Writing Guide

Multiple Choice Questions

**Questions must:**

* Be challenging
* Refer only to the text passage – nothing outside of it
* Include 2-3 possibly correct answers but only ONE most correct answer
* Cover at least one of the following AP Literature objectives:
  + Poetic Form; Identifying Main Idea; Making Inferences About The Passage; Understanding Effects of Literary and Stylistic Choices; Identifying Literary Devices and Rhetorical Devices; Comprehending Meaning of Specific Words and Phrases
* Be clearly written
* Use challenging and accurate vocabulary

**Questions can:**

* Include Roman numerals to indicate multiple answers (I, II, etc)
* Assume that the reader or test-taker is familiar with the vocabulary in the question
* Be modeled off of questions that you have completed previously in class

**Examples of Multiple Choice Question Stems**

*From the AP Literature and Composition exam*

1. What is the author's attitude toward the subject of the essay?

2. What is this passage about?

3. What does the phrase, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, mean?

4. How would you characterize the style of the passage?

5. Which of the following best summarizes the main point in lines \_\_\_\_\_?

6. What is the main point in \_\_\_\_\_? (the passage, the second paragraph, etc.)

7. How would you restate the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

8. How would you define the phrase \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

9. What is the speaker’s purpose in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

10. What thought is reflected in the allusion \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

11. What is the tone of the passage?

12. How would you define the word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

13. How would you describe the diction and style of the passage?

14. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, what is the speaker asserting?

15. Why is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

16. What is significant about the structure of sentence #\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_?

17. In sentences \_\_\_\_\_, what contrasts are developed or implied?

18. In lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, why does the author pair quotations?

19. In lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, what is the effect of pairing quotations?

20. What is the dominant technique used in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_?

21. In lines \_\_\_\_\_\_, what is the effect of using a metaphor?

22. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, juxtaposing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ serves the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

23. What does the speaker accomplish in using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

24. By using the words \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the speaker shows the belief that \_\_\_\_\_.

25. In lines \_\_\_\_\_, how is the speaker portrayed?

26. The shift in point of view from...has the effect of...

27. What is the theme of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., second paragraph, whole piece)?

28. In lines \_\_\_\_, the passage shifts from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

29. Why does the author represent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_?

30. What is the purpose of the syntax in sentence \_\_\_\_\_?

31. What does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ symbolize in lines \_\_\_\_?

32. The speaker's attitude toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is best described as one of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

33. In \_\_\_\_\_, the author is asserting that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

34. The term \_\_\_\_\_ conveys the speaker's belief that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

35. The speaker assumes that the audience's attitude toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_will be one of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

36. In the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., first, second, last) paragraph, the speaker seeks to interest us in the subjects of the discussion by stressing the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

37. It can be inferred by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

38. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., first, second) sentence is unified by metaphorical references pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

39. The speaker's mention of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is appropriate to the development of the argument as an illustration of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

40. As the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_ is constructed, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is parallel to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

41. It can be inferred from the description of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the qualities of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are valued by the speaker.

42. According to the passage, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

43. In the context of the passage, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is best interpreted as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

44. Sentence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is best described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

45. The antecedent for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

46. What type of argument does the writer employ in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_?

47. Why does the speaker use the sequence of ideas in lines \_\_\_\_\_?

48. We can infer from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

49. What pattern of exposition does the writer use in this passage?

50. What is the point of view in this passage/poem?

51. What is the purpose of the statement in lines \_\_\_\_\_?

52. What atmosphere or mood is established in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

53. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., first, fourth) sentence is coherent because of its use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

54. What qualities are present in the scene described in lines \_\_\_\_\_?

55. What words and details suggest a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) attitude on the part of the author?

56. In line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_instead of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_accomplishes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

57. In line\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_because he/she\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

58. The use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

59. What is the function of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sentence, detail, clause, phrase, and so on) in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

60. The subject of the sentence in lines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

61. What assertions does the author make in the passage, and what is his/her purpose in doing this?

62. By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the author most probably means \_\_\_\_\_\_.

63. What meanings are contained in the word \_\_\_\_\_\_ in line \_\_\_\_\_?

64. What can we infer from the passage about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

65. The author apparently believes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

66. In lines\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the phrase\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is used to refer to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

67. The author believes that we should\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

68. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., first, last, third) sentence of the passage is chiefly remarkable for its\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

69. What does the author want to encourage in a person?

70. What is the function of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in relation to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?