

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
PROSE ESSAY QUESTIONS
(1978 – 2003)

- 1978 Analyze Samuel Johnson's attitude toward Jenyns and treatment of Jenyns' argument.
- 1979 Quentin Bell on Woolfe family: Show how style reveals feelings about family.
- 1980 Two funerals: Compare different authors' attitudes by examining diction and choice of detail; also effect on reader.
- 1981 Shaw on his mother's cremation: Analyze how diction and detail convey attitude.
- 1982 Stevenson's "Cat Bill": Analyze strategies that make the argument effective for his audience.
- 1983 "Work" (Thomas Carlyle): Examine how he uses language to convince reader.
- 1984 Emma: Explain how passage characterizes subject.
"Death of Benny Paret": Explain and analyze effect on reader and how diction, syntax, imagery, and tone produce that effect.
- 1985 "War": Compare two drafts of a passage from Hemingway's *Farewell to Arms* and analyze the effect of revisions.
- 1986 "Dombey": Define narrator's attitude through imagery, diction, narrative structure, choice of detail.
- 1987 "Leisure" from *Adam Bede*: Describe her two views of leisure and discuss stylistic devices she uses to convey those views.
- 1988 "Reunion" by Updike: Analyze blend of humor, pathos, and grotesque in their story.
- 1989 "Captain MacWhirr": Define attitude of speaker toward Captain and analyze techniques he uses to define Captain's character.
- 1990 "Self-deception - Self-respect" by Joan Didion: Show how style and tone help convey attitude.
- 1991 Passage from Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson*: Discuss the ways Boswell differentiates between the writing of Addison and Johnson.
- 1992 Beginning and ending of Tillie Olsen's "I Stand Here Ironing": Analyze the narrative techniques and other resources of language Olsen uses to characterize the mother and her attitude.
- 1993 Lytton Strachey's conception of Florence Nightingale: Define Strachey's view and analyze how he conveys it.
- 1994 Sarah Jewett's "A White Heron": Show how the author dramatizes the young heroine's adventure using diction, imagery, narrative pace, and point of view.

- 1995 Sandra Cisneros' "Eleven": Show how the author uses literary techniques to characterize Rachel.
- 1996 Hawthorne's House of the Seven Gables, Judge Pyncheon: Analyze how the narrator reveals the character of Judge Pyncheon. Emphasize such devices as tone, selection of detail, syntax, point of view.
- 1997 Joy Kogawa's Obasan: Analyze how changes in perspective and style reflect the narrator's complex attitude toward the past. Consider elements such as point of view, structure, selection of detail, and figurative language.
- 1998 George Eliot's Middlemarch: Write an essay in which you characterize the narrator's attitude toward Dorothea Brooke and analyze the literary techniques used to convey this attitude.
- 1999 Cormac McCarthy's The Crossing: Show how the author's techniques convey the impact of the experience on the main character.
- 2000 Joseph Addison's The Spectator (March 4, 1712): Analyze how the language of the passage characterizes the diarist and his society and how the characterization serves Addison's satiric purpose. Consider such elements as selection of detail, repetition, and tone.
- 2001 Henry Fielding's Tom Jones (1749): Analyze the techniques that Fielding employs in this scene to characterize Mr. Allworthy and Mrs. Deborah Wilkins.
- 2002 Alain de Botton's Kiss and Tell: Write an essay in which you analyze how the author produces a comic effect.
- 2003 Mavis Gallant's "The Other Paris": Explain how the author uses narrative voice and characterization to provide social commentary.