

AP[®] English Language and Composition Exam

SECTION I: Multiple-Choice Questions

DO NOT BEGIN THE EXAM UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

DISCLAIMER: The official AP English Language and Composition Exam will be administered digitally. Instructions for the digital exam may differ from this practice test.

At a Glance

Total Time

1 hour

Number of Questions

45

Percent of Total Grade

45%

Instructions

Section I of this examination contains 45 multiple-choice questions. Choose the best answer to each question. Note: Pay particular attention to the requirements of questions that contain the words “NOT,” “LEAST,” or “EXCEPT.”

Indicate all of your answers to the multiple-choice questions on the answer sheet. No credit will be given for anything written in this exam booklet, but you may use the booklet for notes or scratch work. After you have decided which of the suggested answers is best, completely fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question. If you change an answer, be sure that the previous mark is erased completely. Here is a sample question and answer.

Sample QuestionSample Answer

Chicago is a
(A) state
(B) city
(C) country
(D) continent

(A) ☒ (B) ☐ (C) ☐ (D) ☐

Use your time effectively, working as quickly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not spend too much time on any one question. Go on to other questions and come back to the ones you have not answered if you have time.

About Guessing

Many candidates wonder whether or not to guess the answers to questions about which they are not certain. Multiple-choice scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers, and no points are awarded for unanswered questions. Because points are not deducted for incorrect answers, you are encouraged to answer all multiple-choice questions. On any questions you do not know the answer to, you should eliminate as many choices as you can, and then select the best answer among the remaining choices.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION I

Time 1 hour

Directions: This part consists of selections from prose works and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question and completely fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1–12. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

The following is an excerpt from *The Poetry of Science*, an 1848 book by British mineralogist Robert Hunt.

In contemplating works of nature, we cannot but regard, with feelings of religious admiration, the infinite variety of forms under which matter is presented to our senses. On every hand, the utmost diversity is exhibited; through all things we trace the most perfect order; and overall is diffused the charm of beauty. It is the uneducated or depraved alone, who find deformities in the creations by which we are surrounded.

The three conditions of matter are, the solid, the fluid, and the aeriform; and these belong equally to the organic and inorganic world.

In organic nature we have an almost infinite variety of animal form, presenting developments widely different from each other; yet in every case suited to the conditions required by the position which the creature occupies in the scale of being. Through the entire series, from the Polype to the higher order of animals, even to man, we find a uniformity in the progress towards perfection, and a continuity in the series, which betrays the great secret, that the mystery of life is the same in all—a pervading spiritual essence associated with matter, and modifying it by the master-mechanism of an Infinite mind.

In the vegetable clothing of the surface of the earth, which fits it for the abode of man and animals—from the confervae¹ of a stagnant pool, or the lichen of the wind-beaten rock, to the lordly oak or towering palm—a singularly beautiful chain of being, and of gradual elevation in the scale of organization, presents itself to the contemplative mind.

In the inorganic world, where the great phenomena of life are wanting, we have constantly exhibited the working of powers of a strangely complicated kind. The symmetrical arrangement of crystals—the diversified characters of mineral formations—the systematic aggregation of particles to form masses possessing properties of a peculiar and striking nature—all prove that agencies, which science with all its refinements has not detected, are unceasingly at work....

¹ A genus of filamentous green algae.

The naturalist searches the earth, the waters, and the air, for their living things, and the diversity of form, the variety of condition, and the perfection of organization which he discovers as belonging to this our epoch—differing from, indeed bearing but a slight relation to, those which mark the earth's mutations—exhibit in a most striking view the endless variety of characters which matter can assume.

We are so accustomed to all these phenomena of matter, that it is with some difficulty we can bend ourselves to the study of the more simple conditions in which it exists....

To nature alone belongs the mysterious power of transmutation. The enthusiastic alchemist, by the agency of physical power, dissipates a metal in vapour; but it remains a metal, and the same metal still. By the Hermetic art, he breaks up the combinations of masses; but he cannot alter the principles of any one of the elements which formed the mass upon which his skill is tried.

Every atom is invested with properties peculiar to all of its class; and each one possesses powers, to which in mute obedience it is compelled, by which these properties are modified, and the character of matter varied. What are those properties? Do we know anything of those powers?

1. According to lines 23–28 (“In the vegetable clothing... contemplative mind”), Hunt’s primary point about organic life is that it

- (A) offers immense variety
- (B) features the coexistence of humans and animals
- (C) is systematically arranged
- (D) can only be understood through meditation

2. The passage implies that there is nothing in nature that

- (A) can be positively labeled
- (B) exists separate from other things
- (C) does not mutate
- (D) changes between the three conditions of matter

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3. The organization of this passage can best be described as
- (A) presentation of empirical data followed by rigorous analysis
 - (B) personal experience followed by self-doubt
 - (C) ironic evasion followed by a serious statement of intent
 - (D) categorization followed by an exploration of general underlying conditions
4. What is the relationship between the sixth and seventh paragraphs of the passage?
- (A) The sixth describes the overall task of a naturalist, while the seventh prepares the reader for a change of topic.
 - (B) The sixth underlines the difficulty of categorizing nature, while the seventh reminds us of conditions in which it exists.
 - (C) The sixth considers Hunt's primary focus upon the present, while the seventh considers the future.
 - (D) The sixth details the search for natural perfection, while the seventh reveals in which situation that perfection is found.
5. The "Polype" (line 16) represents
- (A) a higher class of angels
 - (B) a multitude of organisms
 - (C) a lower order of earthly life
 - (D) a Greek goddess of the underworld
6. The effect of using long periodic sentences such as the one in lines 12–22 is to
- (A) emphasize the author's educational level
 - (B) imply that complexity grants intellectual validity
 - (C) suggest a complex thinking pattern
 - (D) ignore the needs of the average reader of the time
7. Which of the following lines in the passage does NOT support the author's belief in the interconnectedness of nature?
- (A) Lines 16–17 ("through...order")
 - (B) Lines 14–16 ("yet in every case...scale of being")
 - (C) Lines 26–28 ("a singularly beautiful...contemplative mind")
 - (D) Lines 49–51 ("The enthusiastic alchemist...the same metal still")
8. The author's attitude towards nature can best be described as
- (A) infinite
 - (B) analytical
 - (C) mystical
 - (D) methodical
9. The word "it" in the ninth paragraph refers to which of the following?
- (A) "properties"
 - (B) "powers"
 - (C) "obedience"
 - (D) "atom"
10. What purpose does the seventh paragraph ("We are...it exists...") serve?
- (A) An explanation of an ambiguous concept
 - (B) A transition to a related topic
 - (C) A redefinition of a controversial term
 - (D) An amplification of a previous idea
11. In the fourth paragraph (lines 25–26), the author mentions "confervae" and "towering palm" primarily to
- (A) differentiate between the two animal kingdoms
 - (B) suggest the linkages in nature are more extensive than most believe
 - (C) emphasize the beauty of nature available to those willing to contemplate it
 - (D) illustrate the wide variety of plants that are connected in the great chain of being
12. One can infer from the fifth paragraph (lines 29–37) that the author believes in
- (A) an innate sense of order underlying all of creation
 - (B) an undetectable system of organization
 - (C) a constant mineralization of all living things
 - (D) a chaos that is kept controlled by a watchful overspirit

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Questions 13–23. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

The following is an excerpt from the 2015 San Diego County Medical Examiner's Report.

Medico-legal investigations are completed in a professional, ethical and timely manner and they are geared to assist in the determination of the cause and manner of death. This is accomplished through the continued cooperation between law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, and the public.

The initial phase of the process typically starts with a report of death. In 2015, investigators processed 8,717 reports of death. In 5,721 (66 percent) of those cases, after undergoing a methodical and structured process of review to ensure they did not fall under the criteria of California Government Code 27491 requiring further investigation, we waived jurisdiction to the treating physician so he or she could attest the death certificate. Medical Examiner's Jurisdiction was invoked in the other 2,996 (34 percent) of those reports.

Investigators physically respond to the majority of the death scenes falling into the Medical Examiner jurisdiction. In 2015, we responded to 2,022 scenes (67 percent). An initial body and scene assessment is completed at the place of death, which can be virtually anywhere in the 4,261 square miles of San Diego County. Photographs are taken and relevant evidence is collected in order to assist in the investigation. The evidence may include weapons, biological specimens, medications, drugs, and drug paraphernalia. All the investigations are completed with a methodical and systematic approach and all the findings are documented in a comprehensive investigative report.

Medical Examiner's investigators have the difficult task of notifying the next of kin of the death. This process starts with the identification of the decedent—one of the most important duties of our office. Methods for identification include fingerprint and dental comparison, unique skeletal features, DNA analysis, visual comparison, or even serial numbers on implanted medical devices. This is a multidisciplinary approach which involves other county agencies. The process continues with a diligent search for the decedent's family, with which the Medical Examiner's Office has a high rate of success. (See John/Jane Doe Center for more information.)

Those who die suddenly or unexpectedly often die with valuables—both monetary and sentimental—in their possession. It is extremely important that we ensure that these items make their way to the next of kin. Often, the retention of the decedent's personal property is of the utmost importance to the family. We take this responsibility seriously, accurately tracking and recording the chain of custody until the property is returned to the family.

When a death occurs at home, that person may leave behind many medications, many of which are often

controlled substances. As part of our investigation, we collect and inventory all of the decedent's prescription medications at the scene. This task serves three functions. First, by inventorying the remaining medications, including dosage and dates, we can gain an understanding as to whether there was medication overuse or non-compliance. Second, medications can give clues to an individual's medical or social history, and provide names of prescribing physicians who may know critical information about the person's history. Lastly, we remove medications from the home, eliminating the possibility of inappropriate use by other members of the household (especially children), as well as the possibility that the medications will become part of illegal trafficking. Medication disposal occurs at regular intervals after a period of secure storage at our offices.

Medical Examiner investigators also discuss the circumstances of the death with the decedent's family; conduct interviews at the scene; and obtain additional statements from witnesses, the treating physician and responding emergency personnel. They also offer the family free support through our Bereavement Center. Follow-up investigation is required in many cases, and may involve reviewing medical records, police reports and traffic accident reports.

Medical Examiner investigators are the front line for our office—the eyes and ears of the Medical Examiner. Their caring attitudes, compassion, professionalism, and objectivity allow our office to conduct thorough, balanced and accurate death investigations while at the same time helping ease the difficulties the family will have during their time of grief.

13. The gravity of the subject matter is best reflected in the authors' use of which of the following phrases?

- (A) "ethical and timely manner"
- (B) "a multidisciplinary approach"
- (C) "extremely important" and "utmost importance"
- (D) "controlled substances"

14. The second and third paragraphs primarily utilize which of the following rhetorical strategies?

- (A) Classification
- (B) Compare and contrast
- (C) Bandwagon appeal
- (D) Factual reporting

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15. The purpose of the passage is
- (A) to analyze the efficiency of the processes already in place
 - (B) to explain how the office conducts its investigations
 - (C) to refute objections to the office's methods
 - (D) to briefly summarize all the tasks of the office
16. In the third paragraph, passive verbs such as "evidence is collected" and "investigations are completed" indicate a writing style that is
- (A) removed from the individual
 - (B) understated for effect
 - (C) cold and merciless
 - (D) indicative of a strong authorial point of view
17. The authors develop the passage primarily through
- (A) narrating events
 - (B) defining terms
 - (C) extended analogy
 - (D) process analysis
18. All of the following phrases reflect the overall tone of the medical examiner's investigations EXCEPT
- (A) "a methodical and structured process of review"
 - (B) "a methodical and systematic approach"
 - (C) "a comprehensive investigative report"
 - (D) "helping ease the difficulties"
19. In contrast with the rest of the passage, the tone of the final paragraph is
- (A) curious and interested
 - (B) emotional and reassuring
 - (C) cautious and reflective
 - (D) caustic and vituperative
20. It can be inferred from the sixth paragraph that
- (A) investigators take inventory of medications when they enter any person's home
 - (B) medications sometimes play a role in deaths that occur at home
 - (C) the medical examiner's office had failed previous investigations into deaths at home
 - (D) the role of medications in deaths at home is unknown
21. In lines 76–77, the author's use of "Their caring attitudes, compassion, professionalism, and objectivity" is an example of which of the following rhetorical appeals?
- (A) Caricature
 - (B) Pathos
 - (C) Ethos
 - (D) Proverb
22. The phrase "eyes and ears" in the final paragraph is an example of
- (A) diversion
 - (B) a metaphor
 - (C) parody
 - (D) analogy
23. The authors use all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) scientific description
 - (B) quantifiable evidence
 - (C) connotations
 - (D) formal diction

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Questions 24–31 are based on the following passage.

The passage below is a draft.

(1) But the nation has also long suffered a perhaps unfair reputation for urban violence. (2) It's true that for one year, in 1991, Medellín, Colombia was the most dangerous city in the world—even more dangerous than Beirut—with a murder rate of nearly 400 per 100,000. (3) It was said that the most dangerous job in the world was to be a law enforcement officer in Medellín at that time. (4) And it's also true that there were so many young men killed during this time that it altered the male-female ratio of the region for an entire generation. (5) One reason for this is because of the lingering perception of lack of security.

(6) The instigator for this extreme violence was Pablo Escobar, the leader of the Medellín cartel, who was making so many millions of dollars selling cocaine that he was burying money in the ground and letting it rot in the nineteen nineties because he forgot about it, which is an amazing thing for anybody to do. (7) His war against law enforcement was essentially a civil war, and it tore the country apart.

(8) You can argue with statistics, but they are often the only way of judging phenomena. (9) In 2016, the murder rate in Medellín was down to 22 per 100,000 people, and murders are often measured against a six-figure number. (10) In that same year, the murder rate in Chicago was about 16 per 100,000 people. (11) The difference between the two is statistically insignificant, and so it means that they are just as safe as one another, violently. (12) The murder rate in Cali, Colombia, however, is consistently higher than in other cities, with about 60 per 100,000 people.

(13) Other cities of the United States have suffered similarly unfair derogation. (14) Detroit, for instance, also carries the reputation of a dangerous and violent city, even if that reputation doesn't reflect reality any longer.

(15) They even have a saying, *dar la papaya* ("to give the papaya"), which in essence means that when something of value is left unattended, a person has the unspoken right to steal it. (16) Given the growth of the middle class and reduced violence, visitors to Colombia may discover that the biggest problem they encounter is a backpack that quietly gets up and walks away.

24. Which of the following sentences, if placed before sentence 1, would both appeal to the senses and provide a contrast with the rest of the paragraph?

- (A) The smell of diesel fumes and the aggressive screech of horns blaring are part of urban life.
- (B) Those who attempt to describe Colombia often paint pictures of idyllic rural life.
- (C) Yellow plantains, red coffee beans, tall green wax palms, clear waterfalls tumbling from misty mountains—this is typical rural life in Colombia.
- (D) The blood stains on the cement, the tear-stained cheeks of mourning family members—the horror of violence is a constant in Colombia.

25. To improve coherence, the author would like to move sentence 5 (reproduced below) to a better place in the passage.

One reason for this is because of the lingering perception of lack of security.

Where would the sentence be best placed?

- (A) Before sentence 2
- (B) Before sentence 3
- (C) Before sentence 4
- (D) After sentence 8

26. In sentence 8 (reproduced below), the author wants an effective transition from the preceding paragraph to the new paragraph.

You can argue with statistics, but they are often the only way of judging phenomena.

Which of the following versions of sentence 8 best achieves this goal?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) Statistics reveal an incomplete picture of the change.
- (C) Depending on the source, statistics are sometimes trustworthy, sometimes not.
- (D) Look to statistics to see this story told in data.

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27. The author would like to move or delete sentence 12 (reproduced below).

The murder rate in Cali, Colombia, however, is consistently higher than in other cities, with about 60 per 100,000 people.

Which choice most effectively improves the coherence of the paragraph?

- (A) Move it after sentence 9.
 - (B) Move it after sentence 10.
 - (C) Move it after sentence 13.
 - (D) Delete it completely.
28. In sentence 14 (reproduced below), the author would like to rewrite the underlined portion to provide more evidence of Detroit's historical success and subsequent decline.
- Detroit, for instance, also carries the reputation of a dangerous and violent city, even if that reputation doesn't reflect reality any longer.*
- Which version of the underlined text best supports this goal?
- (A) a working-class industrial city known as "the arsenal of democracy," has failed to make the transition to modern digital hub, and faces an uphill battle in rehabilitating its reputation.
 - (B) still carries the reputation of a dangerous and violent city; however, this ignores the present reality, which is that Detroit currently enjoys a 99% rental occupancy rate and record low unemployment.
 - (C) a place that used to be the fourth-largest city in the nation, has one problem: its reputation no longer reflects reality.
 - (D) which used to be the fourth-largest city in the nation but whose population has dropped by almost seventy percent in the last generation, is still unjustly regarded as a dangerous city.
29. Which of the following sentences, if inserted before sentence 15, would provide the most effective introduction to the final paragraph?
- (A) Even with dropping nonviolent crime rates, the violent crime rates are still on the rise.
 - (B) Today, Colombia has seen an increase in nonviolent crime, such as robbery and theft.
 - (C) Compared with violent crime, such as robbery and theft, nonviolent crime has been rising in Colombia.
 - (D) Whether violent or nonviolent, a society such as Colombia will always have to deal with the criminal side of life.

30. In the fourth paragraph, the author would like to conclude with a sentence that reinforces the increasingly global nature of the topic under discussion. Which of the following sentences would best achieve this purpose?

- (A) This phenomenon isn't limited to the Western Hemisphere—municipal governments on every continent employ public relations teams to polish their public images.
- (B) These days, social media isn't limited to only the developed Western world; many developing countries in Asia and Africa use messaging platforms for many purposes, including commerce.
- (C) While public image is a definite concern across the world, it has taken on special importance in developed Western cities.
- (D) One has to wonder at what point, if ever, the necessity of such public rehabilitation will be finally addressed in violent cities across the globe.

31. The author would like to edit sentence 15 (reproduced below) for syntactic clarity.

They even have a saying, dar la papaya ("to give the papaya"), which in essence means that when something of value is left unattended, a person has the unspoken right to steal it.

Which version of the underlined text best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) They use a common expression,
- (C) There is a saying of the people of Colombia,
- (D) The people of Colombia even have a saying,

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Questions 32–40 are based on the following passage.

The passage below is a draft.

(1) The huge explosion of self-publishing has changed life irrevocably for a whole mess of authors. (2) In the past, being a self-published author carried a fairly serious stigma. (3) This was because a self-published author usually had published with a vanity press, in which the author pays for the production of the books. (4) The introduction of the Amazon Kindle in 2007 began a slow transformation of the industry.

(5) While electronic readers had existed before—Sony had brought the first to market several years earlier—Amazon's Kindle was the first to be adopted en masse.

(6) Significantly, this meant the end of the traditional publishing gatekeepers, as they were beginning to lose market share.

(7) This, predictably, caused a gold rush mentality.

(8) The ranks of self-publishers swelled like a river after a spring melt, with hundreds publishing books every day.

(9) Some hit it big with one title, made a few tens of thousands of dollars, and disappeared. (10) Others saw slower, steadier success.

(11) There are both advantages and disadvantages to self-publishing. (12) One, the author becomes the publisher, with total control over price, cover design, book design, marketing, and promotions. (13) For another, the revenue percentage is much greater as well, generally seventy percent of list price. (14) Traditionally published authors only receive approximately fourteen percent and have zero control.

(15) Most importantly, self-published authors retain total control of their copyright, unlike traditionally published authors, who are forced to either give away all rights permanently, or for a set period of years, usually either 7, 15, or 20. (16) It's a tantalizing future, because there, given the rapidly changing publishing landscape when everyone is carrying reading devices around in their pockets, where audiobooks have become king, anything can happen.

32. In sentence 1 (reproduced below), the writer wants to establish a more formal tone.

The huge explosion of self-publishing has changed life irrevocably for a whole mess of authors.

Which of the following versions of the sentence best achieves this purpose?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) The explosion of self-publishing has changed life irrevocably for a group of authors.
- (C) When self-publishing arose, the rapid increase of authors participating in it changed their lives like crazy.
- (D) The rapid rise of self-publishing as a viable career option has changed the lives of many authors.

33. In paragraph 1, the author wants to add the following sentence to provide additional explanation.

The result was usually a garage filled with stacks of unsold titles that were sure to be pulped.

Where would the sentence best be placed?

- (A) Before sentence 1
- (B) After sentence 1
- (C) After sentence 2
- (D) After sentence 3

34. In sentence 4 (reproduced below), which of the following versions of the underlined text best explains the writer's perspective on the main idea of the passage?

The introduction of the Amazon Kindle in 2007 began a slow transformation of the industry.

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) concluded an unhappy decade in publishing history.
- (C) finally began a long overdue transformation of the publishing industry—in favor of the writer.
- (D) underscored the continued need for new ways of reaching readers.

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35. In sentence 6 (reproduced below), the author wants to provide convincing evidence that Amazon democratized book publishing.

Significantly, this meant the end of the traditional publishing gatekeepers, as they were beginning to lose market share.

Which version of the underlined text best achieves this goal?

- (A) (as it is)
- (B) gatekeepers; through CreateSpace, Amazon's extended distribution network, as well as Amazon's own Kindle store, a self-published author could now sell a paper or electronic book in almost any bookstore in the world (except for big-box retailers such as Walmart or Costco).
- (C) gatekeepers; in fact, the monetary advances offered to authors by traditional publishing houses have decreased in size since the Kindle's arrival.
- (D) gatekeepers: because of the electronic revolution, agents report fewer submissions and fewer sales to traditional publishing houses.

36. The writer would like to combine sentences 9 and 10 (reproduced below).

Some hit it big with one title, made a few tens of thousands of dollars, and disappeared. Others saw slower, steadier success.

Which version of the underlined text best achieves this goal?

- (A) disappeared, while others
- (B) disappeared, and others
- (C) disappeared; furthermore, others
- (D) disappeared—so others

37. The writer would like to add another sentence to the end of the third paragraph (sentences 7–10) to support the main idea of the paragraph. Which of the following pieces of evidence would best achieve this purpose?

- (A) Nobody really lost in this equation—except, perhaps, bookshelf manufacturers.
- (B) As a result of this growth, though traditionally published bestselling authors saw their overall sales decrease, the public was buying more books than ever before.
- (C) The long tail theory was in effect.
- (D) In response, hand-wringing about falling literacy rates grew in intensity.

38. The author would like to rewrite sentence 11 (reproduced below) to better reflect the ideas in the fourth paragraph.

There are both advantages and disadvantages to self-publishing.

Which of the following versions of that sentence best accomplishes this?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) Those individuals with a sixth sense for business are the only ones who will benefit from this new self-publishing landscape.
- (C) The disadvantages of self-publishing aren't worth discussion, since the benefits of self-publishing outweigh them so heavily.
- (D) Self-publishing books requires more responsibility for authors but is accompanied by potentially greater rewards.

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39. What is the best way to combine sentences 13 and 14 (reproduced below)?

For another, the revenue percentage is much greater as well, generally seventy percent of list price. Traditionally published authors only receive fourteen percent and have zero control.

Which version of the underlined portion of the sentences best achieves this task?

- (A) price, for traditionally published authors
- (B) price, while traditionally published authors
- (C) price, and traditionally published authors
- (D) price—traditionally published authors

40. The author wants to rewrite sentence 16 (reproduced below) for clarity and conciseness.

It's a tantalizing future, because there, given the rapidly changing publishing landscape when everyone is carrying reading devices around in their pockets, where audiobooks have become king, anything can happen.

Which of the following versions of the sentence would accomplish this?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) Audiobooks having become king, electronic books being read on mobile phones—the future will be a tantalizing place for readers.
- (C) The rapidly changing publishing landscape will include the future consumption of electronic books, audiobooks, and mobile phones.
- (D) The publishing landscape of the future may have already arrived, since mobile phones serve as devices for consuming both electronic books and audiobooks.

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Questions 41–45 are based on the following passage.

The passage below is a draft.

(1) Driverless cars may be the future, but ironically nobody really knows what they should look like—and it's because nobody has tried to make anything like them before.

(2) Ford Motor Company chose as its new CEO the former president of a furniture company. (3) That may seem like an unusual choice, but it was an effort by America's original auto companies to secure its place in the future. (4) His emphasis on design thinking—ergonomic, the human experience with automobile design—is evidently seen as the key to the future.

(5) People under age 35 are avoiding auto ownership in record numbers; for this reason, a growing percentage of the automakers' sales are coming from the Far East, particularly China. (6) To attract young Westerners, auto manufacturers have made attempts at car-sharing programs, such as the Mercedes car2go program. (7) In these programs, fleets of cars sit on city streets, waiting to be unlocked by an app on subscribers' phones. (8) It's a good idea, but unreliable: such programs aren't monitored very much by city governments.

(9) Furthermore, many people in urban environments argue that it's simply easier and cheaper to request a Lyft or an Uber.

(10) Whatever happens, the auto industry is in for a wrenching change. (11) Driverless cars are part of that future—but how big a part they play has yet to be determined.

41. The writer wants to expand the first paragraph. Which of the following would best amplify the ideas already present in sentence 1?
- (A) An explanation of automobile manufacturers' tradition of ignoring previous designs
 - (B) A list of automotive ideas for the future that have not come to fruition
 - (C) An analysis of rejected ideas for the design of driverless automobiles
 - (D) A quote from an automobile design expert describing the specific aspects of the automobile that must be rethought
42. The writer would like to add a transition at the beginning of sentence 2 (reproduced below) to reflect the idea that the upcoming changes are new.
- Ford Motor Company chose as its new CEO the former president of a furniture company.*
- Which of the following would best accomplish this goal?
- (A) For example,
 - (B) Plus,
 - (C) Recently, however,
 - (D) In fact,
43. Which of the following sentences, if placed before sentence 5, would provide the most effective introduction to the topic of the paragraph?
- (A) One consistent trend in automobile ownership is the fact that people purchase more automobiles, and more expensive ones, as they grow older.
 - (B) There is some evidence, however, that ride-sharing is uncomfortable for younger people, who were reared in a society filled with private automobile ownership.
 - (C) Older citizens who are accustomed to private automobile ownership are sitting on the sidelines, waiting for their voices to be heard.
 - (D) The view of private automobile ownership is changing based upon a number of other factors, particularly generational ones.

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44. In sentence 8 (reproduced below), the writer wants to better explain the danger of excessive reliance upon auto companies.

It's a good idea, but unreliable; such programs aren't monitored very much by city governments.

Which version of the underlined text best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) unreliable: the Mercedes program recently shut down its North American operations, which left many frequent users without transportation—one major hazard of depending upon private companies for public transportation.
- (C) unreliable: the Mercedes program, which was lauded by various publications when it launched, has failed to expand to many major markets, such as Asia.
- (D) unreliable: since many competing programs have arisen to compete with Mercedes, competition and tax rebates keep everything affordable.

45. The writer wants to add the following sentence to the third paragraph (sentences 5 to 9) to unite the ideas.

Regardless, full automobile ownership plays almost no role in these rapidly multiplying urban transportation options.

Where would the sentence best be placed?

- (A) Before sentence 5
- (B) After sentence 5
- (C) After sentence 6
- (D) After sentence 9

END OF SECTION I

AP[®] English Language and Composition Exam

SECTION II: Free-Response Questions

DO NOT BEGIN THE EXAM UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

DISCLAIMER: The official AP English Language and Composition Exam will be administered digitally. Instructions for the digital exam may differ from this practice test.

At a Glance

Total Time

2 hours, plus a 15-minute
reading period

Number of Questions

3

Percent of Total Grade

55%

Instructions

Section II of this examination requires answers in essay form. To help you use your time well, the coordinator will announce the time at which each question should be completed. If you finish any question before time is announced, you may go on to the following question. If you finish the examination in less than the time allotted, you may go back and work on any essay question you want.

Each essay will be judged on its clarity and effectiveness in dealing with the requirements of the topic assigned and on the quality of the writing. After completing each question, you should check your essay for accuracy of punctuation, spelling, and diction; you are advised, however, not to attempt many longer corrections. Remember that quality is far more important than quantity.

Write your essays with a pen, preferably in black or dark blue ink. Be sure to write **CLEARLY** and **LEGIBLY**. Cross out any errors you make.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
SECTION II
Total Time—2 hours, 15 minutes

Question 1

Suggested reading and writing time—55 minutes.

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the question, analyzing and evaluating the sources, and 40 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

In recent decades, the difference in conditions between the poorest and the wealthiest Americans—often referred to as “the wealth gap”—has grown larger and more visible. Some believe that this stratification will ultimately cause severe damage to our nation, while others argue that inequality is a natural part of any society. Some of the causes of this trend can be ascribed to technological changes, while other causes can be seen in specific policy actions.

Carefully read the following six sources, including the introductory information for each. Then synthesize the information from at least three of the sources and incorporate it into a coherent, well-developed essay that discusses the extent to which the size of the wealth gap affects the health of a society.

Your argument should be the focus of your essay. Use the sources to develop your argument and explain the reasoning for it. Avoid merely summarizing the sources. Indicate clearly which sources you are drawing from, whether through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. You may cite the sources as Source A, Source B, and so forth, or by using the descriptions in parentheses.

- Source A (Congressional Budget Office)
- Source B (Pew Research Center)
- Source C (Brady)
- Source D (Smith)
- Source E (Roosevelt)
- Source F (Chicago Labor)

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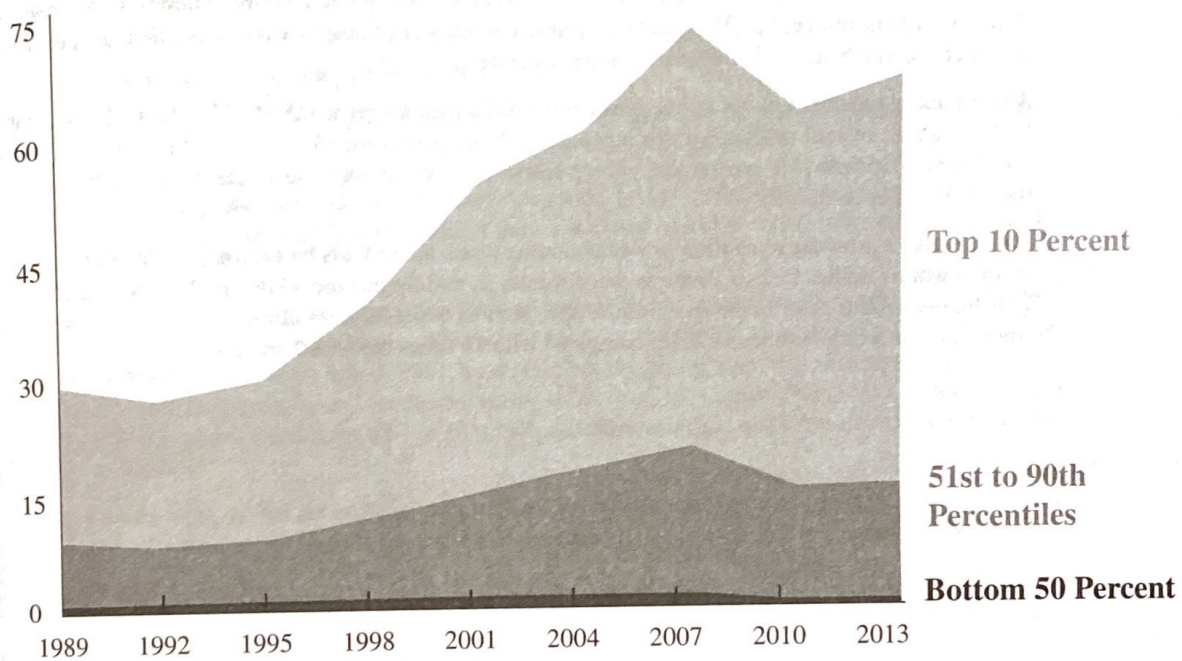
Source A

Holdings of family wealth in trillions of dollars.
Congressional Budget Office chart. August 18,
2016.

The following chart was released by the Congressional Budget Office.

Holdings of Family Wealth

Trillions of 2013 Dollars



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Source B

"How wealth inequality has changed in the U.S. since the Great Recession by race, ethnicity and income." By Rakesh Kochhar and Anthony Cilluffo. Pew Research Center. November 1, 2017.

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 triggered a sharp, prolonged decline in the wealth of American families, and an already large wealth gap between white households and black and Hispanic households widened further in its immediate aftermath. But the racial and ethnic wealth gap has evolved differently for families at different income levels, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of data from the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances.

Among lower-income families, the gap between white households and their black and Hispanic counterparts *shrank* by about half from 2007 to 2016. But among middle-class families, it increased and shows no sign of retreating. (There are an insufficient number of observations in the SCF data to report on upper-income black and Hispanic families separately.)...

Among upper-income families, white households had a median net worth of \$971,500 in 2016, notably higher than the overall median for this income tier. Moreover, the median wealth of upper-income white families in 2016 was 25% greater than its pre-recession level, an increase greater than for all upper-income families combined.

There is also a growing separation in wealth among white households by income tier. In 2016, upper-income white families had six times as much wealth as middle-income white families, compared with four times as much prior to the recession. Upper-income white families also had 42 times the wealth of lower-income white families in 2016, compared with 18 times the wealth in 2007.

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Source C

Opening statement of Hon. Kevin Brady, Chairman, a U.S. representative from Texas. *Income inequality in the United States: A hearing before the Joint Economic Committee, Congress of the United States, One Hundred Thirtieth Congress, second session, January 16, 2014.*

We are not all blessed with the same talents, but in America we should all have an equal chance to climb the ladder of success—driven upward by our personal initiative, and not burdened by the deadweight of a bloated government....

Economic mobility is very much alive. In America today the children of the poorest are more likely to climb up the ladder of success than the children of the wealthy are likely to stay where they are.

Through hard work, today one in three American families live an upper-middle class lifestyle or better, more than double what it was just 40 years ago.

Astoundingly, better than one in five Americans are likely to rise to the top two percent of earners sometime during their lifetime. The American Dream is very much alive....

The real challenge we face today is too many Americans no longer believe the ladder of success is available to them. They have lost hope that if they work hard and play by the rules tomorrow will be better than today....

So finally, how should the government act to help restore Americans' belief in opportunity? We can heed the advice of President Lincoln, perhaps the greatest "equalizer" to inhabit the White House. In his message to Congress on July 4, 1861, he made clear the proper role of government in promoting economic opportunity is, quote, "to elevate men—to lift artificial weights from all shoulders—to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all—to afford all, an unfettered start and a fair chance, in the race of life." End quote.

We must do more to "lift the artificial weights" off our poorest families and get Washington out of the way so that every American truly has "an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life."

I yield back, Vice Chair.

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Source D

An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith. March 9, 1776.

The following is an excerpt from Chapter XI of An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, by Scottish economist Adam Smith.

The whole annual produce of the land and labour of every country, or, what comes to the same thing, the whole price of that annual produce, naturally divides itself, it has already been observed, into three parts; the rent of land, the wages of labour, and the profits of stock; and constitutes a revenue to three different orders of people; to those who live by rent, to those who live by wages, and to those who live by profit...

The interest of the first of those three great orders, it appears from what has been just now said, is strictly and inseparably connected with the general interest of the society. Whatever either promotes or obstructs the one, necessarily promotes or obstructs the other... They are the only one of the three orders whose revenue costs them neither labour nor care, but comes to them, as it were, of its own accord, and independent of any plan or project of their own. That indolence which is the natural effect of the ease and security of their situation, renders them too often, not only ignorant, but incapable of that application of mind, which is necessary in order to foresee and understand the consequence of any public regulation.

The interest of the second order, that of those who live by wages, is as strictly connected with the interest of the society as that of the first. The wages of the labourer, it has already been shewn, are never so high as when the demand for labour is continually rising, or when the quantity employed is every year increasing considerably. When this real wealth of the society becomes stationary, his wages are soon reduced to what is barely enough to enable him to bring up a family, or to continue the race of labourers. When the society declines, they fall even below this. The order of proprietors may perhaps gain more by the prosperity of the society than that of labourers; but there is no order that suffers so cruelly from its decline. But though the interest of the labourer is strictly connected with that of the society, he is incapable either of comprehending that interest, or of understanding its connexion with his own. His condition leaves him no time to receive the necessary information, and his education and habits are commonly such as to render him unfit to judge, even though he was fully informed. In the public deliberations, therefore, his voice is little heard, and less regarded; except upon particular occasions, when his clamour is animated, set on, and supported by his employers, not for his, but their own particular purposes.

His employers constitute the third order, that of those who live by profit. It is the stock that is employed for the sake of profit, which puts into motion the greater part of the useful labour of every society. The plans and projects of the employers of stock regulate and direct all the most important operation of labour, and profit is the end proposed by all those plans and projects. But the rate of profit does not, like rent and wages, rise with the prosperity, and fall with the declension of the society. On the contrary, it is naturally low in rich, and high in poor countries, and it is always highest in the countries which are going fastest to ruin. The interest of this third order, therefore, has not the same connexion with the general interest of the society, as that of the other two... To widen the market, and to narrow the competition, is always the interest of the dealers. To widen the market may frequently be agreeable enough to the interest of the public; but to narrow the competition must always be against it, and can only serve to enable the dealers, by raising their profits above what they naturally would be, to levy, for their own benefit, an absurd tax upon the rest of their fellow-citizens.

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Source I

Theodore Roosevelt, "Address of President Roosevelt at the laying of the corner stone of the office building of the House of Representatives (The Man with the Muck Rake)" (14 April, 1906).

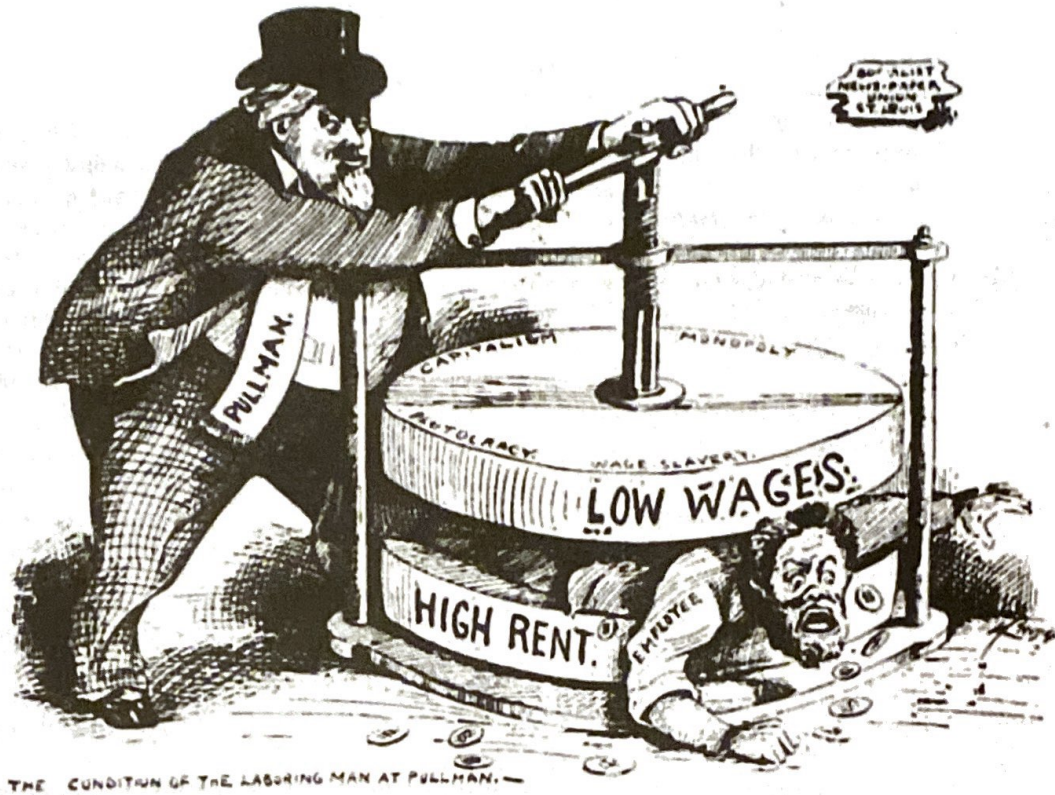
It is important to this people to grapple with the problems connected with the amassing of enormous fortunes, and the use of those fortunes, both corporate and individual, in business. We should discriminate in the sharpest way between fortunes well-won and fortunes ill-won; between those gained as an incident to performing great services to the community as a whole, and those gained in evil fashion by keeping just within the limits of mere law-honesty. Of course no amount of charity in spending such fortunes in any way compensates for misconduct in making them. As a matter of personal conviction, and without pretending to discuss the details or formulate the system, I feel that we shall ultimately have to consider the adoption of some such scheme as that of a progressive tax on all fortunes, beyond a certain amount either given in life or devised or bequeathed upon death to any individual—a tax so framed as to put it out of the power of the owner of one of these enormous fortunes to hand on more than a certain amount to any one individual; the tax, of course, to be imposed by the National and not the State government. Such taxation should, of course, be aimed merely at the inheritance or transmission in their entirety of those fortunes swollen beyond all healthy limits.

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Source F

"The Condition of the Laboring Man at Pullman,"
Chicago Labor. July 7, 1894.

The following cartoon appeared in the Chicago Labor newspaper on July 7, 1894.



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Question 2

Suggested time—40 minutes.

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

The passage that follows is an excerpt from *From Letters Written in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark*, a travelogue published in 1796 by British proto-feminist author Mary Wollstonecraft. Composed two years after her masterwork, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, this series of twenty-five letters was inspired by a three-month journey to Scandinavia that she undertook after a suicide attempt. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-developed essay, analyze the rhetorical strategies that Wollstonecraft uses to both fulfill and transcend the travel narrative genre.

In your response, you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

LETTER II.

Gothenburg is a clean airy town, and, having been built by the Dutch, has canals running through each street; and in some of them there are rows of trees that would render it very pleasant were it not for the pavement, which is intolerably bad.

There are several rich commercial houses—Scotch, French, and Swedish; but the Scotch, I believe, have been the most successful. The commerce and commission business with France since the war has been very lucrative, and enriched the merchants I am afraid at the expense of the other inhabitants, by raising the price of the necessaries of life.

As all the men of consequence—I mean men of the largest fortune—are merchants, their principal enjoyment is a relaxation from business at the table, which is spread at, I think, too early an hour (between one and two) for men who have letters to write and accounts to settle after paying due respect to the bottle.

However, when numerous circles are to be brought together, and when neither literature nor public amusements furnish topics for conversation, a good dinner appears to be the only centre to rally round, especially as scandal, the zest of more select parties, can only be whispered. As for politics, I have seldom found it a subject of continual discussion in a country town in any part of the world. The politics of the place, being on a smaller scale, suits better with the size of their faculties; for, generally speaking, the sphere of observation determines the extent of the mind.

The more I see of the world, the more I am convinced that civilisation is a blessing not sufficiently estimated by those who have not traced its progress; for it not only refines our enjoyments, but produces a variety which enables us to retain the primitive delicacy of our sensations. Without the aid of the imagination all the pleasures of the senses must sink into grossness, unless continual novelty serve as a substitute for the imagination, which, being impossible, it was to this weariness, I suppose, that Solomon alluded when he declared that there was nothing new under the sun!—nothing for the common sensations excited by the senses. Yet who will deny that the imagination and understanding have made many, very many discoveries since those days, which only seem harbingers of others still more noble and beneficial? I never met with much imagination amongst people who had not acquired a habit of reflection; and in that state of society in which the judgment and taste are not called forth, and formed by the cultivation of the arts and sciences, little of that delicacy of feeling and thinking is to be found characterised by the word sentiment. The want of scientific pursuits perhaps accounts for the hospitality, as well as for the cordial reception which strangers receive from the inhabitants of small towns.

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Hospitality has, I think, been too much praised by travellers as a proof of goodness of heart, when, in my opinion, indiscriminate hospitality is rather a criterion by which you may form a tolerable estimate of the indolence or vacancy of a head; or, in other words, a fondness for social pleasures in which the mind not having its proportion of exercise, the bottle must be pushed about.

These remarks are equally applicable to Dublin, the most hospitable city I ever passed through. But I will try to confine my observations more particularly to Sweden.

It is true I have only had a glance over a small part of it; yet of its present state of manners and acquirements I think I have formed a distinct idea, without having visited the capital—where, in fact, less of a national character is to be found than in the remote parts of the country.

The Swedes pique themselves on their politeness; but far from being the polish of a cultivated mind, it consists merely of tiresome forms and ceremonies. So far, indeed, from entering immediately into your character, and making you feel instantly at your ease, like the well-bred French, their over-acted civility is a continual restraint on all your actions. The sort of superiority which a fortune gives when there is no superiority of education, excepting what consists in the observance of senseless forms, has a contrary effect than what is intended; so that I could not help reckoning the peasantry the politest people of Sweden, who, only aiming at pleasing you, never think of being admired for their behaviour.

Their tables, like their compliments, seem equally a caricature of the French. The dishes are composed, as well as theirs, of a variety of mixtures to destroy the native taste of the food without being as relishing. Spices and sugar are put into everything, even into the bread; and the only way I can account for their partiality to high-seasoned dishes is the constant use of salted provisions. Necessity obliges them to lay up a store of dried fish and salted meat for the winter; and in summer, fresh meat and fish taste insipid after them. To which may be added the constant use of spirits. Every day, before dinner and supper, even whilst the dishes are cooling on the table, men and women repair to a side-table; and to obtain an appetite eat bread-and-butter, cheese, raw salmon, or anchovies, drinking a glass of brandy. Salt fish or meat then immediately follows, to give a further whet to the stomach. As the dinner advances, pardon me for taking up a few minutes to describe what, alas! has detained me two or three hours on the stretch observing, dish after dish is changed, in endless rotation, and handed round with solemn pace to each guest; but should you happen not to like the first dishes, which was often my case, it is a gross breach of politeness to ask for part of any other till its turn comes. But have patience, and there will be eating enough. Allow me to run over the acts of a visiting day, not overlooking the interludes.

Prelude a luncheon—then a succession of fish, flesh, and fowl for two hours, during which time the dessert—I was sorry for the strawberries and cream—rests on the table to be impregnated by the fumes of the viands. Coffee immediately follows in the drawing-room, but does not preclude punch, ale, tea and cakes, raw salmon, &c. A supper brings up the rear, not forgetting the introductory luncheon, almost equalling in removes the dinner. A day of this kind you would imagine sufficient; but a to-morrow and a to-morrow—A never-ending, still-beginning feast may be bearable, perhaps, when stern winter frowns, shaking with chilling aspect his hoary locks; but during a summer, sweet as fleeting, let me, my kind strangers, escape sometimes into your fir groves, wander on the margin of your beautiful lakes, or climb your rocks, to view still others in endless perspective, which, piled by more than giant's hand, scale the heavens to intercept its rays, or to receive the parting tinge of lingering day—day that, scarcely softened unto twilight, allows the freshening breeze to wake, and the moon to burst forth in all her glory to glide with solemn elegance through the azure expanse.

The cow's bell has ceased to tinkle the herd to rest; they have all paced across the heath. Is not this the witching time of night? The waters murmur, and fall with more than mortal music, and spirits of peace walk abroad to calm the agitated breast. Eternity is in these moments. Worldly cares melt into the airy stuff that dreams are made of, and reveries, mild and enchanting as the first hopes of love or the recollection of lost enjoyment, carry the hapless wight into futurity, who in bustling life has vainly strove to throw off the grief which lies heavy at the heart. Good night! A crescent hangs out in the vault before, which woos me to stray abroad. It is not a silvery reflection of the sun, but glows with all its golden splendour. Who fears the fallen dew? It only makes the mown grass smell more fragrant. Adieu!

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Question 3**Suggested time—40 minutes.**

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1874–1965) is remembered primarily for his stalwart leadership in the darkest days of World War II. When asked for his opinion of courage, he stated, “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

Write a carefully reasoned persuasive essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies Churchill’s assertion. Use evidence from your observation, experience, or reading to develop your position.

In your response, you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that may establish a line of reasoning.
- Select and use evidence to develop and support your line of reasoning.
- Explain the relationship between the evidence and your thesis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

STOP**END OF EXAM**
