

**2005 AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
SECTION II
Total time—2 hours**

Question 1

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

The passage below is from “Training for Statesmanship” (1953), an article written by George F. Kennan, one of the principal architects of United States foreign policy during the period following the end of the Second World War. Read the passage carefully and select what you believe is Kennan’s most compelling observation. Then write an essay in which you consider the extent to which that observation holds true for the United States or for any other country. Support your argument with appropriate evidence.

In our country, the element of power is peculiarly diffused. It is not concentrated, as it is in other countries, in what we might call the “pure form” of a national uniformed police establishment functioning as the vehicle of a central political will. Power with us does exist to some extent in courts of law and in police establishments, but it also exists in many other American institutions. It exists in our economic system, though not nearly to the degree the Marxists claim. Sometimes, unfortunately, it exists in irregular forces—in underworld groups, criminal gangs, or informal associations of a vigilante nature—capable of terrorizing their fellow citizens in one degree or another. Above all, it exists in the delicate

- Line 15 compulsions of our social life, the force of community opinion within our country—in the respect we have for the good opinion of our neighbors. For reasons highly complex, we Americans place upon ourselves quite extraordinary obligations of conformity to the group in utterance and behavior, and this feature of our national life seems to be growing rather than declining. All these things can bring us to put restraints upon ourselves which in other parts of the world would be imposed upon people only by the
- 10 20 25 straightforward exercise of the central police authority.

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Question 2

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

The following article is a mock press release from *The Onion*, a publication devoted to humor and satire. Read the article carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze the strategies used in the article to satirize how products are marketed to consumers.

Line 5 MASSILLON, OH—Stressed and sore-footed Americans everywhere are clamoring for the exciting new MagnaSoles shoe inserts, which stimulate and soothe the wearer's feet using no fewer than five forms of pseudoscience.

“What makes MagnaSoles different from other insoles is the way it harnesses the power of magnetism to properly align the biomagnetic field around your foot,” said Dr. Arthur Bluni, the 10 pseudoscientist who developed the product for Massillon-based Integrated Products. “Its patented Magna-Grid design, which features more than 200 isometrically aligned Contour Points™, actually soothes while it heals, restoring the foot’s natural bio-flow.”

15 “MagnaSoles is not just a shoe insert,” Bluni continued, “it’s a total foot-rejuvenation system.”

According to scientific-sounding literature 20 trumpeting the new insoles, the Contour Points™ also take advantage of the semi-plausible medical technique known as reflexology. Practiced in the Occident for over eleven years, reflexology, the literature explains, establishes a correspondence between every point on the human foot and another 25 part of the body, enabling your soles to heal your entire body as you walk.

But while other insoles have used magnets and 30 reflexology as keys to their appearance of usefulness, MagnaSoles go several steps further. According to the product’s Web site, “Only MagnaSoles utilize the healing power of crystals to restimulate dead foot cells with vibrational biofeedback . . . a process similar to that by which medicine makes people better.”

35 In addition, MagnaSoles employ a brand-new, cutting-edge form of pseudoscience known as Terranometry, developed specially for Integrated

Products by some of the nation’s top pseudoscientists.

“The principles of Terranometry state that the

40 Earth resonates on a very precise frequency, which it imparts to the surfaces it touches,” said Dr. Wayne Frankel, the California State University biotrician who discovered Terranometry. “If the frequency of one’s foot is out of alignment with the Earth, the 45 entire body will suffer. Special resonator nodules implanted at key spots in MagnaSoles convert the wearer’s own energy to match the Earth’s natural vibrational rate of 32.805 kilofrankels. The resultant 50 harmonic energy field rearranges the foot’s naturally occurring atoms, converting the pain-nuclei into pleasing comfortrons.”

Released less than a week ago, the \$19.95 insoles are already proving popular among consumers, who are hailing them as a welcome alternative to

55 expensive, effective forms of traditional medicine.

“I twisted my ankle something awful a few months ago, and the pain was so bad, I could barely walk a single step,” said Helene Kuhn of Edison, NJ. “But after wearing MagnaSoles for seven weeks, I’ve

60 noticed a significant decrease in pain and can now walk comfortably. Just try to prove that MagnaSoles didn’t heal me!”

Equally impressed was chronic back-pain sufferer Geoff DeAngelis of Tacoma, WA.

65 “Why should I pay thousands of dollars to have my spine realigned with physical therapy when I can pay \$20 for insoles clearly endorsed by an intelligent-looking man in a white lab coat?” DeAngelis asked. “MagnaSoles really seem like they’re working.”

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AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION 2005 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

The score should reflect a judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole. Students had only 40 minutes to read and write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the essay as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional flaws in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case may an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than a 2.

9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for essays that are scored an 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their explanation and argument or demonstrate particularly impressive control of language.

8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 respond to the prompt **effectively**. They identify what the writer believes to be Kennan's most compelling observation, effectively argue the extent to which that observation holds true, and support the argument with appropriate evidence. The prose demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

7 Essays earning a score of 7 fit the description of essays that are scored a 6 but provide a more complete explanation and argument or demonstrate a more mature prose style.

6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 respond to the prompt **adequately**. They identify what the writer believes to be Kennan's most compelling observation, adequately argue the extent to which that observation holds true, and support the argument with appropriate evidence. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 Essays earning a score of 5 identify what the writer believes to be Kennan's most compelling observation, argue the extent to which that observation holds true, and support the argument with appropriate evidence. These essays may, however, provide uneven, inconsistent, or limited explanations, arguments, and/or evidence. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas.

4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 respond to the prompt **inadequately**. They may have difficulty identifying what the writer believes to be Kennan's most compelling observation or arguing the extent to which that observation holds true, and the evidence used may be insufficient. The prose generally conveys the writer's ideas but may suggest immature control of writing.

3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in identifying what the writer believes to be Kennan's most compelling observation, arguing the extent to which that observation holds true, and supporting the argument with appropriate evidence. The essays may show less control of writing.