

College Entrance Examination Board

Advanced Placement Examination

ENGLISH-LITERATURE

SECTION II

Question 1

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

A character's attempt to recapture or to reject the past is important in many plays, novels, and poems.

Choose a literary work in which a character views the past with such feelings as reverence, bitterness, or longing. Show with clear evidence from the work how the character's view of the past is used to develop a theme in the work.

You may base your essay on a work by one of the following authors, or you may choose a work of another author of comparable literary excellence.

Sophocles	George Orwell	William Butler Yeats
Harold Pinter	Dylan Thomas	William Wordsworth
Anton Chekhov	Charles Dickens	Nathaniel Hawthorne
Robert Frost	John Keats	Henrik Ibsen
T. S. Eliot	Virginia Woolf	Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Tennessee Williams	James Baldwin	William Faulkner
James Joyce	Miguel de Cervantes	Sylvia Plath

Question 2

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

Printed below are two poems by D. H. Lawrence titled "Piano." Read both poems carefully and then write an essay in which you explain what characteristics of the second poem make it better than the first. Refer specifically to details of both poems.

(1) Piano

Somewhere beneath that piano's superb sleek black  
Must hide my mother's piano, little and brown, with the back  
That stood close to the wall, and the front's faded silk both torn,  
And the keys with little hollows, that my mother's fingers had worn.  
Softly, in the shadows, a woman is singing to me  
Quietly, through the years I have crept back to see  
A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the shaking strings  
Pressing the little poised feet of the mother who smiles as she sings.  
The full throated woman has chosen a winning, living song  
And surely the heart that is in me must belong  
To the old Sunday evenings, when darkness wandered outside  
And hymns gleamed on our warm lips, as we watched mother's fingers glide.

Or this is my sister at home in the old front room  
Singing love's first surprised gladness, alone in the gloom.  
She will start when she sees me, and blushing, spread out her hands  
To cover my mouth's raillery, till I'm bound in her shame's heart-spun bands.

A woman is singing me a wild Hungarian air  
And her arms, and her bosom, and the whole of her soul is bare,  
And the great black piano is clamouring as my mother's never could clamour  
And my mother's tunes are devoured of this music's ravaging  
glamour.

## (2) Piano

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;  
 Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see  
 A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling  
     strings  
 And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles  
     as she sings.  
 In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song  
 Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong  
 To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside  
 And hymns in the cozy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour  
 With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour  
 Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast  
 Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.

**From *The Complete Poems of D. H. Lawrence* .edited by  
 Vivian de Sole Pinto and F. Warren Roberts.  
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 Lawrence Ravagli. All rights reserved. Reprinted  
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## Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

In some novels and plays certain parallel or recurring events prove to be significant. In an essay, describe the major similarities and differences in a sequence of parallel or recurring events in a novel or play and discuss the significance of such events. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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

King Lear

A Passage to India

The Scarlet Letter

Moby -Dick

To the Lighthouse

Wuthering Heights

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Sons and Lovers

Oedipus Rex

Invisible Man

Moll Flanders

Waiting for Godot

The Cherry Orchard

Lord Jim

**END OF EXAMINATION**