

AP English Literature and Composition Fall 2009 final exam review sheet

Be prepared to write about four different works of literature. Make sure that you can precisely and accurately use names and details in your compositions.

A Tale of Two Cities (Dickens) or *Emma* (Austen) or *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (Hardy)

The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)
Life of Pi (Martel)

Pygmalion (Shaw)
Snow Falling on Cedars (Guterson)

Song of Solomon (Morrison)
Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare)
Wuthering Heights (Brontë)

Vocabulary from tone groups 1-10 (multiple-choice questions and writing tasks)

abhorrent	covetous	funereal	mendacious	remorseful
acerbic	cowering	halcyon	methodical	sanguine
acquiescent	credulous	haughty	mirthful	sapient
altruistic	defiant	idealistic	misanthropic	sardonic
audacious	despondent	imperious	mordant	secular
austere	detached	inane	obsequious	serene
averse	deterministic	indolent	obstinate	sinister
bristled	dynamic	indomitable	paradoxical	solemn
buoyant	eccentric	insolent	petulant	tenacious
callous	elegiac	insular	peaked	trepid
capricious	empathic	intransigent	Pollyannaish	upbraiding
cerebral	enervated	ireful	pompous	vehement
chagrined	exasperated	jaded	portentous	vivacious
choleric	exultant	keen	provincial	whimsical
condescending	fawning	maudlin	rancorous	wistful
consternated	fervent	menacing	rapturous	zealous

Literary Concepts (multiple-choice questions about literary passages and definitions/examples)

alliteration	comedy	hyperbole	prose	setting
allusion	conceit	imagery	octave	simile
analogy	conflict	invective	onomatopoeia	soliloquy
anaphora	consonance	irony	oxymoron	sonnet
antithesis	couplet	logos	paradox	stanza
aside	diction	metaphor	pathos	symbol
assonance	ethos	mood	quatrain	syntax
blank verse	euphony	motif	rhyme	theme
cacophony	foil	parallelism	rhythm	tone
character	free verse	persona	satire	understatement
chiasmus	heroic couplet	personification	sestet	volta

Potential Essay Topics

- A critic has said that one important measure of a superior work of literature is its ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude. Select a literary work that produces this "healthy confusion." Write an essay in which you explain the sources of the "pleasure and disquietude" experienced by the readers of the work.
- The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
- Choose a novel or play that depicts a conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work.
- An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant closure has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide with or adjust to ambiguity and uncertainty. In an essay, discuss the ending of a novel or play of acknowledged literary merit. Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.