

Advanced Placement Examination

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II — Total writing time — 1½ hours

QUESTION 1.

(Suggested writing time — 30 minutes)

Read the following poem carefully. Then write a well-organized essay in which you contrast the attitude of the clocks with that of the lover. Through careful analysis of the language and imagery, show how this contrast is important to the meaning of the poem.

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| <p>As I walked out one evening,
Walking down Bristol Street,
The crowds upon the pavement
Were fields of harvest wheat.</p> | <p>Into many a green valley
Drifts the appalling snow;
(35) Time breaks the threaded dances
And the diver's brilliant bow.</p> |
| <p>(5) And down by the brimming river
I heard a lover sing
Under an arch of the railway;
"Love has no ending.</p> | <p>O plunge your hands in water,
Plunge them in up to the wrist;
Stare, stare in the basin
(40) And wonder what you've missed.</p> |
| <p>I'll love you, dear, I'll love you
(10) Till China and Africa meet,
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street.</p> | <p>The glacier knocks in the cupboard,
The desert sighs in the bed,
And the crack in the tea-cup opens
A lane to the land of the dead.</p> |
| <p>I'll love you till the ocean
Is folded and hung up to dry,
(15) And the seven stars go squawking
Like geese about the sky.</p> | <p>(45) Where the beggars raffle the banknotes
And the Giant is enchanting to Jack,
And the Lily-white Boy is a Roarer,
And Jill goes down on her back.</p> |
| <p>The years shall run like rabbits,
For in my arms I hold
The Flower of the Ages,
(20) And the first love of the world."</p> | <p>O look, look in the mirror,
(50) O look in your distress;
Life remains a blessing
Although you cannot bless.</p> |
| <p>But all the clocks in the city
Began to whirr and chime:
"O let not Time deceive you,
You cannot conquer Time.</p> | <p>O stand, stand at the window
As the tears scald and start; -
(55) You shall love your crooked neighbour
With your crooked heart."</p> |
| <p>(25) In the burrows of the Nightmare
Where Justice naked is,
Time watches from the shadow
And coughs when you would kiss.</p> | <p>It was late, late in the evening
The lovers they were gone;
The clocks had ceased their chiming,
And the deep river ran on.</p> |
| <p>In headaches and in worry
(30) Vaguely life leaks away,
And Time will have his fancy
To-morrow or to-day.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">W. H. Auden</p> |

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QUESTION 2.

(Suggested writing time — 30 minutes)

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The writer of the following passage expresses an attitude toward work and in so doing makes certain assumptions about human nature. In a well-written essay, define precisely what that attitude and those assumptions are and analyze how the writer uses language to convince the reader of the rightness of his position.

For there is a perennial nobleness, and even sacredness, in Work. Were he never so benighted, forgetful of his high calling, there is always hope in a man that actually and earnestly works: in Idleness alone is there perpetual despair. Work, never so Mammonish, mean, is in communication with Nature; the real desire to get Work done will itself lead one more and more to truth, to Nature's appointments and regulations, which are truth.

The latest Gospel in this world is, Know thy work and do it. "Know thyself:" long enough has that poor "self" of thine tormented thee; thou wilt never get to "know" it, I believe! Think it not thy business, this of knowing thyself; thou art an unknowable individual: know what thou canst work at; and work at it, like a Hercules! That will be thy better plan.

It has been written, "an endless significance lies in Work"; a man perfects himself by working. Foul jungles are cleared away, fair seedfields rise instead, and stately cities; and withal the man himself first ceases to be jungle and foul unwholesome desert thereby. Consider how, even in the meanest sorts of Labour, the whole soul of a man is composed into a kind of real harmony, the instant he sets himself to work! Doubt, Desire, Sorrow, Remorse, Indignation, Despair itself, all these like hell-dogs lie beleaguering the soul of the poor da-worker, as of every man: but he bends himself with free valour against his task, and all these are stilled, all these shrink murmuring far off into their caves. The man is now a man. The blessed glow of Labour in him, is it not as purifying fire, wherein all poison is burnt up, and of sour smoke itself there is made bright blessed flame!

Blessed is he who has found his work; let him ask no other blessedness. He has a work, a life-purpose; he has found it, and will follow it! How, as a free-flowing channel, dug and torn by noble force through the sour mudswamp of one's existence, like an ever-deepening river there, it runs and flows;—draining off the sour festering water, gradually from the root of the remotest grass-blade; making, instead of pestilential swamp, a green fruitful meadow with its clear-flowing stream. How blessed for the meadow itself, let the stream and its value be great or small! Labour is Life: from the inmost heart of the Worker rises his god-given Force, the sacred celestial Life-essence breathed into him by Almighty God; from his inmost heart awakens him to all nobleness,—to all knowledge, "self-knowledge" and much else, so soon as Work fitly begins. Knowledge? The knowledge that will hold good in working, cleave thou to that; for Nature herself accredits that, says Yea to that. Properly thou hast no other knowledge but what thou hast got by working: the rest is yet all a hypothesis of knowledge; a thing to be argued of in schools, a thing floating in the clouds, in endless logic-vortices, till we try it and fix it. "Doubt, of whatever kind, can be ended by Action alone."

Thomas Carlyle, Past and Present
(1843)

QUESTION 3.

(Suggested writing time — 30 minutes)

From a novel or play of literary merit, select an important character who is a villain. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the nature of the character's villainy and show how it enhances meaning in the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

The works listed below are examples. You may choose one from among them or select another work of established literary merit. Do not base your essay on a work that you know about only from having seen a television or movie production of it.

Billy Budd

Wuthering Heights

Light in August

The Scarlet Letter

David Copperfield

Volpone

The Great Gatsby

A Doll's House

Victory

Invisible Man

Macbeth

The Crucible

Pride and Prejudice

END OF EXAMINATION