

1995

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination
ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II Total

time—2 hours

Question 1 (Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Read the following poem carefully. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze how the speaker uses the varied imagery of the poem to reveal his attitude toward the nature of love.

The Broken Heart

He is stark mad, who ever says,
That he hath been in love an hour, Yet not that love so
soon decays, line But that it can ten in less space
devour; (5) Who will believe me, if I swear That I
have had the plague a year? Who would not laugh at
me, if I should say, I saw a flask of powder burn a
day?

Ah, what a trifle is a heart, (10) *If* once
into love's hands it come! All other griefs
allow a part
To other griefs, and ask themselves but some; They come to
us, but us Love draws, He swallows us, and never chaws:¹
(15) By him, as by chain'd shot,² whole ranks do die, He
is the tyrant pike, our hearts the fry.³

If 'twere not so, what did become
Of my heart, when I first saw thee? I brought a heart
into the room, (20) But from the room, I carried
none with me: If it had gone to thee, I know Mine
would have taught thine heart to show
More pity unto me: but Love, alas,
At one first blow did shiver it as glass.

(25) Yet nothing can to nothing fall, Nor
any place be empty quite, Therefore I
think my breast hath all
Those pieces still, though they be not unite; And now
as broken glasses⁴ show (30) A hundred lesser faces,
so

My rags of heart can like, wish, and adore, But
after one such love, can love no more.

-John Donne

¹chews
cannon balls chained together
small fish that the pike devours
minors

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