

AP Lit & Composition Exam Format

Format: The exam lasts three hours and is made up of two sections: multiple choice and essay.

Multiple Choice

This section has 50-60 questions, which will consist of analyzing 2-3 prose passages and 2-3 poetry passages. **There is no penalty for incorrect answers. Therefore, even if you don't know, it is better to guess.**

Essay

There are three separate essays in this section: poetry, prose, and literature.

- **Poetry** - Analyze the author's poetry technique, including use of literary devices and elements. Examples of devices include rhyme, onomatopoeia, and alliteration while devices include structure, tone, and figurative language.
- **Prose** - Analyze a passage from a novel, short story, or play and respond to the prompt provided.
- **Literature** - Pick a novel or play that you have read and know well--make sure that it is fiction--and analyze it in response to a question provided. This section will often provide a quote and give a very open-ended prompt to respond to. A list of suggested literary works is provided but it is not mandatory that you choose from it.

*We will do a **GREAT DEAL** of practice with all three of the free response questions (FRQ), now that we are acquiring a broader exposure to different types of literature.

Scoring

Multiple choice accounts for 45% of your total score while essays comprise the remaining 55%. Essays are graded on a scale of 1 to 9, 9 being the best. Like all other AP Exams, the scores are combined together on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the best. You generally want to shoot for a 4 or 5 to ensure that you will receive college credit for the course.