

Timed Essay Prompt:

Private versus public conscience – the desire to do what an individual perceives as right versus the responsibility of carrying out demands society dictates – figures as a central conflict in many important works of literature. Select one literary work in which a character is faced with this conflict and write an essay that discusses the complexities that weigh on his or her conscience and how this struggle contributes to the overall meaning of the work.

General Scoring guide

9-8 These well-written essays will be specific in their references to the text, clear in their explanations and free of over-summary that is not relevant to the question. These essays need not be without flaw, but they exhibit the writer's ability to discuss a literary work with insight and understanding, as well as the writer's ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective composition.

7-6 These essays may be less thorough, less perceptive or less specific than that of a 9/8 papers. Though not as convincing in their discussion these essays are generally well-written. They demonstrate knowledge of the material, and use specific examples to answer the question, but they are less sophisticated in their analysis and less consistent in their command of the elements of effective writing than essays scored 9/8.

5 Superficiality characterizes these essays. Their explanations are vague or over-simplified. The discussion may be pedestrian, mechanical, or inadequately related to the question asked. Typically, these essays reveal pedestrian thinking and/or immature writing. They usually demonstrate inconsistent control over the elements of college-level composition and are not as well conceived, organized or developed as the upper-half paper; the writing, however, is sufficient to convey the writer's ideas.

4-3 These lower-half papers may have chosen inappropriate material, or they may have failed to use specific material, or adequately explain their answer. Their analysis may be inaccurate or not clearly related to the question or material. The writing may convey the writer's ideas, but it reveals weak control over such elements as diction, organization, syntax or grammar. These essays may contain significant misinterpretations of the text, inadequate supporting evidence and/or paraphrase and plot summary rather than analysis.

2-1 These essays compound the weakness of essays in the 4-3 range. They seriously misread or fail to comprehend the work or the question itself, choose inappropriate information, seriously misstate the answer, or show serious misinterpretation of the reading material. In addition, they are poorly written on several counts, including many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics, or they are unacceptably brief. Although the writer may have made some effort to answer the question, the argument presented has little clarity or coherence. Essays that are especially vacuous, ill-organized, illogically argued and/or mechanically unsound should be scored 1.

0 This is a response with no more than a reference to the task.

Essay #1

What would you score this essay?

Why?

Does the essay answer the question asked?

Are specific references to the text present? To what extent are they effective in supporting their corresponding arguments?

Is there a lot of plot summary within the essay? When is plot summary used and why?

How sophisticated are the ideas within the essay (are they original or advanced...or do they just skim the surface)?

How is the composition of the essay overall? Do the mechanical/organizational errors detract from the writing as a whole? If so, how?

Essay #2

What would you score this essay?

Why?

Does the essay answer the question asked?

Are specific references to the text present? To what extent are they effective in supporting their corresponding arguments?

Is there a lot of plot summary within the essay? When is plot summary used and why?

How sophisticated are the ideas within the essay (are they original or advanced...or do they just skim the surface)?

How is the composition of the essay overall? Do the mechanical/organizational errors detract from the writing as a whole? If so, how?