

# 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.)

The poems below are concerned with darkness and night. Read each poem carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, compare and contrast the poems, analyzing the significance of dark or night in each. In your essay, consider elements such as point of view, imagery, and structure.

We grow accustomed to the Dark—  
When Light is put away— As when  
the Neighbor holds the Lamp To  
witness her Goodbye—

Line

5 A Moment—We uncertain step For  
newness of the night—Then—fit our  
Vision to the Dark— And meet the  
Road—erect—

And so of larger—Darknesses—

10 Those Evenings of the Brain—When  
not a Moon disclose a sign— Or Star—  
come out—within—

The Bravest—groped a little—  
And sometimes hit a Tree

15 Directly in the Forehead—  
But as they learn to see—  
Either the Darkness alters—  
Or something in the sight  
Adjusts itself to Midnight—

20 And Life steps almost straight.

—Emily Dickinson

### Acquainted with the Night

I have been one acquainted with the night. I  
have walked out in rain—and back in rain. I  
have outwalked the furthest city light.

Line I have looked down the saddest city lane. 5 I  
have passed by the watchman on his beat And  
dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.

I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet  
When far away an interrupted cry Came over  
houses from another street,

10 But not to call me back or say good-by;  
And further still at an unearthly height,  
One luminary clock against the sky

Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right. I  
have been one acquainted with the night.

—Robert Frost

"Acquainted with the Night" from  
THE POETRY OF ROBERT FROST  
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[Note: the spacing on this poem did not scan correctly.  
Do not have students analyze the format of this poem  
unless you find this poem in its original format.]

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