.

END OF EXAMINATION

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1999 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

At the AP Reading, faculty consultants were given the following **General Directions**:

- The score you assign each essay should reflect your judgment of its quality as a whole.
- Reward writers for what they do well in response to the question.
- Remember that students had 40 minutes to read and write. The essays should thus be thought of as comparable to essays produced in final exams, not judged by standards appropriate for out-of-class writing assignments.
- All essays, even those scored 8 and 9, are likely to exhibit occasional flaws in analysis or in prose style and mechanics; such lapses should enter into your holistic judgment of the essay's quality.
- In no case should an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than 2.

- 9:** Essays earning a score of 9 meet all the criteria for 8 papers and in addition are especially full or apt in their analysis or demonstrate particularly impressive stylistic control.
- 8:** Essays earning a score of 8 effectively analyze the rhetorical strategies Kincaid employs to convey her attitude about England. They refer to the passage directly or indirectly and explain convincingly how specific strategies such as choice of detail, development of persona, creation of tone, and use of figurative language contribute to an understanding of the writer's attitude. Their prose demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not flawless.
- 7:** Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of 6 essays but employ more complete analysis or more mature prose style.
- 6:** Essays earning a score of 6 adequately analyze how the rhetorical strategies Kincaid employs in her narrative reveal her attitude about England. They refer to the passage directly or indirectly, and they recognize Kincaid's attitude and how it is conveyed by strategies such as choice of detail, development of persona, creation of tone, and use of figurative language. A few lapses in diction or syntax may be present, but generally the prose of 6 essays conveys ideas clearly.
- 5:** Essays earning a score of 5 analyze Kincaid's rhetorical techniques, but the development of those techniques or the understanding of Kincaid's attitude is limited. They may treat techniques superficially or develop ideas about Kincaid's attitude inconsistently. A few lapses in diction or syntax may appear, but usually the prose in these essays conveys the writers' ideas adequately.
- 4:** Essays earning a score of 4 inadequately respond to the question's tasks. They may misrepresent Kincaid's attitude or analyze rhetorical strategies inaccurately or with little understanding of how strategies reveal her attitude. The prose of 4 essays may convey the writers' ideas adequately but may suggest immature control over organization, diction, or syntax.
- 3:** Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but are less perceptive about how rhetorical strategies convey attitude or less consistent in controlling elements of writing.
- 2:** Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate little success in analyzing how rhetorical strategies convey Kincaid's attitude about England. These essays may pay little attention to rhetorical features and generalize about, or seriously misread, attitude or tone. They may simply paraphrase or comment on the passage without analyzing strategies. The prose of 2 papers often reveals consistent weaknesses in writing, such as a lack of development or organization, grammatical problems, or a lack of control.
- 1:** Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are especially simplistic in their discussion or weak in controlling elements of language.
- 0:** Indicates an on-topic response that receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.
- Indicates a blank response or one that is completely off topic.