

1999

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

The following excerpt is from Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Crossing* (1994). In this passage, the narrator describes a dramatic experience. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how McCarthy uses literary elements and techniques to convey the impact of the experience on the main character.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2000

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

The following excerpt is from the English satirist Joseph Addison in *The Spectator* (March 4, 1712). In this passage, Addison creates a character who keeps a diary. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Addison uses literary elements and techniques to develop the diarist and his society and analyze how these serve the author's satiric purpose.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2001

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

The following excerpt is from the novel *Tom Jones* (1749) by the English novelist and playwright Henry Fielding. In this passage, which occurs early in the novel, Squire Allworthy discovers an infant in his bed. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Fielding uses literary elements and techniques to portray the characters of Mr. Allworthy and Mrs. Deborah Wilkins.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2002

(Suggested time— 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from *Kiss and Tell* by Alain de Botton (1995). In the passage, the narrator, a young man in his early twenties, is attending a play with his new girlfriend Isabel when she unexpectedly discovers that her parents are in the theater. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how de Botton uses literary elements and techniques to develop a comic effect.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2002 B

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

The following excerpt is from the beginning of Annie Proulx's novel *The Shipping News* (1993). In this passage, Proulx introduces the main character, Quoye, a newspaper reporter. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Proulx uses literary elements and techniques to convey a vivid impression of Quoye as a character.

In your essay you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2003

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

The following excerpt is from “The Other Paris,” a 1953 short story by the Canadian writer Mavis Gallant. In this passage, the author explores the relationship between two characters - Carol and Harold. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Gallant uses literary elements and techniques to develop a social commentary.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2003 B

(Suggested time - 40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from Joyce Carol Oates's novel *We Were the Mulvaney*s (1996). In this passage, the speaker, Judd Mulvaney, remembers a moment from his childhood. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Oates uses literary elements and techniques to portray the character of Judd Mulvaney.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2004

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

The following excerpt is from the opening of “The Pupil” (1891), a story by Henry James. In this passage, Pemberton is seeking employment as a tutor for Mrs. Moreen’s son, Morgan. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how James uses literary elements and techniques to develop the three characters and the relationship between them.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2004 B

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

The following excerpt is from Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (1848), a novel about mill workers living in Manchester, England, in the 1840's. In this passage, George Wilson, one of the workers, goes to the house of Mr. Carson, the mill owner, to request care for a fellow worker dying of typhus. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Gaskell uses literary elements and techniques to develop a social commentary.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2005

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

The following passage is the complete text of a short story written in 1946 by Katharine Brush. In this passage, a narrator observes an interaction between a married couple. Read the story carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Brush uses literary elements and techniques to convey her purpose.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2005 B

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

The following excerpt is from *McTeague* by Frank Norris (1899). In this passage, Norris introduces his main character and provides a glimpse into his background. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Collins uses literary elements and techniques to convey the narrator's attitude toward McTeague.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2006

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

The following excerpt is from *Lady Windermere's Fan*, a play by Oscar Wilde, produced in 1892. In this passage, Lady Windermere converses with the Duchess of Berwick, an older woman concerned with how society views her and her daughter, and Lord Darlington, a flirtatious young gentleman of their acquaintance. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Wilde uses literary elements and techniques to portray the values of the characters and the nature of their society.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2006 B

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

The following excerpt is from *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins (1868). In this passage, Collins describes people from society's upper class. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Collins uses literary elements and techniques to convey the narrator's attitude toward the people he describes.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2007

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

The following excerpt is from Dalton Trumbo's novel *Johnny Got His Gun* (1939). In this passage, the main character, Joe, is remembering a camping trip that he took with his father when Joe was fifteen years old. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Trumbo uses literary elements and techniques to convey the relationship between the young man and his father.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2007 B

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

The following excerpt is from *Reading in the Dark* (1996) by Seamus Deane. In this passage, the narrator reflects on his childhood experiences with books and writing. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Deane uses literary elements and techniques to convey the impact those early experiences had on the narrator.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2008

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

The following excerpt is from *Fasting, Feasting*, a novel published in 1999 by Indian novelist Anita Desai. In this passage, Arun, an exchange student from India, joins members of his American host family for an afternoon at the beach. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Desai uses literary elements and techniques to portray Arun's experience.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2008 B

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

The following excerpt is from the opening of Jane Austen’s novel *Northanger Abbey* (1818). In this passage, Austen introduces the main character, Catherine Morland. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Austen uses literary elements and techniques to convey the complex character of Catherine.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2009

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

The following excerpt is from Ann Petry's 1946 novel, *The Street*. In this passage, Petry opens her book by establishing the setting where the story of the main character, Lutie Johnson, will take place. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Petry uses literary elements and techniques to develop Lutie Johnson's relationship to the urban setting.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2009 B

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

The following excerpt is from the opening of *Seraph on the Suwanee* (1948), a novel written by Zora Neale Hurston. In this passage, Hurston introduces the town of Sawley, a sawmill town that is the home of the main character, and its inhabitants. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Hurston uses literary elements and techniques to portray the town and the people who live there.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2010

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from Maria Edgeworth’s 1801 novel, *Belinda*. In this passage, the narrator provides a description of Clarence Hervey, one of the suitors of the novel’s protagonist, Belinda Portman. Mrs. Stanhope, Belinda’s aunt, hopes to improve her niece’s social prospects and therefore has arranged to have Belinda stay with the fashionable Lady Delacour.

Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Edgeworth uses literary elements and techniques to portray Clarence Hervey’s complex character.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2010 B

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

The following excerpt is from the story “Cherry Bomb” by Maxine Clair (1994). In this passage, the narrator recounts memories of a childhood summer. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Clair uses literary elements and techniques to portray the adult narrator’s memories of her fifth-grade summer world.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2011

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

The following excerpt is from the novel *Middlemarch* by George Eliot, the pen name of Mary Ann Evans (1819–1880). In the passage, Rosamond and Tertius Lydgate, a recently married couple, confront financial difficulties.

Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Eliot uses literary elements and techniques to portray these two characters and their complex relationship as husband and wife.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2011 B

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

The following excerpt is the opening of the novel *Kiss of the Fur Queen* (1998) by the Cree novelist and playwright Tomson Highway. In this passage, Abraham Okimasis, a Cree Indian, competes in a dog-sled race. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Highway uses literary elements and techniques to portray Okimasis' experience.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

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

The following excerpt is from the novel *Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena María Viramontes. In this passage, Viramontes focuses on the character of Estrella during a time of change. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Viramontes uses literary elements and techniques to convey the development of Estrella's character.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2013

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following passage is from D. H. Lawrence’s 1915 novel, *The Rainbow*. In this passage, the author focuses on the lives of the Brangwens, a farming family who lived in rural England during the late nineteenth century. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Lawrence uses literary elements and techniques to develop the characterization of the woman and her complex situation.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

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

The following excerpt is from the novel *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones (2003). In this passage, the narrator looks at the slave, Moses, who is lingering outside after the other slaves have gone to their homes. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Jones uses literary elements and techniques to develop the character of Moses.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2015

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from the opening of *The Beet Queen*, a 1986 novel by Louise Erdrich. In this passage, two children have arrived in the town of Argus, North Dakota. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Erdrich uses literary elements and techniques to portrays the impact of the environment on the two children.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2016

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886). In this passage, Michael Henchard and his daughter Elizabeth-Jane are reunited after years of estrangement. During this separation, Henchard has risen from poor seasonal farmworker to wealthy mayor of a small country town, while Elizabeth has supported herself by waiting tables at a tavern.

Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Hardy uses literary elements and techniques to convey the complex relationship between the two characters.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2017

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

The following excerpt is from *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle* (1751) by Tobias Smollett. In this passage, Mr. Pickle encounters Godfrey Gauntlet, the brother of his beloved Emilia. Read the passage carefully and consider how the two men confront their own uncontrolled emotions and yet attempt to abide by their social norms. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Smollett uses literary elements and techniques to develop the complex interplay between emotions and social propriety in the passage.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2018

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

The following excerpt is from *The Blithedale Romance* (1852) by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In this passage, two characters who have been living on the Blithedale farm—a community designed to promote an ideal of equality achieved through communal rural living—are about to part ways. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Hawthorne uses literary elements and techniques to portray the narrator's complex attitude towards Zenobia.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2019

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from William Dean Howell’s novel *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885). In this passage, the narrator introduces the two daughters of the main character. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the author uses literary elements and techniques to portray the complex experience of two sisters, Penelope and Irene, within their family and society.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

2021

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one—third of the total essay section score.)

The following excerpt is from Tim Winton’s novel *Breath*, published in 2008. In this passage, the main character, Bruce Pike, recalls an incident at a nearby river. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Winton uses literary elements and techniques to represent the complex response of the narrator to the incident at the riverbank.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.