

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION
SUMMER READING: DRAMA

Exam

Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

This essay counts one-third of the total essay section.
(Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work.

Choose a novel or a play that contrasts two such places. Write an essay explaining how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work.

You may base your essay on a work from the list below, or you may choose another work of recognized literary merit.

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>A Passage to India</i> | <i>Jane Eyre</i> |
| <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> | <i>The Great Gatsby</i> |
| <i>Wuthering Heights</i> | <i>The Color Purple</i> |
| <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> | <i>Mansfield Park</i> |
| <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> | <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> |
| <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> | <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> |
| <i>Heart of Darkness</i> | <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> |
| <i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> | <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> |
| <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> | <i>The Awakening</i> |
| <i>The Woman Warrior</i> | <i>Jude the Obscure</i> |
| <i>Anna Karenina</i> | <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> |
| <i>Joseph Andrews</i> | <i>The Dollmaker</i> |
| <i>Candide</i> | <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> |
| <i>Things Fall Apart</i> | <i>Invisible Man</i> |
| + <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> | <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> |

Question 3, 1991 Rubric

(*A Streetcar Named Desire*)

9-point scale

Students should be rewarded for what they do well in response to the question. An extremely well-written response may be scored a point higher than it would be scored on the basis of content alone. A poorly written response may be scored a point lower. A very poorly written response will be a lower-half paper.

Possible Scores:

- 9-8 The writers of superior responses choose an appropriate work and give an accurate analysis of the contrast between the “two places.” They identify clearly and discuss effectively the “opposed forces or ideas and identify an appropriate “meaning of the work.” These responses are clear about “how the places differ” and demonstrate how the contrast “contributes” to the work’s meaning. Superior responses are specific in their references to the work, well-organized, and well-written.
- 7 This score is useful for responses which answer the question well but are somewhat thinner in detail or argument than the best essays
- 6-5 These scores are useful for papers which choose an appropriate work and discuss the “opposed forces or ideas” but do one of the following:
- a) discuss a meaning of the work but are unclear about its derivation from the opposition
 - b) discuss the opposition in general terms or by indirection
- Six is probably also the top score for papers which choose a work not wholly appropriate but make an intelligent and reasonable case for it without real distortion.
- 4-3 These lower-half scores include essays which do one of the following
- a) fail to relate the settings to “opposed forces or ideas”
 - b) fail to include any discussion, even by indirection, of the contribution of the opposition of “forces or ideas” to the meaning of the work
 - c) devote an undue proportion of their efforts to description or analysis of the settings
 - d) distort the work to force it to the question
 - e) choose an inappropriate work
- Responses which contain excessive plot summary or engage in vague discussions of conflict or opposition with little reference to the text probably receive no more than 3 and may receive less.
- 2 This score is useful for papers which compound the weaknesses in 4-3 scores or which show serious faults in writing
- 1 This score is used for any on-topic response which has almost no redeeming qualities