

College Entrance Examination Board
Advanced Placement Examination
English-Literature
Section II
Part A (Suggested time—25 minutes)

Question 1

- I mention the spawning of the toads because it is one of the phenomena of spring which most deeply appeal to me, and because the toad, unlike the skylark and the primrose, has never had much of a boost from the poets. But I am aware that many people do not like reptiles or amphibians and I am not suggesting that in order to enjoy the spring you have to take an interest in toads. There are also the crocus, the missel thrush, the cuckoo, the blackthorn, etc. The point is that the pleasures of spring are available to everybody, and cost nothing. Even in the most sordid street the coming of spring will register itself by some sign or other. If it is only a brighter blue between the chimney pots or the vivid green of an elder sprouting on a blitzed site. Indeed it is remarkable how Nature goes on existing unofficially, as it were, in the very heart of London. I have seen a kestrel flying over the Deptford gasworks, and I have heard a first-rate performance by a blackbird in the Euston Road. There must be some hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of birds living inside the four-mile radius, and it is rather a pleasing thought that none of them pays a halfpenny of rent.
- As for spring, not even the narrow and gloomy streets round the Bank of England are quite able to exclude it. It comes seeping in everywhere, like one of those new poison gases which pass through all filters. The spring is commonly referred to as "a miracle," and during the past five or six years this worn-out figure of speech has taken on a new lease of life. After the sort of winters we have had to endure recently the spring does seem miraculous, because it has become gradually harder and harder to believe that it is actually going to happen. Every February since 1940 I have found myself thinking that this time winter is going to be permanent. But Persephone, like the toads, always rises from the dead at about the same moment. Suddenly, towards the end of March, the miracle happens and the decaying slum in which I live is transfigured. Down in the square the sooty privets have turned bright green, the leaves are thickening on the chestnut trees, the daffodils are out, the wallflowers are budding. the policeman's tunic looks positively a pleasant shade of blue, the fishmonger greets his customers with a smile, and even the sparrows are quite a different color, having felt the balminess of the air and nerved themselves to take a bath, their first since last September.
- * A small European falcon

Write a brief essay in which you demonstrate how the speaker in the prose passage printed above establishes his attitude(s) toward the coming of spring.

Part B
Question 2 (Suggested time—45 minutes)

The significance of a title such as The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is easy to discover. However, in other works (for example, Measure for Measure) the full significance of the title becomes apparent to the reader only gradually.

Choose two works and show how the significance of their respective titles is developed through the authors' use of devices such as contrast, repetition, allusion, and point of view.

The works below are listed as examples. You may wish to choose from among them or to provide your own appropriate examples.

Jude the Obscure
Wuthering Heights
A Passage to India
Light in August
Heart of Darkness
The Heart of the Matter
The Scarlet Letter

A Doll's House
The Tempest
The Crucible
The Sandbox
The Way of the World
The Glass Menagerie
The Cherry Orchard

Section II
Part C
(Suggested time-20 minutes)

Question 3

In a brief essay, identify at least two limitations implicit in the society reflected in the poem below. Support your statements by specific references to the poem.

- The Unknown Citizen
- : He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
: One against whom there was no official complaint, ..
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
(5) For in everything he did he served the Greater Community
Except for the war till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
(10) For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day
(15) And that his reactions to poetry were normal in every way
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health Card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Installment Plan
(20) And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A gramophone, a radio, a car, and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into public opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year.
When there was peace, he was for peace; when there was war, he went.
(25) He was married and added five children to the population,
Which our Eugenists say was the right number for a parent of his generation,
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we certainly should have heard.

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Question 4

Part D
(Suggested time—45 minutes)

An author chooses the form he considers most appropriate to accomplish his task. In the poem in Part C, W. H. Auden chose verse in which to criticize his society. Write your critique of some aspect of contemporary society in, the form that you think most appropriate for what you want to do. Choose your form from among the following: verse, fable, letter, editorial, dialogue, or expository essay.

END OF EXAMINATION

