

## Section II: Essay Questions

Time: 2 Hours

3 Questions

### Question 1

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question accounts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

**Directions:** Read the following poem carefully. Then write an essay in which you discuss how the use of language in the poem determines the reader’s response to the speaker and his situation.

#### The Farmer’s Bride

- Three Summers since I chose a maid,  
 Too young maybe — but more’s to do  
 At harvest-time than bide and woo.  
 When us was wed she turned afraid  
 (5) Of love and me and all things human;  
 Like the shut of a winter’s day  
 Her smile went out, and ’twadn’t a woman —  
 More like a little frightened fay.  
 One night, in the Fall, she runned away.
- (10) ’Out ’mong the sheep, her be,’ they said,  
 ’Should properly have been abed;  
 But sure enough she wadn’t there  
 Lying awake with her wide brown stare.  
 So over seven-acre field and up-along across the down
- (15) We chased her, flying like a hare  
 Before our lanterns. To Church-Town  
 All in a shiver and a scare  
 We caught her, fetched her home at last  
 And turned the key upon her, fast.
- (20) She does the work about the house  
 As well as most, but like a mouse:  
 Happy enough to chat and play  
 With birds and rabbits and such as they,  
 So long as men-folk keep away.
- (25) ‘Not near, not near!’ her eyes beseech  
 When one of us comes within reach.  
 The women say that beasts in stall  
 Look round like children at her call.  
 I’ve hardly heard her speak at all.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

- (30) Shy as a leveret, swift as he,  
Straight and slight as a young larch tree,  
Sweet as the first wild violets, she  
To her wild self. But what to me?
- The short days shorten and the oaks are brown,
- (35) The blue smoke rises to the low grey sky,  
One leaf in the still air falls slowly down,  
A magpie's spotted feathers lie  
On the black earth spread white with rime,  
The berries redden up to Christmas-time.
- (40) What's Christmas-time without there be  
Some other in the house than we!
- She sleeps up in the attic there  
Alone, poor maid, 'Tis but a stair  
Betwixt us. Oh! My God! The down,
- (45) The soft young down of her, the brown,  
The brown of her — her eyes, her hair, her hair!  
— Charlotte Mew

## Question 2

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question accounts for one-third of the total essay score.)

**Directions:** Read carefully the following passage from Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. Write an essay that defines the targets of Thackeray's criticism and how the choice of details, the diction, and the syntax convey the satire.

---

- Miss Crawley was, in consequence, an object of great respect when she came to Queen's Crawley, for she had a balance at her banker's which would have made her beloved anywhere.
- (5) What a dignity it gives an old lady, that balance at the banker's! How tenderly we look at her faults, if she is a relative (and may every reader have a score of such), what a kind, good-natured old creature we find her! How the junior partner of Hobbs & Dobbs leads her smiling to the carriage with the lozenge upon it, and the fat wheezy coachman!
- (10) How, when she comes to pay us a visit, we generally find an opportunity to let our friends know her station in the world! We say (and with perfect truth) I
- wish I had Miss MacWhirter's signature to a cheque for five thousand pounds. She wouldn't miss it, says your wife. She is my aunt, say you, in an easy careless way, when your friend asks if Miss MacWhirter is any relative? Your wife is perpetually sending her little testimonies of affection, your little girls work endless worsted baskets, cushions, and footstools for her. What a good fire there is in her room when she comes to pay you a visit, although your wife laces her stays without one! The house during her stay assumes a festive, neat, warm, jovial, snug appearance not visible at other seasons. You yourself, dear sir, forget to go to sleep after dinner, and find yourself all of a sudden (though you
- (20)
- (25)
- (30)
- (35)