

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Total Time — 2 hours and 15 minutes

Question 1

Suggested reading and writing time — 55 minutes.

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the question, analyzing and evaluating the sources, and 40 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

After the reconstruction era, Jim Crow laws were enforced to structuralize racial segregation. The Jim Crow laws were designed to segregate blacks from whites. The phrase “separate but equal” was illegitimate because blacks were still restricted from voting and treated unfairly in the justice system. It was repealed because of the Civil Rights movement, which pushed for the equalization of races.

Carefully read the following seven sources, including the introductory information for each source. Then synthesize material from at least four of the sources and incorporate it into a coherent, well-developed essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies the notion that racism still exists in the justice system despite reforms.

Your argument should be the focus of your essay. Use the sources to develop your arguments and explain the reasoning for it. Avoid merely summarizing the sources. Indicate clearly which sources you are drawing from, whether through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. You may cite the sources as Source A, Source B, etc., or by using the descriptions in the parentheses.

Source A (Ortiz)

Source B (Bravin)

Source C (cartoon)

Source D (International Journal of Communication)

Source E (Claiborne)

Source F (Horowitz)

Source G (Alexander)

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Source A

Ortiz, Erik. "Inside 100 million police traffic stops: New evidence of racial bias." *NBC News*, 13 March 2019, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/inside-100-million-police-traffic-stops-new-evidence-racial-bias-n980556>

The following is an excerpt from a news article, posted on a Web site that tackles the latest and breaking stories in the United States.

Three years ago, an unmarked police car tailed Richard Jackson into an alley behind his home on Chicago's West Side and pulled him over. Jackson, a black Navy veteran, had become used to being stopped by police for what he believed was no reason since returning to Illinois from the military in 2012.

But this time was different. After an officer ran his driver's license, then said he was free to go, Jackson pointedly asked what he had done wrong. The officer, who is white, said Jackson had cut him off, which Jackson denied. The officer then issued Jackson citations for failing to yield at a left turn and stop sign, which Jackson also denied.

Although the officer did not allude to Jackson's race, the veteran believed that was why he was stopped. He successfully fought the two citations and filed a complaint with the Chicago police.

Using information obtained through public record requests, the Stanford Open Policing Project examined almost 100 million traffic stops conducted from 2011 to 2017 across 21 state patrol agencies, including California, Illinois, New York and Texas, and 29 municipal police departments, including New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The results show that police stopped and searched black and Latino drivers on the basis of less evidence than used in stopping white drivers, who are searched less often but are more likely to be found with illegal items. The study does not set out to conclude whether officers knowingly engaged in racial discrimination, but uses a more nuanced analysis of traffic stop data to infer that race is a factor when people are pulled over — and that it's occurring across the country.

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Source B

Brawin, Jess. "Supreme Court Reaffirms Rule Against Racial Bias in Jury Selection." *Wall Street Journal*, 21 June 2019, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-reaffirms-rule-against-racial-bias-in-jury-selection-11561129358>

The following article about recent jury selection relating to Supreme Court cases, was published in Washington D.C..

The Supreme Court on Friday reaffirmed its strict prohibition against racial bias in jury selection, voting to overturn a black defendant's murder conviction in Mississippi after a white prosecutor dismissed 41 of 42 African Americans possible jurors over the course of six trials for the same crimes.

Writing for the 7-2 majority, Justice Brett Kavanaugh said the "extraordinary facts of this case" required the court's intervention, even as the ruling broke "no new legal ground."

He recounted the court's equal-protection jurisprudence from the 14th Amendment forward, citing an 1873 precedent that declared its objective as "the freedom of the slave race, the security and firm establishment of that freedom" and protection from former oppressors.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan joined the decision.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's only African American, filed a furious dissent, dismissing the ruling as a feel-good exercise that pandered to media interest in the case and exhibited its own bias—against state courts in the South. Justice Neil Gorsuch joined most of that dissent.

In trial courts, lawyers can dismiss prospective jurors for cause—for instance, personal acquaintance with the defendant or victim. In most courts, lawyers also get a number of peremptory challenges, which allow them to eliminate prospective jurors without stating a reason. But in a 1986 case, *Batson v. Kentucky*, the Supreme Court held it unconstitutional to use a peremptory challenge based on race.

"Equal justice under law requires a criminal trial free of racial discrimination in the jury selection process," Justice Kavanaugh wrote, adding that *Batson* ended the widespread practice of prosecutors routinely striking black prospective jurors in cases involving black defendants.

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Source C

White, Michael. "How the 'nephew effect' works for white people." *Riverhead News Review*, 5 December 2014, <https://riverheadnewsreview.timesreview.com/2014/12/60422/column-how-the-nephew-effect-works-for-white-people/>

The following cartoon was published in the *Riverhead News Review*.



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Source D

Courey, Jillian. Fridkin, Kim. Thompson Joshua, Wintersieck Amanda. "Race and Police Brutality: The Importance of Media Framing." *International Journal of Communication*, 2017.

This article discussing racial framing of minorities by police was posted online by ijoc.org

In this study, we examine how media framing of the use of force by a police officer affects people's attitudes toward the police officer, the suspect, and general impressions of the event. Several scholars, relying on time series public opinion data, have examined the relationship between incidents of police misconduct and attitudes toward law enforcement. These researchers have found that people's confidence in the police decreases significantly following a highly publicized incident of police misconduct (e.g., Kaminski & Jefferis, 1998; Sigelman, Bledsoe, Welch, & Combs, 1996; Weitzer, 2002); however, the attitudes of Whites tend to rebound much more quickly than the attitudes of minorities (Tuch & Weitzer, 1997).

Levin and Thomas (1997) conducted an experiment to examine how exposure to the use of excessive force by police affected people's views of the police. In the experiment, participants viewed a videotape of a violent arrest of an African American suspect by two police officers. The experiment stimulus (i.e., the videotape) remained the same in the experimental conditions, with one exception: the race of the arresting officers. The authors found that participants' assessments of the officers' use of excessive force was linked to the race of the officer. Specifically, both African American and White respondents believed the arresting officers used excessive force when they viewed the videotape with the White police officers.

Finally, Chermak, McGarrell, and Gruenewald (2006) find that media coverage of high-profile instances of police misconduct significantly influence citizens' evaluations of the guilt of the law enforcement officers involved in the incident. Specifically, the researchers conducted a two-wave public opinion survey before and after an incident of police misconduct in Indianapolis, Indiana, and they discovered that people with more exposure to news coverage of the incident were more likely to view the officers involved as guilty.

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Source E

Claiborne, Shane. "A Black Man Convicted By a Racist Juror Is About to Be Executed." *Time*, 21 September 2017, <https://time.com/4949761/keith-tharpe-death-penalty-supreme-court/>

This article, published in the Time Magazine, claims the legacy of discrimination that still pertains in society.

In 1998, lawyers seeking to appeal Tharpe's 1991 conviction interviewed a juror in Tharpe's case named Barney Gattie. In their discussion, which the attorneys documented in an affidavit that he confirmed and initialed (though later contested), Gattie claimed there is a difference between "good black folks" like the victim's family and "*****," and says that he voted for the death penalty because he considered Tharpe the latter. He talked about kicking "*****" who "act up" out of the store he owned in the same small town where the crime happened. He randomly chimed in on the O.J. Simpson case, contending that the "white woman... wouldn't have been killed if she hadn't married that black man." He said he "wondered if black people even have souls."

It's important to remember the trial of Keith Tharpe took place in Georgia. The roots of the death penalty are embedded deep within the horrific history of lynching. As lynchings decreased, legal executions increased. Meanwhile, as civil rights leader Bryan Stevenson recently wrote: "Many defendants of the era learned that the prospect of being executed rather than lynched did little to introduce fairness to the outcome." Two-thirds of those executed in the 1930s were black. As African Americans fell to 22% of the South's population by 1950, they made up 75% of the executions. And today — 2017 — even though African Americans make up only 13% of the nation's population, 43% of death row is black, and 35% of those executed since 1976 have been black.

Former Confederate states are keeping the death penalty alive in America. Where lynchings happened 100 years ago is where executions happen most often today.

Last year, Georgia had more executions than any state in America — and alone constituted almost half of the executions in the whole country in 2016. It's also true that Georgia had the second-most lynchings in the country from 1877–1950, with 589 documented cases. The legacy of slavery remains intact.

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Source F

Horowitz, Juliana. "2. Views of Racial Inequality." *Pew Research Center*, 9 April 2019,
<https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/04/09/views-of-racial-inequality/>

This passage was published by Pew Research Center which emphasizes on social and demographic trends in present society.

White Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party are about twice as likely as white Republicans and Republican leaders to say being white helps one's ability to get ahead (78% vs. 38%). Meanwhile, 22% of white Republicans say being white hurts people's ability to get ahead at least a little (compared with 3% of white Democrats). White Democrats are more likely than black Democrats to say whites have an advantage (78% vs. 71%)

Among blacks, 76% of those with a bachelor's degree or more education say being white helps a lot, compared with 61% of those with some college and 49% of those with a high school diploma or less education (a majority in this group – 57% – says being white helps at least a little). And while about six-in-ten blacks ages 30 and older say there's a lot of advantage in being white, about half (49%) of those younger than 30 say the same (again, majorities of blacks across age groups say being white helps at least a little).

Asked about the extent to which being black helps or hurts one's ability to get ahead, 68% of blacks and 64% of Asians say being black hurts at least a little; 55% of whites and half of Hispanics say the same. Blacks are more likely than other racial or ethnic groups to say being black hurts a lot: 42% say this vs. a third or fewer among Asians, whites and Hispanics.

Among whites, blacks and Hispanics, those with at least a bachelor's degree are more likely than those with less education to say race hurts blacks' ability to get ahead. Some 81% of black college graduates and 74% of those with some college say this, compared with 57% of those with less education.

White Democrats and white Republicans differ widely in their perceptions of the challenges blacks face. About three-quarters of white Democrats (77%) say being black hurts people's ability to get ahead at least a little; 36% of white Republicans say the same. Three-in-ten white Republicans – vs. 8% of white Democrats – say being black helps.

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Source G

Alexander, Michelle. The New Jim Crow : Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. New York : [Jackson, Tenn.] :New Press; Perseus Distribution, 2010.

This passage is from The New Jim Crow which was published by The New Press in New York.

Imagine you are Emma Faye Stewart, a thirty-year-old, single African American mother of two who was arrested as part of a drug sweep in Hearne, Texas.¹ All but one of the people arrested were African American. You are innocent. After a week in jail, you have no one to care for your two small children and are eager to get home. Your court-appointed attorney urges you to plead guilty to a drug distribution charge, saying the prosecutor has offered probation. You refuse, steadfastly proclaiming your innocence. Finally, after almost a month in jail, you decide to plead guilty so you can return home to your children. Unwilling to risk a trial and years of imprisonment, you are sentenced to ten years probation and ordered to pay \$1,000 in fines, as well as court and probation costs. You are also now branded a drug felon. You are no longer eligible for food stamps; you may be discriminated against in employment; you cannot vote for at least twelve years; and you are about to be evicted from public housing. Once homeless, your children will be taken from you and put in foster care.

A judge eventually dismisses all cases against the defendants who did not plead guilty. At trial, the judge finds that the entire sweep was based on the testimony of a single informant who lied to the prosecution. You, however, are still a drug felon, homeless, and desperate to regain custody of your children.