

2014 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.)

It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character’s values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

You may choose a novel or play from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

The Age of Innocence

Antigone

The Awakening

Beloved

The Crucible

Death of a Salesman

Ethan Frome

King Lear

Linden Hills

The Memory Keeper’s Daughter

Much Ado About Nothing

Noah’s Compass

Oryx and Crake

Othello

The Poisonwood Bible

The Portrait of a Lady

A Prayer for Owen Meany

A Raisin in the Sun

The Scarlet Letter

A Streetcar Named Desire

A Tale of Two Cities

Tess of the d’Urbervilles

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Things Fall Apart

A Thousand Acres

The Women of Brewster Place

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

(Sacrifice)

The score should reflect the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, style, and mechanics. **Reward the students for what they do well.** The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by one point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a 3.

- 9–8** These essays offer a well-focused and persuasive analysis of how a particular sacrifice illuminates a character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. Using apt and specific textual support, these essays analyze how both the character and the work are shaped by a particular sacrifice. Although these essays may not be error-free, they make a strong case for their interpretation and discuss the literary work with significant insight and understanding. Essays scored a 9 reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored an 8.
- 7–6** These essays offer a reasonable analysis of how a particular sacrifice illuminates a character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. These essays analyze how both the character and the work are shaped by a particular sacrifice. While these essays demonstrate insight and understanding, their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, or less specific (or some combination of the three) in supporting detail than that of the 9–8 essays. Essays scored a 7 present better-developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a 6.
- 5** These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading, but they tend to be superficial or thinly developed in analysis. They often rely upon plot summary that contains some analysis, implicit or explicit. The essays attempt to discuss how a character’s values are illuminated by a particular sacrifice and how the sacrifice deepens the meaning of the work as a whole. They may demonstrate a rather simplistic understanding of the character’s sacrifice or how that sacrifice impacts the work as a whole. While these essays demonstrate adequate control of language, they may be marred by surface errors. These essays are not as well conceived, organized, or developed as 7–6 essays.
- 4–3** These lower-half essays fail to offer an adequate analysis of how a particular sacrifice illuminates a character’s values or provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. The analysis may be partial, unsupported, or irrelevant. The essays may reflect an incomplete or oversimplified understanding of how a character’s values are illuminated by a particular sacrifice and how the sacrifice deepens the meaning of the work as a whole. They may rely on plot summary alone. These essays may be characterized by an unfocused or repetitive presentation of ideas, an absence of textual support, or an accumulation of errors; they may also lack control over the elements of college-level composition. Essays scored a 3 may contain significant misreading, demonstrate inept writing, or both.
- 2–1** Although these essays make some attempt to respond to the prompt, they compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4–3 range. Often, they are unacceptably brief or incoherent in presenting ideas. They may be poorly written on several counts and contain distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. The remarks may be presented with little clarity, organization, or supporting evidence. Essays scored a 1 contain little coherent discussion of the text.

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Question 3 (continued)

- 0 –** These essays give a response that is 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.