

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

## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1

The score should reflect a judgment of the essay's quality as a whole. Remember that students had only 15 minutes to read the sources and 40 minutes to write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the essay as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case may an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than a 2.

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- 9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for a score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in development, or impressive in their control of language.

### 8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 **effectively** develop a position on what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. They develop their position by effectively synthesizing\* at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and convincing. Their prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

- 7 Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for a score of 6 but provide more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

### 6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 **adequately** develop a position on what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. They develop their position by adequately synthesizing at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and sufficient. The language may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

- 5 Essays earning a score of 5 develop a position on what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. They develop their position by synthesizing at least three sources, but how they use and explain sources is somewhat uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The argument is generally clear, and the sources generally develop the student's position, but the links between the sources and the argument may be strained. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the student's ideas adequately.

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\* For the purposes of scoring, *synthesis* means referring to sources to develop a position and citing them accurately.

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## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1 (continued)

#### 4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** develop a position on what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. They develop their position by synthesizing at least two sources, but the evidence or explanations used may be inappropriate, insufficient, or less convincing. The sources may dominate the student's attempts at development, the link between the argument and the sources may be weak, or the student may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify the sources. The prose generally conveys the student's ideas but may be less consistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

- 3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in developing a position on what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. They are less perceptive in their understanding of the sources, or their explanation or examples may be particularly limited or simplistic. The essays may show less maturity in control of writing.

#### 2 Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in developing a position on what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. They may merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the sources rather than citing the sources themselves. These essays may misread the sources, fail to develop a position, or substitute a simpler task by merely summarizing or categorizing the sources or by merely responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose of these essays often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of control.

- 1 Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation, weak in their control of writing, or do not cite even one source.
- 0 Indicates an on-topic response that receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.
- Indicates a blank response or one that is completely off topic.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1.

1A  
1 of 3

Political leaders breathed a sigh of relief when World War II ended in 1946. Unforeseen though at that time was the beginning of a new war; the Cold War. When American officials were notified of the launching of Sputnik I, the world again held its breath. The human exploration of space has been debated ~~on~~ across the globe since that renowned moment. Space exploration, many argue, is diverting attention ~~from fun~~ and funds from more important matters at hand. Yet, is not it obvious that these "issues" are not important? I say, there are no issues to consider in making decisions about space exploration. Human greed and desire should be put in the forefront on all our decisions.

First of all, the human race must expand. We must fill out every corner of our galaxy to grace it with our presence. McLean in her article is foolish (Source F). Stewardship? What does it matter if the Earth crumbles? Our Earth has given us nothing but problems. ~~What~~ It is home to annoying creatures who are not human, who display to us their vibrant and loud colors, making us jealous. It is home to giant mountain ranges that spite our hopes of being majestic and alluring. McLean warns us of exploitation. but what does it matter? All that matters is that we live. Even if the Earth dies, space exploration shall allow us to fill our galaxies with only humans, the greatest utopian society of all.

Greenberg (Source F) also brings in another invalid point. "Back contamination" is an atrocious problem, but who can object to "forward contamination"? Manifest Destiny calls for humans to spread out in the universe. If these alien ecosystems cannot survive due to our meddling, then it is natural selection at work. We, as humans, are the fittest, and therefore have the right to destroy everything else.



1.

Write in the box the number of the question you are at on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1A  
2 of 3

In source A, David Livingston ~~was~~ evoked the economical importance of space exploration. The money spent on space research employs millions of people. Take source B for example (photo) and imagine how long and how many people it took to build that. Money poured into NASA, the billions and billions of dollars, is only good for mankind. Other departments that take government funding are not nearly successful. The NIH (source D) is one of these. The five year survival rate for childhood rose to only 80%! It's a complete failure. It should have raised it to 100%. Apparently diverting funds ~~from health~~ from health for space exploration is a sound decision. In fact, we should spend billions more on space exploration because the health of our people is much less important than the expansion of our people.

In addition, space exploration unites our globe. As ~~test~~ Michael Collins states in his article, seeing Earth from space will unite us from our differences. The space Exploration should be expanded to allow everyone to go. The money this would cost should not even be considered because it would be spent for the greater good. Livingston even qualifies this. All the countries want to "get into the manned space act" This is not, obviously, for global, technological supremacy. Instead, these nations want to get in to demonstrate their eagerness to work together and for world peace. To be honest, it really wasn't the space race that intensified the cold war, it was just that the Soviet-Union and the United States wanted to create world equality. That's why they both launched space explorations on opposite sides of the globe.

Space exploration should not be a debate and it isn't a debate



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1.

1A  
3 of 3

any longer. The answer has already been made clear. Human greed and desire into the forefront and everything else, no matter how important, into the backburner!

#

Every kid dreams about going to space. How far could I hit a baseball on the moon? I bet I could jump so high. Space is truly a wonder for us all. ~~There are moral, financial and human questions that must be answered.~~ Astronauts are heroes to everyone. For instance, Apollo XIII\* possibly has the most heroic tale of all time. They had some technical difficulties on their trip, and were going to have to manually land the space craft on earth. The tricky part was the fact that to land a space craft on earth you must go through a two degree window. Too steep and the space craft burns up in the atmosphere; too shallow and the space craft will skip off the earth and into space. The men of (Apollo XIII)\* landed their craft successfully and became legends.

Space also has its practical side. For example the switch from computers the size of a room to the size of a cardboard box was made so that the astronauts could have a computer on the way to the moon. This push for technology has driven out plenty of other devices as well.

The last major advantage of space travel

\* there is a picture of a apollo rocket on page 15



1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1B  
2 of 3

is its diplomatic effects. The US collaborates some what with the Chinese and the Russians when it comes to space travel. Livingston said, "It shows us the way for how we can all live together in peace." So if we can't live together on earth maybe we will be able to work it out in space. The "space Race" of the Cold War is over, and collaboration is now key.

Obviously there are major consequential questions space raises, ethical, financial, and of course the most important one, is it worth losing men's lives.

While it is a small amount of tax money used in NASA percentage wise, it is still a huge sum of money that during a financial crisis and war could be used elsewhere. Source C says that six percent of tax money goes to NASA as well as ten other major institutions. So it is most likely that NASA gets less than a penny for every tax dollar. Of course when billions, maybe trillions of tax dollars are collected each year, that becomes a lot. The man in Source H, says he loves space's awe and might, but we should leave the money on earth where it would help humanity in a more direct manner.

There are so people that do not



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1

1 B  
3 of 3

Worry about the money, but about the ethics. Source E says that we already corrupted earth, so why should we do the same to space. Is it really our right to use the universe to benefit earth? I don't know, it's a tough question. Also, if there is life in space, are we supposed to find it?

Lastly, we must ask ourselves what a man's life is worth. If it is worth taking a few steps on Mars, then by all means this is a good idea. But the truth of the matter is that it is not worth a step on Mars. Buzz Aldrin is a man often forgotten in history, but he died in a mission to the moon simulation. His craft caught fire, and he died. ~~He was the first man to walk on the moon.~~ #

The way human imagination how do they explore financial and ethical consequences. The space exploration has spent out on the U.S. meaning that they are starting to have financial problems. That have no benefits. They took in the U.S. economy and how the agencies had gone into debt. U.S. tried to make the earth a better place and they tried to inspire other European countries.

The U.S. NASA had to take the chance to launch the investment. how they had bargain to quantitatively and qualitatively. All they wanted was to have peace on this earth. ~~Erhanes~~ Erhanes had invested the path to a better place but by the government spending private money. Government had engage the new century. with the challenges countries spent outrageous money. May want to have peace in earth.



Question 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answered on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1C  
2 of 2

How much spent 17 billion dollars  
nasa has coffers of around 5.3 billion  
dollars. The crew of Launch  
Vehicle had built the space  
craft-mas how they occur.

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

## 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 1

#### Overview

The synthesis question measures students' ability to develop a position on a given topic by referring to sources. This question also requires that students demonstrate an ability to summarize, paraphrase, and quote properly from these sources and to cite them accurately. This year's question asked students to use at least three of eight provided sources to develop a position about what issues should be considered most important in making decisions about space exploration. Many students had some background knowledge and may have formed some preliminary opinions on the issue of space exploration, but to write on this topic successfully, they had to rely on the information provided in the eight sources. In addition to several textual sources, students were also provided with two visual sources, a photograph of a NASA rocket at the launch pad and information about the federal budget, presented both as a pie chart and in a table.

#### Sample: 1A

##### Score: 9

This unconventional yet effective essay uses irony and wit as it argues that humanity cannot be contained, that “[w]e must fill out every corner of our galaxy” and “grace it with our presence.” While most students' responses took a more direct approach to the answer, making arguments related to keeping Earth safe from alien contamination and to humans being stewards of the cosmos, this student chooses, instead, to respond to the sources with sarcasm, arguing that “[h]uman greed and desire” should be at “the forefront.” The student concludes the essay by stating that “everything else, no matter how important,” should be put on the “backburner.” The language in the essay is skillfully controlled, and the ironic tone is consistent from beginning to end. The response is characterized by an impressive command of language and a thorough development of the argument. Transitions between paragraphs are smooth and demonstrate the interconnectedness of the essay's position. The student synthesizes many of the sources, creating a conversation about the value or insignificance of space exploration. Throughout each step in this process, the student takes issue with the sources, as exemplified by the comment that “Greenburg (Source F) also brings in another invalid point.” The student brings prior knowledge to the response at appropriate points (“Manifest Destiny calls for humans to spread out in the universe. . . . We, as humans, are the fittest, and therefore have the right to destroy everything else”). This dark essay shines a sophisticated light on the notions that some less skeptical responses relied upon. However unusual, this essay is an example of a highly effective response.

#### Sample: 1B

##### Score: 5

The essay opens with a personal response to space exploration, drawing on the student's prior knowledge of American space exploration and the technological advances that it helped to bring about, as well as on Source A. It is not until the fourth paragraph that the essay actually takes a position on the issues that should be considered when making decisions about space travel. While this essay promises a discussion of the ethical, financial, and safety issues related to space exploration, it does not deliver this discussion in a full or critical manner. The student quotes sources without providing much context, often simply writing something like “Source C says. . . .” Additionally, the commentaries on the sources are brief and may require the reader to make inferences about the student's meaning. Although it is sometimes difficult to follow the organization and logic of the essay, the response does take a position and use the sources in an effort to marshal the reader toward a conclusion. The limited information presented and the uneven use of sources are counterbalanced by the student's clear understanding of the prompt and the source materials. This essay contains elements of both an adequate and an inadequate response.

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**Question 1 (continued)**

**Sample: 1C**

**Score: 1**

This underdeveloped and incoherent response demonstrates little success in addressing the prompt. It takes no position on the issues that should be considered when making decisions about space exploration. Although some of the language in the response is drawn from the sources (veiled references to “quantitatively and qualitatively,” mention of NASA’s “coffers”), there is no evidence that the student has understood the information or points of view presented in the sources. The sources have not been used to build or illuminate the student’s response, and no citations appear in the essay. The language and syntax used demonstrate little control of language, often creating confusion at the sentence level.