

AP[®] ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3
(Sacrifice)

The score should reflect the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, style, and mechanics. **Reward the students 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 3.

- 9–8** These essays offer a well-focused and persuasive analysis of how a particular sacrifice illuminates a character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. Using apt and specific textual support, these essays analyze how both the character and the work are shaped by a particular sacrifice. Although these essays may not be error-free, they make a strong case for their interpretation and discuss the literary work with significant insight and understanding. Essays scored a 9 reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored an 8.
- 7–6** These essays offer a reasonable analysis of how a particular sacrifice illuminates a character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. These essays analyze how both the character and the work are shaped by a particular sacrifice. While these essays demonstrate insight and understanding, their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, or less specific (or some combination of the three) in supporting detail than that of the 9–8 essays. Essays scored a 7 present better-developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a 6.
- 5** These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading, but they tend to be superficial or thinly developed in analysis. They often rely upon plot summary that contains some analysis, implicit or explicit. The essays attempt to discuss how a character’s values are illuminated by a particular sacrifice and how the sacrifice deepens the meaning of the work as a whole. They may demonstrate a rather simplistic understanding of the character’s sacrifice or how that sacrifice impacts the work as a whole. While these essays demonstrate adequate control of language, they 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 how a particular sacrifice illuminates a character’s values or provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole. The analysis may be partial, unsupported, or irrelevant. The essays may reflect an incomplete or oversimplified understanding of how a character’s values are illuminated by a particular sacrifice and how the sacrifice deepens the meaning of the work as a whole. They may rely on plot summary alone. These essays may be characterized by an unfocused or repetitive presentation of ideas, an absence of textual support, or an accumulation of errors; they may also lack control over the elements of college-level composition. Essays scored a 3 may contain significant misreading, demonstrate inept writing, or both.
- 2–1** Although these essays make some attempt to respond to the prompt, they compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4–3 range. Often, they are unacceptably brief or incoherent in presenting ideas. They may be poorly written on several counts and contain distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. The remarks may be presented with little clarity, organization, or supporting evidence. Essays scored a 1 contain little coherent discussion of the text.

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Question 3 (continued)

- 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.

3

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

3A
(1 of 4)

Society often begrudges the individual's wants for the betterment of the many. This is especially true in *The Town and the Country*, where in the whiskey priest ~~is~~ is hunted for his religious affiliation. However, his commitment to his cause spurs him, despite how his unwavering fidelity often gets him into trouble. Ultimately, his life is not as important to him as everyone else's. He sacrifices his safety in favor of his good conscience and, more importantly, his religion.

The whiskey priest's commitment to his cause is the most ~~of~~ evident reason that his safety is ~~is~~ jeopardized. Even though the other priests all fled the congregation and denounced the church, he feels a need to continue to spread the Lord's word, even if doing so is a direct threat to his wellbeing. He travels from town to village performing baptisms, last rights, and reciting prayers, hoping to save as many people as he can. ~~As a result of~~ ^{Despite} his sacrifice and work, he generally subsists on drink and sleeps hidden away in sheds and barns. At one point, he must communicate through



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

3

3A
(2 of 4)

Morse Code just to avoid capture. However, despite his constant hunger & tiredness, he persists. His dedication to his cause justifies, in his mind, his forfeit of health and safety.

Trust and fidelity are two of the most ~~most~~ valuable virtues to the whiskey priest. He must trust the townspeople to whom he reveals himself not to turn him in. He also trusts his own personal Judas, even though he has a foreboding instinct insisting that he not. Fidelity matters to him; even when he knows that the man plans on betraying him, he keeps his promise to help him into the city. He knows that aiding Judas will result in his arrest and execution, but he ~~persists~~ ~~because~~ he values honesty, and he wants to keep his promise to the man. He also wants to help him, ^{financially} as the whiskey priest has a bounty and the man is poor. The whiskey priest considers his duty to the people more important than his own prosperity, and values ~~his~~ loyalty immensely, even at his own expense.



3

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3A
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Ultimately, the whiskey priest puts the needs of the many over the needs of the few. The people that he believes ~~the~~ he is saving are more important to him than his own life. He could renounce his religion and be safe from the persecution of the lieutenant, but saving ~~the~~ ^{as many} souls ~~as~~ as he can, before his capture takes precedence. Despite the mistrust and disuse of some, like his family, including his daughter, he weathers the emotional pain and physical threat so as to aid those in need.

This is eventually his downfall; Judas tells him that a criminal, the Gringo, requires last rites. The whiskey priest knows that this is a trap, but he cannot deny ~~the~~ someone, even a criminal, a chance to be saved. By helping the Gringo, the ~~whiskey priest is~~ lieutenant ^{has a chance to} capture ~~the~~ the whiskey priest and he is executed. His own safety, and ultimately his life, is a sacrifice that he is willing to make in order to help others and to save them. ~~is the~~

In the ~~choice~~ ^{choice} between safety and spirituality, the whiskey priest chooses religion. He values commitment to a noble cause, trust and fidelity.



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

3

3A
(4 of 4)

and the safety of others, over his personal wellbeing. This is a common choice in the novel, ~~paralleled~~ paralleled by other characters. One ex-priest's impotency ~~demonstrates how~~ ^{suggests that the} whiskey priest made the right decision; the selfish character embodies sadness, weakness, and impotency. However, other characters who help the whiskey priest despite threats to his safety are often richly rewarded. Overall, the novel promotes self-sacrifice in the name of public and religious good. The martyrdom of the whiskey priest lived on in the unnamed Father who appears at the novel's conclusion, suggesting that he was saved in the afterlife for his good works and that he lives on through other members of the congregation. When faced with choice between what is right and what is easy, virtuousness, morality, and ^{the} substantiation of one's values justifies the surrender of comfort. After all, values are only as substantial as the sacrifices required to keep them.

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

0:3

3B
(1 of 2)

Typically, ~~of~~ ~~several~~ such things as sacrifice and surrender are seen as negative in the sense that something ~~that~~ someone cherishes ~~best~~ must be given up in order for a greater event to occur. However, it is possible for sacrifice to be a positive aspect of one's personality. ~~Within Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre,"~~ Within Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre," the main protagonist, Jane, repeatedly ~~sacrifices~~ sacrifices her ~~pride~~ pride, her ~~time~~ ~~time~~, and her love for the sake of others in most cases and sometimes for the sake of her own well-being.

Jane is introduced as a poor girl who is commonly mistreated by those who should care for her the most. She is eventually sent away ~~and~~ by her family, but through perseverance she overcomes an influx of adversity and creates a comfortable life for herself. ~~The most significant moment~~ The most significant moment ~~of~~ of Jane's sacrifice is when she is called upon to return to the family that rejected her for so many years. Jane surrenders her pride and charity to take care of her aunt who never showed her the slightest bit of love in all the years she had spent with her. Jane tries to show the sick, dying woman love, but even as her aunt takes her last breaths, that love is not reciprocated. ~~It~~

One of the most difficult things to sacrifice or surrender is one's pride. Pride is something that you build and cherish and ~~it~~ for Jane to push back and eliminate all the negative feelings she has against her aunt, was a true sacrifice. ~~It is~~ Jane swallowing her pride and sacrificing all of her inner rage and anger that she deserves to unleash on her former family must have taken a great degree of strength. This sacrifice allows readers to understand that Jane has positive values and that ~~she~~ she is able to forgive even after she has been mistreated so much. It can also be assumed that Jane's forgiveness indicates that she may ~~not~~ value her harsh upbringing in the sense that she would not be the strong independent woman she turned out



Q: 3:

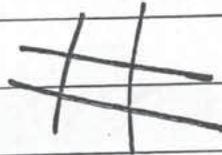
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to be.

Jane's sacrifice has a large effect on the book's understanding as a whole. Without her surrender and sacrifice, many would not have taken the same values and morals away from the book as they did. If it were not for Jane's forgiveness of her aunt, ~~some~~ Jane could be viewed as a woman trying to achieve success in spite of her harsh upbringing. They could see Jane as merely trying to find revenge. Due to her sacrifice, readers are able to understand that Jane decided to be the bigger, more mature person, no matter what life threw her way. Ultimately, Jane's sacrifice shows the true moral of the novel, unconditional perseverance and forgiveness.

In conclusion, within Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre," the main protagonist's sacrifice of pride and her ideals ultimately shapes the understanding and morals of the ~~novel~~ novel as a whole. Although many may see Jane's sacrifices as negative, one may notice the outcome is positive, for Jane achieved success and happiness regardless of what she is challenged with every day.



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

Q3

3C
(1+2)

In the novel Othello, Othello sacrifices his nobility and life for the sake of his pride, revealing the idea that ones pride is a dangerous ~~and~~ uncontrollable entity.

Because Othello is a tragic hero he must be capable of great loss, Shakespeare depicts this by making Othello a noble moor who has worked his way to be where he is at. Othello has a noble job and wife that he was ready to sacrifice in sake of his pride. ~~the noble tears of Desdemona~~ ~~betray~~ ~~his pride goes crazy and the great nobles~~ ~~he built himself up to be~~ ~~Shakespeare~~ ^{amplifies} the final act of the murder of Desdemona, to symbolize the decision Othello made to protect his pride. By allowing only candle light to illuminate the faces of Othello and Desdemona, as the visionarily converse intensifies the moments before Othello makes his character defining decision ~~whether~~ whether to sacrifice his life or his pride. ~~As~~ As Othello blows out the candle, the candle ^{with} ~~is~~ ^{becomes} a symbol of his dark decision of sacrificing everything ~~for~~ ^{for his} his pride. This final decision defines Othello



Q3

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character ~~and~~ ^{and} confined ~~to~~ ^{with} to the pride he allows to control him. By making pride Othello's enevitable hamartia, Shakes emphasizes the ~~the~~ danger and consuming nature of pride's monstrous hold. Othello's decision of suicide characterizes him as a failed hero which ultimately conveyed fire-like qualities of pride, consuming and destructive.

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Question 3

Overview

Students were asked to select a character from a novel or play who has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights his or her values. They then were to write an essay that analyzed how the act illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

The question presented students with a complex writing opportunity that focused initially on describing a character's sacrifice, surrender, or forfeiture, and then on analyzing what the act reveals about the character's values. Finally, the question invited students to comment on how the matters of sacrifice and values provided for a deeper understanding of the whole work. Since Question 3 is the "open question," students were supplied a list of suggested texts, or they could — and many times did — select another novel or play of comparable literary merit for their analyses.

Sample: 3A (*The Power and the Glory*)

Score: 9

This sophisticated and elegant analysis of Greene's novel asserts that the whiskey priest "puts the needs of the many over the needs of the few" and builds to the conclusion that "[w]hen faced with [a] choice between what is right and what is easy, virtuousness, morality, and the substantiation [*sic*] of one's values justifies the surrender of comfort." The essay offers strong textual evidence in the form of several detailed episodes from the novel to support the argument and sustains the analysis deftly in every single paragraph. In these well-conceived paragraphs, the student delineates different facets of the priest's selflessness — his sacrifice of "health and safety," "his own prosperity," "and ultimately his life" — and clearly explains that the source of this selflessness is the priest's commitment to helping others and to living by his creed. The essay also deftly identifies the priest as an archetypal figure: "[h]e also trusts his own personal Judas even though he has a foreboding instinct insisting that he not." Not only does this student choose an excellent example of a character whose personal sacrifices, including his eventual "martyrdom," illuminate his personal value system, but the essay also makes it abundantly clear how the various sacrifices of the whiskey priest contribute to the interconnected discussion of ethics and volition in the novel as a whole. Although this essay is not error free and occasionally exhibits infelicitous phrasing or word choice, the analysis remains tightly focused through to the final thoughtful sentence.

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Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3B (*Jane Eyre*)

Score: 5

While this essay proffers a plausible argument, it renders a superficial response to the prompt that focuses more on Jane Eyre’s magnanimity and her propensity to forgive those who have trespassed against her than on sacrifice as such. Taking Jane’s forgiveness of her Aunt Reed’s harsh treatment of her in childhood as its example of sacrifice, the essay focuses on Jane’s surrendering of her pride; this act of surrender, it suggests, indicates Jane’s growth and maturity. The essay thereby attempts to address the novel’s broader discussion of integrity and moral turpitude, but it does not offer a reasonable, evidenced argument to support this attempt, instead often relying on assertion: “[d]ue to her sacrifice, readers are able to understand that Jane strives to be the bigger more mature person.” When the essay does reference the text, it focuses on a plot episode — Jane’s decision to care for her dying aunt — that, as presented, neither convincingly illustrates nor facilitates the development of the argument. The essay is also labored at times, in, for example, such sentences as “Jane surrenders her pride and chooses to take care of her aunt who never showed her the slightest bit of love in all the years she had spent with her.” Nevertheless, the essay demonstrates adequate control of the elements of effective composition and sufficient insight to have earned its score of 5.

Sample: 3C (*Othello*)

Score: 3

This essay asserts that “Othello sacrafices [*sic*] his nobility and life for the sake of his pride” and that Shakespeare’s purpose is to show that “pride is a dangerous uncontrollable [*sic*] entity.” The essay’s suggestion that Othello kills Desdemona in the service of this pride is poorly supported, offering irrelevant details about the actual episode (“As Othello blows out the candle, the candel [*sic*] unlit becomes a symbol of his dark desion [*sic*] of sacrificing everything for his his [*sic*] pride”), rather than exploring the meaning of the episode within the broader context of the play. The analysis is partial, textual evidence is thin, and the discussion of the chosen character is unfocused and repetitive. In such sentences as “Because Othello is a tradjic [*sic*] hero he must be capable of great loss, Shakespear [*sic*] depicts this by making Othello a nobil [*sic*] moore [*sic*] who has worked his way to be where he is at,” the essay features both inadequate analysis and a lack of control over the elements of college-level composition. This essay earned a score of 3.