

AP English Literature and Composition Key Questions by Course Skill - Brown

Course Skill	Key Questions
<p>Skill Category I: Explain the function of character.</p> <p>1.A: Identify and describe what specific textual details reveal about a character, that character's perspective, and that character's motives.</p>	<p>Which words, phrases, and details contribute to a character's characterization?</p> <p>How is a character described physically, emotionally, and/or psychologically?</p> <p>Which aspects of a character's background contribute to how the character perceives his or her world?</p> <p>What drives the character to think, feel, and/or act in the manner he or she does?</p>
<p>1.B: Explain the function of a character changing or remaining unchanged</p>	<p>What provokes a character to change or remain unchanged?</p> <p>What are the comparable traits of a character before and after he or she changes?</p> <p>To what degree does the text convey empathy for those characters who change or for those who remain unchanged?</p> <p>To what degree does a character's changing constitute progress or decline?</p> <p>How does a character's changing or remaining unchanged affect other elements of the literary work and/or contribute to meaning of the work as a whole?</p>
<p>1.C: Explain the function of contrasting characters.</p>	<p>How do comparable traits of two or more characters contrast?</p> <p>What do the differing traits between characters reveal about them individually, their relationships with one another, and their relationships with other characters?</p> <p>How does considering the significance of a contrast between characters contribute to meaning in the text?</p>
<p>1.D: Describe how textual details reveal nuances and complexities in characters' relationships with one another.</p>	<p>Which particular images, character speech, and textual details are relevant for examining characters' relationships?</p> <p>How do images, character speech, and other textual details reveal how characters interact?</p> <p>How do diction and the details that a narrator or speaker offers (or does not offer) convey a particular perspective, ambiguity, and/or inconsistency and convey nuances and complexities in character relationships?</p>
<p>1.E: Explain how a character's own choices, actions, and speech reveal complexities in that character, and explain the function of those complexities.</p>	<p>Which of a character's choices, actions, and/or speech seem contradictory or inconsistent?</p> <p>How do a character's contradictory or inconsistent traits contribute to a reader's understanding of the character's complexity?</p> <p>How do a character's contradictory or inconsistent traits contribute to meaning in a text?</p>

<p>Skill Category 2: Explain the function of setting</p> <p>2.A: Identify and describe specific textual details that convey or reveal a setting</p>	<p>How do details in a text convey or reveal one or more aspects of a setting (e.g., location, time of day, year, season, geography, culture)?</p>
<p>2.B: Explain the function of setting in a narrative.</p>	<p>What are the relationships between a text’s setting and other literary elements?</p> <p>How does a setting affect readers of that text?</p> <p>How do a text’s various settings contribute to meaning and its overall effect?</p>
<p>2.C: Describe the relationship between a character and a setting.</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the aspects (e.g., location, time of day, geography) of a setting and a character?</p> <p>What is the relationship between a setting’s historical time period and a character?</p> <p>What is the relationship between the society or culture of a setting and a character (e.g., what is the character’s role in the society/culture, to what degree is a character accepted by his or her society/culture, to what degree does the society/culture esteem a character)?</p>
<p>Skill Category 3: Explain the function of plot and structure</p> <p>3.A: Identify and describe how plot orders events in a narrative.</p>	<p>To what degree does a plot’s ordering of events reflect a chronological sequence?</p> <p>Which plot event(s) seems to break an established chronological sequence, and where does this event fit into the chronology of other events?</p>
<p>3.B: Explain the function of a particular sequence of events in a plot.</p>	<p>How does a particular sequence of events affect the presentation and/or development of characters and conflict?</p> <p>How does a particular sequence of events and the manner in which a text presents those events to a reader affect a reader’s experience with the text?</p> <p>What is the relationship between a particular sequence of events and a text’s structure as a whole?</p>
<p>3.C: Explain the function of structure in a text.</p>	<p>How does a text’s organization and arrangement of ideas and details in lines, stanzas, sentences, paragraphs, chapters, or other sections of text contribute to a text’s structure?</p> <p>How does a poem’s rhythm and/or rhyme contribute to its structure?</p> <p>What is the organizing principle in a section of text that makes it a cohesive unit?</p> <p>What is the relationship of a section of a text to the text’s setting, character, plot, conflict, point of view, thematic idea, or other literary elements?</p> <p>What is the relationship of a section of a text to other sections of the text?</p> <p>What is the relationship of a section of a text to the text as a whole?</p>

<p>3.D: Explain the function of contrasts within a text.</p>	<p>What are some striking contrasts in a text?</p> <p>How do you identify contrasts, shifts, and juxtapositions in a text?</p> <p>How might a contrast indicate a conflict of values?</p> <p>What ideas, traits, or values are emphasized in a contrast?</p> <p>How does a contrast contribute to complexity in a text?</p> <p>How does a contrast contribute to meaning in a text?</p>
<p>3.E: Explain the function of a significant event or related set of significant events in a plot.</p>	<p>Which event in a plot has a significant relationship to a character, conflict, another event, thematic idea, etc., and what is the relationship?</p> <p>How is an event in a plot a cause or effect of another event?</p> <p>How does an event or related set of events cause, develop, or resolve a conflict?</p> <p>How can an event or related set of events represent competing value systems?</p> <p>How does an event create anticipation or suspense in a reader?</p> <p>How does an event or related set of events contribute to meaning in the whole work?</p>
<p>3.F: Explain the function of conflict in a text.</p>	<p>How might a conflict represent opposing motivations or values?</p> <p>How might a conflict arise from a contrast?</p> <p>What is the relationship of a particular conflict to other conflicts?</p> <p>How does the resolution or continuation of a conflict affect a character, plot, narrator, or speaker, etc.?</p> <p>How does the resolution or continuation of a conflict affect a reader's experience with the text?</p> <p>How does a conflict contribute to meaning in the whole work?</p>
<p>Skill Category 4: Explain the function of the narrator or speaker</p> <p>4.A: Identify and describe the narrator or speaker of a text.</p>	<p>Who is the narrator or speaker of a text?</p> <p>Which details from the text indicate the identity of the narrator or speaker?</p>
<p>4.B: Identify and explain the function of point of view in a narrative.</p>	<p>What is the difference between a first-person point of view and third-person point of view, and how does the particular point of view used in a text affect the details and information presented to a reader?</p> <p>How does a narrator's distance from the events of a narrative affect the details and information presented to a reader?</p>

	<p>How does a shift in point of view contribute to the development of a literary element (e.g., character, conflict, tone, theme) and contribute to meaning?</p>
<p>4.C: Identify and describe details, diction, or syntax in a text that reveal a narrator's or speaker's perspective.</p>	<p>What is a narrator's or speaker's tone toward a particular subject, and which diction, imagery, details, and syntax in the text contribute to that tone?</p> <p>What is the relationship between a narrator's or speaker's tone toward a particular subject and their perspective, more generally?</p> <p>How does a narrator's or speaker's background and perspective shape a tone toward a particular subject?</p> <p>How do the diction, imagery, details, and syntax in a text support multiple tones?</p> <p>How might a change in tone toward a particular subject over the course of a text indicate a narrator's or speaker's change?</p>
<p>4.D: Explain how a narrator's reliability affects a narrative.</p>	<p>To what extent can a narrator or speaker of a first-person point of view narrative be trusted?</p> <p>How might a third-person point of view narrator or speaker be more reliable than a first-person point of view narrator or speaker?</p> <p>How does a narrator's or speaker's inclusion or exclusion of particular details affect their reliability?</p> <p>To what degree is the narrator or speaker of a first-person point of view narrative aware of their own biases?</p> <p>What is the relationship of a narrator's or speaker's reliability and a reader's understanding of a character's motivations?</p>
<p>Skill Category 5: Explain the function of word choice, imagery, and symbols</p> <p>5.A: Distinguish between the literal and figurative meanings of words and phrases.</p>	<p>What are the denotations of specific words and phrases in a text?</p> <p>How does knowing the denotative meaning of specific words and phrases in a text facilitate a literal understanding of the text?</p> <p>What are the connotations, representations, and associations of specific words or phrases in a text?</p> <p>How does considering the connotations, representations, and associations of specific words or phrases in a text convey figurative meaning and facilitate an interpretation of the text?</p> <p>Which literal objects, images, and events in a text convey figurative meaning through representations and associations?</p> <p>How do multiple literal and/or figurative meanings in a text create ambiguity?</p>

<p>5.B: Explain the function of specific words and phrases in a text.</p>	<p>Which repeated sound, word, or phrase in a text emphasizes an idea or association, and what is the emphasized idea or association?</p> <p>How do you trace a referent to its antecedent, and how might ambiguous referents affect an interpretation of a text?</p> <p>How do the relationships between adjectives and adverbs and the words they modify affect a reader's interaction with the text?</p> <p>How does the use of hyperbole and understatement convey a particular perspective of their subjects?</p> <p>How do words and phrases create ambiguous meanings and invite multiple interpretations of a text?</p>
<p>5.C: Identify and explain the function of a symbol.</p>	<p>Which object, action, or event represents an idea or concept beyond itself?</p> <p>How can an object, action, or event represent multiple ideas or concepts?</p> <p>Which symbol in a text is present in other texts, and how is the symbol's meaning(s) in this text similar to or different from its meaning(s) in other texts?</p> <p>How do these symbolic objects, actions, events, characters, and settings contribute to a text's complexity and to the meaning of the work as a whole?</p>
<p>5.D: Identify and explain the function of an image or imagery.</p>	<p>Which words contribute to the sensory details in an image?</p> <p>How might an image form a comparison through associations made with the senses?</p> <p>What does a set of images have in common so that the images work together?</p> <p>What associations do images or imagery evoke?</p> <p>How do images and/or imagery emphasize ideas in a portion of text or throughout a text?</p>
<p>Skill Category 6: Explain the function of comparison</p> <p>6.A: Identify and explain the function of a simile.</p>	<p>Which two elements are being compared in a particular simile?</p> <p>What is significant about the selection of the objects being compared?</p> <p>How does a comparison through a simile contribute to meaning in the text?</p>
<p>6.B: Identify and explain the function of a metaphor.</p>	<p>Which two elements are being compared in a particular metaphor?</p> <p>What is significant about the selection of the objects being compared and their particular traits, qualities, or characteristics?</p>

	<p>How does a comparison through a metaphor contribute to meaning in the text?</p> <p>How might the figurative meaning of a metaphor depend on the context in which it is presented?</p> <p>How does an extended metaphor continue a comparison in several portions of text?</p> <p>How does a metaphorical comparison contribute to the figurative meaning of a character, conflict, setting, theme, etc.?</p>
<p>6.C: Identify and explain the function of personification.</p>	<p>Which nonhuman entity is described with or ascribed human traits, and what are the specific human traits?</p> <p>How does making a comparison between a nonhuman entity and some human trait characterize the nonhuman entity and convey meaning?</p> <p>How does a narrator, speaker, or character convey an attitude toward a nonhuman entity by personifying it?</p>
<p>6.D: Identify and explain the function of an allusion.</p>	<p>Where does the text make a direct or subtle reference to a person, place, object, event, literary work, or idea that is culturally, historically, and/or literarily consequential?</p> <p>What is the background of the person, place, object, event, literary work, or idea that is referenced in the text?</p> <p>What are the points of comparison between the person, place, object, event, literary work, or idea that is referenced in the text and some aspect of the text?</p> <p>How does an allusion affect a reader’s experience with a text? What is the effect of an allusion on a reader who understands it? What aspects of meaning are lost by readers who fail to recognize or comprehend an allusion?</p>
<p>Skill Category 7: Develop textually substantiated arguments about interpretations of part or all of a text</p> <p>7.A: Develop a paragraph that includes 1) a claim that requires defense with evidence from the text and 2) the evidence itself.</p>	<p>How do you analyze a text to develop a defensible claim about that text?</p> <p>How do you develop a claim that requires a defense with evidence from the text—and is not simply an assertion of fact or statement of the obvious?</p> <p>How do you develop a claim that you can defend with logical reasoning and textual evidence?</p> <p>How do you develop a claim that acknowledges that contradictory evidence or alternative interpretations exist?</p> <p>How do you develop a claim that articulates how a text explores concepts related to a range of experiences, institutions, and/or social structures?</p>
<p>7.B: Develop a thesis statement that conveys a defensible claim about an interpretation of literature and that may establish a line of reasoning.</p>	<p>How do you write a thesis statement that clearly articulates a claim about an interpretation of literature?</p> <p>How do you preview the reasoning of your argument in your thesis statement, perhaps by considering how your reasoning is organized?</p>

<p>7.C: Develop commentary that establishes and explains relationships among textual evidence, the line of reasoning, and the thesis.</p>	<p>What are the logical reasons, inferences, and/or conclusions that justify your claim?</p> <p>How do you develop commentary that does more than restate plot details?</p> <p>How do you develop commentary that explicitly articulates your critical thinking and relationships among ideas rather than leaving it to readers to make inferences or connections on their own?</p> <p>How do you develop commentary that carefully explains your reasons, inferences, and/or conclusions; how textual evidence supports your reasoning; and how your reasoning justifies your claim?</p> <p>How do you develop commentary that conveys your complex argument about an interpretation of literature?</p>
<p>7.D: Select and use relevant and sufficient evidence to both develop and support a line of reasoning.</p>	<p>How can an interpretation of a text emerge from analyzing evidence and then forming a line of reasoning or from forming a line of reasoning and then identifying relevant evidence?</p> <p>Which information from a text can serve as evidence to develop and support your line of reasoning?</p> <p>How do you know when evidence is relevant to your reasoning?</p> <p>How do you introduce evidence into your argument and indicate the purpose of the evidence as it relates to your argument?</p> <p>How do you know when your evidence is sufficient to support a line of reasoning and justify your claim?</p> <p>How do you address evidence that contradicts your reasoning or your claim?</p>
<p>7.E: Demonstrate control over the elements of composition to communicate clearly.</p>	<p>How do you revise an argument's grammar and mechanics so that they follow established conventions of language to ensure clear communication of ideas?</p> <p>How can you select organizational patterns (e.g., chronological, compare-contrast, cause-effect, general to specific, order of importance, part-to-whole) to organize your reasoning and support?</p> <p>How do you organize clauses, sentences, and paragraphs to create coherence?</p> <p>How do you select and place transitions in sentences to create particular relationships between ideas and create coherence?</p> <p>How do you write sentences that convey equality/inequality of importance or balance/imbalance between ideas?</p> <p>How do you select words that clearly communicate ideas?</p>

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