AP Literature and Composition

**BREAKING DOWN THE AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION EXAM**

**THE EXAM**

1. **Multiple Choice** — 45%
   * 1 hour to answer approximately 55 questions
   * 4-5 prose or poetry selections
   * +1 for correct; students will not be penalized for incorrect answers
2. 10 minute break
3. **3 Essays** — 55%
   * Poem, Prose, and Open Question
   * 2 hours — 40 min. for each essay recommended
   * Essays are scored 1 to 9 (9 is the highest)
4. **Scores** are reported 1 to 5 (5 is the highest)

**SCORING**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AP Grade Conversion Chart**  **English Literature and Composition (Q)** | |
| Composite Score Range | AP Grade |
| 112-150 | 5 |
| 94-111 | 4 |
| 75-93 | 3 |
| 45-74 | 2 |
| 0-44 | 1 |

**THE THREE ESSAYS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AP Score** | **9** | **8** | **7** | **6** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Grade** | 100 | 95 | 90 | 85 | 80 | 75 | 70 | 65 | 60 |

**Essay Scoring Guide—Key Words**

* 8-9 – persuasive analysis—perceptive in analysis; insightful interpretations, convincing, consistent, effective, specific, clear
* 6-7 – competent, with reasonable analysis but less convincing; appropriate, plausible, supported, but less sophisticated
* 5 –analysis is superficial—often relying on paraphrasing; vague, formulaic, inadequately developed, or minor misinterpretations/misreadings; some surface errors or lack of organizations
* 3-4 – fails to offer adequate analysis—partial, unconvincing, or irrelevant; misinterpretations/misreadings, incoherent, underdeveloped, inconsistent, unclear, accumulation of errors.
* 1-2 – an attempt but assertions are presented with little clarity; misreadings; unacceptably brief or incoherent; serious errors in grammar and mechanics

**FOR EXAMPLE…**

Breakdown of the Multiple Choice Section of the 2004 Exam

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Passage | Prose or Poetry? | Genre or Type of Poem | Time  Period / Century Estimate | Skills / Topics that the Questions Cover |
| Questions 1-11 |  |  |  |  |
| Questions 12-24 |  |  |  |  |
| Questions 25-34 |  |  |  |  |
| Questions 34-45 |  |  |  |  |
| Questions 46-55 |  |  |  |  |