

2000 AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTION

Question 3

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

Through tatter'd clothes small vices do appear;
Robes and furr'd gowns hide all. Plate sin with gold,
And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks;
Arm it in rags, a pigmy's straw does pierce it.

Shakespeare, *King Lear*

The lines above are from a speech by King Lear. Write a carefully reasoned essay in which you briefly paraphrase Lear's statement and then defend, challenge, or qualify his view of the relationship between wealth and justice. Support your argument with specific references to your reading, observation, or experience.

END OF EXAMINATION

2000 English Language Scoring Guidelines

- 2: Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate little success in analyzing Orwell's techniques or in assessing their effectiveness. These essays may offer vague generalizations about Orwell's strategies. They may lack development or substitute simpler tasks such as summarizing the passage or simply listing techniques. The prose often demonstrates 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 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.

Question 3

- 9: Essays earning a score of 9 meet all the criteria for 8 papers and in addition are especially full or apt in their argument or demonstrate particularly impressive control of language.
- 8: Essays earning a score of 8 demonstrate an understanding of Lear's speech and successfully establish and support their own position by using appropriate evidence from reading, observation, or experience. 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 are distinguished by more complete or more purposeful argumentation or a more mature prose style.
- 6: Essays earning a score of 6 demonstrate an understanding of Lear's speech and adequately establish and support their own position. Their arguments are generally sound and provide sufficient evidence, but they are less developed or less cogent than essays earning higher scores. They may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.
- 5: Essays earning a score of 5 demonstrate an understanding of Lear's speech and establish and support their own position, but their arguments are rather limited, inconsistent, or unevenly developed. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas adequately.
- 4: Essays earning a score of 4 respond to the prompt inadequately. They may misrepresent or oversimplify Lear's speech or may use evidence that is inappropriate or insufficient to develop their own position. The prose generally conveys the writers' ideas but may suggest immature control of writing.