

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination
ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Total time—2 hours

Question 1

(Suggested time—45 minutes. This question counts one-third of the total essay section score.)

Read carefully the following poem by Emily Dickinson. Then write an essay in which you describe the speaker's attitude toward the woman's death. Using specific references to the text, show how the use of language reveals the speaker's attitude.

The last Night that She lived
It was a Common Night -
Except the Dying—this to Us
Made Nature different

- (5) We noticed smallest things—
Things overlooked before
By this great light upon our Minds
Italicized—as 'twere

- As We went out and in
(10) Between Her final Room
And Rooms where Those to be alive
Tomorrow were, a Blame

- That Others could exist
While She must finish quite
(15) A Jealousy for Her arose
So nearly infinite—

- We waited while She passed—
It was a narrow time— -
Too jostled were Our Souls to speak
(20) At length the notice came.

She mentioned, and forgot—
Then lightly as a Reed
Bent to the Water, struggled scarce—
Consented, and was dead—

- (25) And We—We placed the Hair—
And drew the Head erect—
And then an awful leisure was
Belief to regulate—

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(Suggested time—35 minutes. This question counts one-third of the total essay section score.)

Read the following passage from *The Life of Samuel Johnson* by James Boswell. Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss the ways Boswell differentiates between the writing of Joseph Addison and that of Samuel Johnson. In your essay, analyze Boswell's views of both writers and the devices he uses to convey those views.

- It has of late been the fashion to compare the style of Addison and Johnson, and to depreciate, I think very unjustly, the style of Addison as nerveless and feeble, because it has not the strength and energy of that of
- (5) Johnson. . . . Addison writes with the ease of a gentleman. His readers fancy that a wise and accomplished companion is talking to them; so that he insinuates his sentiments and taste into their minds by an imperceptible influence. Johnson writes like a teacher. He dictates to his readers
- (10) as if from an academical chair. They attend with awe and admiration; and his precepts are impressed upon them by his commanding eloquence. Addison's style, like a light wine, pleases everybody from the first. Johnson's, like a liquor of more body, seems too strong
- (15) at first, but, by degrees, is highly relished; and such is the melody of his periods', so much do they captivate the ear, and seize upon the attention, that there is scarcely any writer, however inconsiderable, who does not aim, in some degree, at the same species of excellence.

* sentences

Question 3

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

Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work.

Choose a novel or a play that contrasts two such places. Write an essay explaining how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work.

You may base your essay on a work from the list below, or you may choose another work of recognized literary merit.

A Passage to India
Tess of the D'Urbervilles
Wuthering Heights
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Antony and Cleopatra
The Merchant of Venice
Heart of Darkness
Cry, the Beloved Country
A Tale of Two Cities
The Woman Warrior
Anna Karenina
Joseph Andrews
Candide
Things Fall Apart
A Streetcar Named Desire

Jane Eyre
The Great Gatsby
The Color Purple
Mansfield Park
Huckleberry Finn
The Scarlet Letter
The Sun Also Rises
A Farewell to Arms
The Awakening
Jude the Obscure
A Raisin in the Sun
The Dollmaker
Their Eyes Were Watching God
Invisible Man
Slaughterhouse Five

END OF EXAMINATION