

Question 1

Directions: Read the following poem carefully and then write an essay in which you discuss how the poet's diction (choice of words) reveals his attitude toward the two ways of living mentioned in the poem.

Poetry of Departures

Sometimes you hear, fifth-hand,
As epitaph:

- He chucked up everything
And just cleared off,
(5) And always the voice will sound
Certain you approve
This audacious, purifying,
Elemental move.
- And they are right, I think.
(10) We all hate home
And having to be there:
I detest my room,
Its specially-chosen junk,
The good books, the good bed,
(15) And my life, in perfect order:
So to hear it said
- He walked out on the whole crowd
Leaves me flushed and stirred,
Like Then she undid her dress
(20) Or Take that you bastard:
Surely I can, if he did?
And that helps me stay
Sober and industrious.
But I'd go today,
- (25) Yes, swagger the nut-strewn roads,
Crouch in the fo'c'sle
Stubbly with goodness, if
It weren't so artificial,
Such a deliberate step backwards
(30) To create an object:
Books; china; a life
Reprehensibly perfect.

Poetry of Departures" by Philip Larkin.
From The Less Deceived @ 1955 Marvel

Question 2

(Suggested time—50 minutes)

The conflict created when the will of an individual opposes the will of the majority is the recurring theme of many novels, plays, and essays.

Select the work of an essayist who is in opposition to his or her society; or, from a work of recognized literary merit, select a fictional character who is in opposition to his or her society.

In a critical essay, analyze the conflict and discuss the moral and ethical implications for both the individual and the society. Do not summarize the plot or action of the work you choose.

The works below are listed as examples. Choose one from among them or select another appropriate work.

Jude the Obscure

The Federalist

Heart of Darkness

An Enemy of the People

Moby -Dick

The Crisis

Armies of the Night

Murder in the Cathedral

A Room of One's Own

Letters from an American Farmer

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Invisible Man

Civil Disobedience

Crime and Punishment

Absalom, Absalom!

Moll Flanders

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

Read the following passage carefully. Then write an essay in which you characterize briefly the world and way of life described in the passage, discuss the effect of the passage as a whole, and analyze those elements that achieve this effect. Do not worry about the meaning of unusual words, such as “alchochoden” and “irrupent.”

- Then tall Paidoboron
stood up, the king of a silent land to the north, where the gray
Atlantic half the year lay still as slate, and icebergs
pressed imperceptibly, mournfully, groaning like weird old beasts
- (5) on the dark roads of whales. It was a country known
to Greeks as the Kingdom of Stone. Strange tales were told of it:
a barren waste where no house boasted ornaments
of gold or silver, and no one knew till Jason came
of stains or dyes or of any color but the dim hues
- (10) on the skins of animals there, or the grays and browns in rocks.
The towns of that kingdom were few and far between, as rare
as trees on those dim gray hills, and in the largest towns
the houses kept, men said; no more than a hundred souls—
bleak men bearded to the waist and dressed in wolfskins; women
- (15) tall arid stern and beautyless, like stiff, bare pines.
The houses and barns, the streets, the walls along country roads
were stone, as gloomy as the sea. They knew no culture there
but raising sheeplike creatures—winged like eagles, but shy,
as quick on their feet and as easily frightened as newts. Yet they knew
- (20) the second world to the west, for [they] owned
great-bellied, stone-filled ships that could sail forever, slow,
indestructible as the stone rings high in their hills. And they knew
more surely than all other men, of the turning of planets and stars:
geometers, learned astronomers, they spent their lives
- (25) shifting and rearing enormous megaliths, age after age,
the oldest kingdom in the world. They knew the alchochoden
of every man and tree, knew the earthly afterclap
of all conjunctions, when to expect the irrupent flash
of crazily wandering comets, could tell the agonals
- (30) of stars no longer lit, old planets shogged off course
by accidents aeons old. They came themselves, they claimed,
from the deeps of space, noctivigant beings shackled to earth,
dark shadows of oaks and stones, for some guilt long forgotten.
They waited and watched the heavens as a prisoner stares at fields
- (35) beyond his cell's square bars. They studied the wobbling night,
and if some faraway star went wrong they sacrificed
an eldest son to it, and made it right.

END OF EXAMINATION