

AP Study Hints: DON'T LEAVE ANY BLANKS EITHER IN THE MULTIPLE CHOICE OR THE ESSAYS!

RELAX AND HAVE FUN! This is the big game you've been preparing for, the night of the play. Think of it as a personal challenge. **If you signed up for this class you have already made me proud of your academic courage. So ... How do you study for this exam? Read on...**

- **STUDY: Poetry Terms**
- **STUDY: LITERARY TERMS** for Narrative Fiction and Rhetoric: Syntax, Tone, Character and Character Types, Characterization Tools and Character Development, Narrative Voice, Setting, Plot Elements, Elements of Suspense, Elements of Tragedy and Comedy. ([See AP Information Link](#))
- **STUDY: 4-5 Novels or Full-Length Plays** that have different themes! **Know the PLOT, the CHARACTERS AND THEIR NAMES, THE AUTHOR'S NAME and THE BASIC THEMES.** [Practice applying these to various AP Prompt Questions.](#)

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Practice tests with answers at the end, available from the website below.

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/2124.html (See Exam Information & Resources)

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition/exam-practice> (Sign up!)

- Read **slowly and carefully—comprehensively**. Underline or highlight key passages.
- **Check your own understanding of each paragraph by paraphrasing or restating the content.** Know where you are, who is talking and what happens (basic comprehension) before you go deeper into symbolic meanings. Try to **reverse syntax**, find the **pronoun antecedents**, or **lift out parenthetical phrases** to help you clarify meaning.
- **Visualize the words** in your mind, especially if the passages are descriptive.
- **Read the questions carefully. Read the answers carefully!** Be sure you understand what they ask! **Eliminate the bad responses.** In “paired “answers, be sure **to eliminate any that are part wrong.** BOTH must be correct for the answer to be correct.

ESSAYS:

Introduction Paragraph: Clearly respond to the prompt in your thesis statement. **BE SURE TO STATE THE PURPOSE OR THEME OF THE PASSAGE OR WORK. DO NOT MERELY REPEAT AMBIGUOUS PROMPT LANGUAGE:**

“This helps illustrate the meaning of the work” should be “This helps illustrate that love can be cruel” **Be sure your paragraphs prove your thesis!**

- **Poetry:** How are literary and poetic devices working towards reinforcing the point of the poem? **Organize by stanza, idea or sometimes by purpose of literary device.** Note: Characterization counts!
- **Prose:** How do narrative and literary devices work towards expressing the meaning of the passage? **Organize by beginning, middle and end, by ideas, or by idea or character.** Often, these are *character analyses*! Know characterization tools! Note that characters develop through events! Be sensitive also to perspective and shift in narrative perspective: Whose *viewpoint* is this? Is there more than one, such as in a framed narrative?
- **Novel (Open-Ended Question):** How is a particular theme developed through **character development and plot** elements, (events) and reinforced by setting, symbol and other stylistic device? **Organize by beginning, middle and end, by character, or by opposing ideas or forces.** (Meaning Of the Work As a Whole= MOWAW)

Meaning Of the Work As a Whole: Work with the prompt of “destiny, invisible character, revenge, internal conflict, natural element, betrayal, or misguided love.” Take time to construct a thesis statement from the prompt. **NOTE** that your thesis statement **MUST INCLUDE AN OPINION - Write “The Meaning of This Work as a Whole is that One Should Never /Always” and then erase those words.** You have to take a stand about the outcome of the story! Qualify it! Did the character’s choices result in a good or bad ending? **“Why” is the key explanation that you must provide.** **This is an *opinionated statement* and you are to boldly blame whomever or whatever is responsible for the ending!** **If there is no easy “the moral of the story is” phrase, then, is there a key philosophical truth that the novel reveals? STATE IT BOLDLY! DO NOT** repeat the vague words of the prompt. If you can’t decide who is right or wrong, your thesis statement might also be an unanswerable question.

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH: Write one and try to connect the purpose of the work to our world.

AP EXAM RULES

In Person Tests Most Likely Will Be in the Small Gym, Wilbur Cross High School

THE DAY OF THE EXAM

Arriving:

- Arrive no later than 7:30. The testing doors close at 7:45. After that, you will not be admitted to the exam.
- You are to bring your book bags to the gym and place them in a pile in a corner for the duration of the exam.
- You must leave your electronic devices **TURNED OFF** in your bags or locked somewhere else. Your test scores will be eliminated – as will those of your friends – if you are discovered with a smartphone ringing in the exam room.
- You can bring lunch in a paper bag **with your name on it**. Include a beverage. **These will be left outside – NOT taken into the gym.** This is per College Board rules. You will have access to your snacks during the break.

Have with you:

- Three #2 pencils, sharpened. No sharpening during the test.
- Two black or blue pens: **Your essays must be written in pen!**
- A timepiece that doesn't make noise and doesn't connect to the internet: A watch?

Testing:

- Nothing is allowed on the table – no water, no food, no teddy bears.
- Careful what you wear. No poetry on your clothes or skin.
- If you need to go to the bathroom, raise your hand. One of the proctors will accompany you.
- **NO BLANKS. FILL IN EVERY BUBBLE AND MAKE SOME TYPE OF ATTEMPT TO ANSWER EVERY ESSAY QUESTION – EVEN IF YOU JUST WRITE AN INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH.**

If you arrive late:

- You will not take your test and **you will have to reimburse New Haven** for the cost of the test. **You will not be allowed to take make-ups without a legitimate excuse.**
- Being late generally is not a legitimate excuse to miss an exam.
- If there were a **justifiable emergency**, or another **justifiable excuse** for missing the exam, you may take the late exam, which traditionally, is harder. Check with Mr. Loureiro.
- A late city bus or late parent, or car breakdown, is **NOT** a justifiable excuse for missing an exam.
- Very few things actually, are justifiable excuses for missing an exam.