

1999 ENGLISH LITERATURE

Question 3

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

The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, “No body, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man’s mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time.”

From a novel or play choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. You may use one of the novels or plays listed below or another novel or play of similar literary quality.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Anna Karenina

Antigone

The Awakening

Beloved

Billy Budd

Ceremony

Crime and Punishment

Dr. Faustus

An Enemy of the People

Equus

A Farewell to Arms

The Glass Menagerie

Hamlet

Heart of Darkness

Jane Eyre

Jasmine

Light in August

A Lesson Before Dying

Macbeth

The Mayor of Casterbridge

Native Speaker

The Piano Lesson

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

A Raisin in the Sun

The Scarlet Letter

Wuthering Heights

END OF EXAMINATION