

## Advanced Placement\* English Literature and Composition Exam

The test is composed of two parts—multiple choice and free response.

### Multiple Choice

- 4–5 passages (poetry, fiction, and drama) with 52–56 multiple choice questions, 55 questions on most recently released exams
- 1 hour
- 45% of the student score
- 1 point for correct answers, no penalty for incorrect answers or questions left blank
- College Board released exam answers include the percentages of students who took the test and got each question correct. On the 2009 released test, the range was from 33% answering correctly on a question to 93% correct. Difficulty level of questions varies; questions generally are in order as they appear in the text, not from easiest to most difficult.

### Free Response

- 3 essays
  - 1 analysis of poetry
  - 1 analysis of fiction or drama
  - 1 open question
- 2 hours
- 55% of the student score
- essays evaluated on a 1–9 scale

### Test Content

- selections from 1600s–today
- multi-cultural selections
- approximately 41-45% poetry (depending on the number of MC passages), with the rest of the selections from stories, novels, or plays

### Additional Information

- usually taken at the end of the senior year
- composite scores range from 1–5
- college credit generally awarded for scores of 3 and above on a 5-point scale
- credit awarded for a passing score varies from university to university

Here is something to think about concerning the need to include poetry at all levels.

- The multiple choice section will include 2 or 3 poems; the MC section counts 45% of the student's score. Poetry will account for approximately 22.5% to 27% of the MC section.
- The free response section of the test accounts for 55% of the test, with the poetry question accounting for 18.3% of the total score.
- Overall, poetry accounts for approximately 45.3% of the test, an important percentage to consider if students have not had a strong background in the analysis of poetry.

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Visit the website at [www.apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.com) to download examples of AP Literature exam questions and student samples.

## Scoring Worksheet 2009 Released Exam

### Section I: Multiple Choice

$$\frac{\text{Number Correct}}{\text{(out of 55)}} \times 1.2272 = \frac{\text{Weighted Section I Score}}{\text{(Do not round.)}}$$

### Section II: Free Response

$$\text{Question 1} \quad \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(out of 9)}} \times 3.0556 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(Do not round.)}}$$

$$\text{Question 2} \quad \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(out of 9)}} \times 3.0556 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(Do not round.)}}$$

$$\text{Question 3} \quad \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(out of 9)}} \times 3.0556 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(Do not round.)}}$$

$$\text{Sum} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Weighted Section II Score (Do not round.)}}$$

$$\text{Composite Score} \quad \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Weighted Section I Score}} + \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Weighted Section II Score}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Composite Score (Round to nearest whole number)}}$$

AP Score Conversion Chart English Literature and Composition	
Composition Score Range	AP Score
114-150	5
98-113	4
81-97	3
53-80	2
0-52	1

If a student answered 28 MC items correctly and received a score of 6 on each essay, the Section I score would be 34.3616; the Section II score would be 55.0008 for a Composite Score of 89.3624. That number would be rounded to 89 for a test score of 3.

If a student answered 33 MC items correctly and received a score of two 6s and one 7 on the essays, the Section I score would be 40.4976; the Section II score would be 58.0564 for a Composite Score of 98.5540. The Composite Score would be rounded to 99 for a test score of 4. Every MC item and essay point is extremely valuable to the final score.