

**2004 AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**Question 3**

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Critic Roland Barthes has said, “Literature is the question minus the answer.” Choose a novel or play and, considering Barthes’ observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers any answers. Explain how the author’s treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

You may select a work from the list below or another novel or play of comparable literary merit.

*Alias Grace*  
*All the King’s Men*  
*Candide*  
*Crime and Punishment*  
*Death of a Salesman*  
*Doctor Faustus*  
*Don Quixote*  
*A Gesture Life*  
*Ghosts*  
*Great Expectations*  
*The Great Gatsby*  
*Gulliver’s Travels*  
*Heart of Darkness*  
*Invisible Man*  
*Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*  
*King Lear*  
*Major Barbara*

*Middlemarch*  
*Moby-Dick*  
*Obasan*  
*Oedipus Rex*  
*Orlando*  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*  
*The Scarlet Letter*  
*Sister Carrie*  
*The Sound and the Fury*  
*Sula*  
*The Sun Also Rises*  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
*The Things They Carried*  
*The Turn of the Screw*  
*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*

**END OF EXAMINATION**

Introduction Paragraph (Broad to specific)

**Attention Grabber**

(question, anecdote, imagery, quote)

**Background Information**

(setting, characters, mindset, definitions)

**Thesis Statement**

Body Paragraph #1 (Organize paragraph by key topics/movements of passage)

**Topic #1 (See MELCON or UNC Models)**

**Main Idea Sentence** (tells the reader what the ¶ will discuss; relates directly back to prove your thesis)

**Evidence** (specific examples/details/quotes from the text that prove this topic and your thesis)

**Explanation** (explains how and why evidence relates to ¶'s main idea; describes specifically how that context proves thesis)

**Concluding Sentence** (pulls ideas together; returns paragraph to thesis)

Body Paragraph #2

**Topic #2 (See MELCON or UNC Models)**

**Main Idea Sentence** (tells the reader what the ¶ will discuss; relates directly back to prove your thesis)

**Evidence** (specific examples/details/quotes from the text that prove this topic and your thesis)

**Explanation** (explains how and why evidence relates to ¶'s main idea; describes specifically how that context proves thesis)

**Concluding Sentence** (pulls ideas together; returns paragraph to thesis)

Body Paragraph #3

**Topic #3 (See MELCON or UNC Models)**

**Main Idea Sentence** (tells the reader what the ¶ will discuss; relates directly back to prove your thesis)

**Evidence** (specific examples/details/quotes from the text that prove this topic and your thesis)

**Explanation** (explains how and why evidence relates to ¶'s main idea; describes specifically how that context proves thesis)

**Concluding Sentence** (pulls ideas together; returns paragraph to thesis)

Conclusion Paragraph (Specific to Broad)

**Recap Main Points**

(can connect/extend/comment if you want)

**Restate Thesis**

(reword/re-emphasize what you have proven)

**Clencher**

(Clench: final big idea, statement, or quote [never use ?])