

# AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

## 2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 2: Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

General Directions: This scoring guide will be useful for most of the essays that you read, but in problematic cases, please consult your table leader. The score that you assign should reflect your judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, style, and mechanics. **Reward the writers for what they do well.** The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by one point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a three (3).

**9-8** These essays offer a persuasive analysis of Hardy's portrayal of the complex relationship between the two characters, Michael Henchard and his daughter Elizabeth-Jane. The writers make a strong case for their interpretation of the complex relationship between the two characters. They may consider elements such as tone, word choice, and detail, and they engage the text through apt and specific references. Although these essays may not be error-free, their perceptive analysis is apparent in writing that is clear and effectively organized. Essays scored a nine (9) reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored an eight (8).

**7-6** These essays offer a reasonable analysis of Hardy's portrayal of the complex relationship between the two characters. The writers provide a sustained, competent reading of the passage, with attention to elements such as tone, word choice, and detail. Although these essays may not be error-free and are less perceptive or less convincing than 9-8 essays, the writers present their ideas with clarity and control and refer to the text for support. Essays scored a seven (7) present better developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a six (6).

**5** These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading of the passage, but tend to be superficial or thin in their discussion of Hardy's portrayal of the complex relationship between the two characters. While containing some analysis of the passage, implicit or explicit, the discussion of how elements such as tone, word choice, and detail contribute to the portrayal of complex relationship may be slight, and support from the passage may tend toward summary or paraphrase. While these writers demonstrate adequate control of language, their essays may be marred by surface errors. These essays are not as well conceived, organized, or developed as 7-6 essays.

**4-3** These lower-half essays fail to offer an adequate analysis of the passage. The analysis may be partial, unconvincing, or irrelevant; the writers may ignore the portrayal of the complex relationship between the characters or the use of elements to develop the relationship. These essays may be characterized by an unfocused or repetitive presentation of ideas, an absence of textual support, or an accumulation of errors. Essays scored a three (3) may contain significant misreading and/or demonstrate inept writing.

**2-1** These essays compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4-3 range. They may persistently misread the passage or be unacceptably brief. They may contain pervasive errors that interfere with understanding. Although some attempt has been made to respond to the prompt, the writer's ideas are presented with little clarity, organization, or support from the passage. Essays scored a one (1) contain little coherent discussion of the passage.

**0** These essays give a response that is completely off topic or inadequate; there may be some mark or a drawing or a brief reference to the task.

-- These essays are entirely blank.

Version 1.0