

## 1999 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### 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<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1999 SCORING GUIDELINES

## Question 3

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.
- Essays earning a score of 8 effectively evaluate Teiresias's assertion about goodness and pride as "the only crime." They present a well-developed argument in support of their position by using appropriate examples from the writers' reading, knowledge, or experience. The prose of 8 essays demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not flawless.
- 8:**
- 7:** Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of 6 essays but are distinguished by more complete or more purposeful evaluation of the assertion and more persuasive arguments or stronger prose style.
- Essays earning a score of 6 adequately evaluate Teiresias's assertion and take a position on his claim. They present arguments that are generally sound and use appropriate examples, but they are less developed or less cogent than essays earning higher scores. A few lapses in diction or syntax may be present, but for the most part the prose of 6 essays conveys the writers' ideas clearly.
- 6:**
- Essays earning a score of 5 understand the task, take a position on Teiresias's claim, and evaluate the validity of the assertion. Their arguments are generally clear but are limited, inconsistent, or unevenly developed. A few lapses in diction or syntax may be evident, but for the most part the prose of 5 essays conveys the writers' ideas clearly.
- 5:**
- Essays earning a score of 4 inadequately respond to the question's tasks. They may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify the assertion advanced by Teiresias. They may use examples that are inappropriate or insufficient to develop their own position. The prose of 4 essays usually conveys the writers' ideas but may suggest immature control over organization, syntax, or diction.
- 4:**
- 3:** Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but are less persuasive in evaluating and defending a position or less consistent in controlling elements of writing.
- Essays earning a score of 2 achieve little success in evaluating Teiresias's assertion. These essays may misread the passage or substitute a simpler task, not developing an argument but merely summarizing or tangentially responding to the question with unrelated or inappropriate examples. The prose of 2 essays often reveals consistent weaknesses such as a lack of organization, faulty syntax, or poor diction.
- 2:**
- 1:** Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but in addition are especially simplistic in their ideas or weak in their control 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.